



ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL BALLOT REVIEW April 3, 2012

On Tuesday, April 3, 2012, qualified voters within the Municipality of Anchorage will:

- Elect a Mayor and three School Board members. There are no Assembly seats up for election on this ballot.
- Vote area-wide on four bond propositions (Props 1-4), one Charter amendment (Prop. 6) and three ballot propositions (Props. 5, 7, and 8). Voters residing in some service areas will also elect members to their respective service area boards.

This Ballot Review lists the names of the Mayoral and School Board candidates and office sought, as well as information about the ballot propositions.

More information? The Municipality will also publish the list of polling places, the list of service area candidates, the ballot propositions, and current bonded indebtedness in the Anchorage Daily News on Monday, April 2, 2012, and on the Municipality's web site (www.muni.org/elections).

Who may vote? Anyone who was registered to vote in Alaska by March 4, 2012, and who has lived within the Municipality of Anchorage for at least 30 days.

When do I vote: Vote on Tuesday, April 3, 2012, between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Where do I vote? If you have your social security number or voter identification number (on your voter registration card), call the State's automated Polling Place locator at 269-8683 to find your polling place. You may also type your street address at MyNeighborhood (neighborhood.muni.org) and select Political from the pull-down menu. Or you may call the Municipal Clerk's Office at 243-VOTE (243-8683), State Elections Office at 522-Vote (522-8683), or the League of Women Voters at 274-8477.

Absentee voting in person or by mail or fax: If you know you will be unable to vote at your polling place on election day or wish to vote early, you may cast an absentee ballot in person (beginning March 19, 2012), through the mail, or by fax. Applications for absentee by mail ballots or absentee by fax ballots must be received by the Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 27, 2012. Applications are available at www.muni.org/elections or call 243-VOTE (243-8683).

In person absentee voting begins March 19, 2012. Locations and hours of operation are listed below.

In-person Absentee Voting Locations	Dates	Hours
Anchorage City Hall 632 West 6 th Avenue, 2 nd Floor, Suite 250 Anchorage (907) 243-VOTE (8683) All ballots will be available at this location.	March 19 – April 2, 2012 Monday through Friday <i>This location is not open on Election Day.</i>	8:00 am to 5:00 pm
Z. J. Loussac Library 3600 Denali Street, 1 st Floor Anchorage (907) 243-VOTE (6383) All ballots will be available at this location.	March 19 – April 2, 2012 Monday through Saturday Sunday, April 1, 2012 Monday, April 2, 2012 <i>This location is not an absentee voting location on Election Day.</i>	10:00 am to 6:00 pm 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Chugiak Senior Center 22424 North Birchwood Loop Chugiak (907) 243-VOTE (8683)	March 26 – April 2, 2012 Monday through Friday <i>This location is not open on Election Day.</i>	8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Anchorage International Airport Domestic Terminal – car rental area Anchorage (907) 243-VOTE (8683) All ballots will be available at this location.	Election day ONLY Tuesday, April 3, 2012	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
University of Alaska Anchorage 3211 Providence Drive – Campus Center Anchorage (907)243-VOTE (8683) All ballots will be available at this location.	Election day ONLY Tuesday, April 3, 2012	7:00 am to 8:00 pm

Voting by personal representative: If you are unable to go to the polls due to age, serious illness or a disability, you may have a personal representative pick up and deliver a ballot to you. The ballot should be picked up at the voter's precinct. Anchorage voters hospitalized on Election Day may request delivery of a ballot by an elections official by calling 343-4311 by 10:00 a.m. on election day. Call the Clerk's Office at 343-4311 or 243-VOTE (8683) for more information on these options.

Voting on Service Area bonds: Bond-related projects such as roads and parks are organized into service areas with various geographic boundaries; only taxpayers in those service areas pay for the bonded projects. However, the law requires what is called the “full faith and credit” of the Municipality, which means that a bond proposition in a service area must be approved by a majority of voters throughout the Municipality as well as by a majority of voters in the service area.

For example, all qualified voters vote on the Anchorage road (ARDSA) bonds but only taxpayers in the ARDSA Anchorage Bowl Parks and Recreation) pay for them. In this election, this applies to Propositions 2 (ARDSA - roads), and 3 (APRSA - Parks). Other bond related projects, like Prop. 1 (Career and Technical Education Upgrades) and Prop. 4 (Emergency Medical Service and Public Transportation) are funded area-wide and paid for by all Anchorage taxpayers.

On the Web: The Ballot Review is available on the League of Women Voters’ web page at www.lwvanchorage.org

Candidates: Qualified voters residing in the Municipality of Anchorage may vote for a candidate listed by filling in the oval next to the name or write in the name of a person qualified to hold that office ***and*** fill in the oval next to the name. All are 3 year terms ending in 2015. The Mayoral race requires a 40% plus 1 vote majority. School Board members are elected at large but to designated seats, meaning each represents all areas of the Municipality. All School Board candidates win with a simple majority. Candidates’ names appear in a random alphabetical order on the ballot.

MAYOR: Jacob Seth Kern, Paul Honeman, Bruce J Lemke, Bob Lupo, Phil Isley, Dan Sullivan

School Board:

Seat E: David Nees, Kathleen Plunkett

Seat F: Richard Wanda, Tam Agosti-Gisler

Seat G: Natasha Von Imhof, Starr Marsett

PROPOSITION 1: (AO 2011-119(S)) - \$59,077,000 EDUCATIONAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS

The bonds would pay a portion of the costs of additions to and renewal of career facilities at 13 schools. The project currently qualifies for a state grant of \$21,000,000 based on \$9,132,000 of the issuance which is not eligible for State debt reimbursement. The Projects qualify for 70% State debt reimbursement on \$31,205,000 of the issuance, 60% State debt reimbursement on \$18,240,000 of the issuance and no State debt reimbursement is allowed on \$500,000 of the issuance. State reimbursement is subject to annual legislative appropriation. More information about these bonds is available at www.asdk12.org/bonds or 742-4153.

Without State reimbursement for debt service, for property assessed at \$100,000, estimated annual costs are \$14.67 to retire the debt. If the State chooses to make the full reimbursement on the eligible \$49,445,000, the estimated annual cost to retire the debt would be \$6.53 per \$100,000 assessed value. State reimbursement is subject to annual Legislative appropriation.

Property owners throughout the Municipality would be taxed for these bonds.

To be voted on by qualified voters residing in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Projects expected to be funded include, but are not limited to:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
<i>Career & Technical Education (CTE) Improvements:</i>	\$23,765,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career & Technical Education Upgrades: Bartlett, Chugiak, East, South, and West High Schools, Begich, Central, Gruening, Hanshew, Mirror Lake, Romig, and Wendler Middle Schools, and Polaris K-12 School • West High School – Romig Middle School campus STE design and construction 	
District Building Life Extension Projects	23,280,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrical Projects: Central, Gruening, and Mirror Lake Middle Schools, Abbott Loop, Aurora, Campbell, Eagle River, Huffman, Inlet View, Mountain View, Rabbit Creek, Ravenwood, Scenic Park, Susitna, and Ursa Major Elementary Schools • Roof upgrades and replacements: Chugiak High School, Aurora, O'Malley, Rabbit Creek, Spring Hill, Susitna, and Turnagain Elementary Schools. • Mechanical projects: HVAC and Water/Wastewater systems: Stellar Secondary School, Hanshew Middle School, Bear Valley, College Gate, Mountain View, Nunaka Valley, Spring Hill, Susitna and Turnagain Elementary Schools General building renewal and site projects: Chugiak, Dimond and West High Schools, Central Middle School, Bayshore, Gladys Wood, Mt. Iliamna, and Wonder Park Elementary Schools. 	
Service High School Matching Grant:	9,132,000
Mandatory match to receive a \$21,000,000 state grant for renovation.	
Design Project:	2,900.000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girdwood K-8 School Design: Infrastructure upgrades, addition of square Footage for gymnasium, classrooms and support areas. • Airport Heights Elementary School planning and design 	

PROPOSITION 2 – (AO 2012-3) - \$27,472,000 ANCHORAGE BOWL ROADS AND DRAINAGE SERVICE AREA BONDS

These bonds would pay for road construction, roadway safety improvements, drainage collection and treatment, and related capital improvements in the Anchorage Bowl Roads and Drainage Service Area (ARDSA). The ARDSA **includes** much of the Anchorage Bowl. It **does not include** Girdwood, Eagle River/Chugiak, and most of the Hillside.

For property in the ARDSA assessed at \$100,000, estimated annual costs are \$8.68 to retire the debt and \$2.33 to pay for new annual operations and maintenance (O&M) costs. The new O&M costs would increase the Municipal tax cap by up to \$580,000.

Only property owners in the ARDSA would be taxed for these bonds. There would be no cost to property owners in Girdwood, Indian, Bird Creek, Eagle River/Chugiak, and most of the Hillside.

However, the full faith and credit of the Municipality must guarantee the bonds. Consequently, passage requires approval by voters residing in the ARDSA as well as by voters in the entire Municipality.

To be voted on by qualified voters residing in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Projects expected to be funded Include, but are not limited to:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Operating and Maintenance</u>
100 th Ave. extension – Phase II – Minnesota Dr to C St.	\$2,100,000	\$ 48,000
35 th Ave. and McRae Rd upgrade – Wisconsin St to Spenard Rd	4,675,000	108,000
Anchorage signal, system signage, and safety improvements	650,000	15,000
ARDSA road and drainage system rehabilitation	600,000	12,000
Arlene Dr/Pelican Dr/Pelican Cir/Kingfisher Dr area Road reconstruction (RID)	5,200,000	109,000
Drainage retention pilot project development	250,000	-
Flooding, glaciation, and drainage matching program	1,000,000	22,000
Intersection safety and congestion relief matching program	1,000,000	20,000
Major outfall disconnect	250,000	5,000
Misc. culvert replacement for flood hazard reduction	200,000	4,000
Northwood Street maintenance facility improvements	360,000	-
Paint striper equipment purchase	400,000	-
Pavement rehab matching program	4,000,000	84,000
Pedestrian safety and rehab matching program	87,000	2,000
Penland Pkwy surface rehab/drainage – Airport Heights Rd to Bragaw St	4,000,000	92,000
Recycled asphalt pavement (RAP) and chip seal upgrades	1,000,000	21,000
Spenard Rd reconstruction Phase II – Hillcrest Dr to Benson Blvd	1,400,000	32,000
Northwood Street maintenance fuel station facility	300,000	6,000

PROPOSITION 3 - (AO 2012-5) - \$2,750,000 ANCHORAGE BOWL PARKS AND RECREATION BONDS

These bonds would be used to improve, construct or maintain parks, trails and recreational facilities in the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area (APRSA). The APRSA **includes** most of the Anchorage Bowl and most of the Hillside. The APRSA **does not include** Eagle River/Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek, Girdwood, Indian, Bird Creek and portions of Glen Alps, Rabbit Creek and Bear Valley.

For property in the APRSA assessed at \$100,000, estimated annual costs are \$0.57 to retire the debt and an annual increase in the municipal tax cap of \$0.35 to pay for annual operation and maintenance costs (O&M). The new O&M costs would increase the tax cap up to \$96,200 annually.

Only property owners in the APRSA would be taxed for these bonds. There would be no cost to property owners in Eagle River/Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek, Girdwood, Indian, Bird Creek, and portions of Glen Alps, Rabbit Creek, and Bear Valley. However, the full faith and credit of the Municipality must guarantee the bonds. Consequently, passage requires approval by voters residing in the APRSA as well as by voters in the entire Municipality.

To be voted on by qualified voters residing in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Projects expected to be funded include, but are not limited to:

	<u>Project Amount</u>	<u>Total O&M</u>
Coastal Trail surface & safety Improvements	\$1,250,000	\$88,000
Cuddy Park oval rink and playground-for-all improvements	250,000	18,000
Dempsey Anderson Ice Arena	450,000	--
Greenbelt trail bridge rehabilitation – fixing/replacing falling bridges	450,000	35,000
Kincaid LED trail lighting & safety improvements	250,000	18,000
Anchorage Veterans’ Memorial At Delaney Park	100,000	7,000

PROPOSITION 4 - (AO 2012-5) - \$1,588,000 AREAWIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS

These bonds would provide areawide public safety and transit improvements, including replacing ambulances and support vehicles, bus stop and transit building improvements.

For property assessed at \$100,000, estimated annual costs are \$0.39 to retire the debt and an increase in the Municipal Tax Cap of \$0.02 to pay for additional annual operation and maintenance costs. The additional O&M costs would increase the municipal tax cap by up to \$6,000.

To be voted on by qualified voters residing in the Municipality of Anchorage.

Property owners throughout the Municipality would be taxed for these bonds.

Projects expected to be funded include, but are not limited to:

	<u>Project Amount</u>	<u>Total O&M</u>
• Bus stop improvements	\$79,000	\$6,000
• Capital maintenance/vehicle overhaul	43,000	
• Improvements to existing fleet	50,000	
• ITS/automated operating systems	20,000	
• Management Information System	10,000	
• MICU Ambulance replacement program	520,000	
• Para transit/transit vehicle program	96,000	
• Support vehicles	20,000	
• Transit fleet expansion/replacement	110,000	
• Transit – roof, remodel, improvements	640,000	

PROPOSITION 5: ANCHORAGE EQUAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE

Proposition 5 is an initiative that asks “shall current Municipal Code sections providing legal protections against discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, marital status, age, physical disability, and mental ability be amended to include protections on the basis of sexual orientation or transgender identity.”

PROPOSITION 6: (AO 2012-11) SHALL THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CHARTER SECTION 17.13, DEFINITION OF “PUBLISH” BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(underlined text is new, capitalized and blocked text is deleted)

“Publish means to cause to be posted on a municipal website designated for public notices [PRINTED AT LEAST ONCE IN ONE NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE,] the matter required by law to be published. Unless otherwise provided by the assembly posting shall be maintained for seven consecutive days. The assembly shall provide for additional modes of dissemination.”

PROPOSITION 7: (AO 2012-1) -- PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS TO WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS OF PEOPLE KILLED IN MILITARY SERVICE

Proposition 7 would allow amendment of Anchorage Municipal Code section 12.15.015, Real Property Tax Exemptions, to grant a real property tax exemption on the first \$150,000 of assessed value to an eligible widow or widower of a person killed in United States Military service. .

If approved, the exemption would not take effect until AS 29.45.030(e) is amended by the Alaska Legislature to authorize this exemption.

PROPOSITION 8: (AO2-12-9): APPROVING ANNEXATION OF PORTIONS OF LOMA ESTATES SUBDIVISION TO THE SOUTH GOLDENVIEW RURAL ROADS SERVICE AREA, EFFECTIVE RETROACTIVE TO JANUARY 1, 2012.

Proposition 8 would alter the South Goldenview Rural Road (RRSA) boundaries by annexing Loma Estates Subdivision Block 1 Lot 6A, Block 1 Lot 7, Block 1 Lot 8, Block 2 Lot 1, Block 2 Lot 2), Block 2 Lot 3A , Block 2 Lot 5, Block 3 Lot 5), and Block 3 Lot 11 to the South Goldenview RRSA and by amending Anchorage Municipal Code Section 27.30.700 accordingly, effective retroactive to January 1, 2012.

Property owners in the referenced Loma Estates Subdivision will incur an increase in property taxes beginning with the tax year 2012.

To be voted on by qualified voters in the South Goldenview RRSA and the Loma Estates Subdivision.

BONDED INDEBTEDNESS:

The current General Obligation (G.O.) bonded indebtedness of the Municipality of Anchorage, including authorized but un-issued bonds, based on bonds outstanding as of December 31, 2011, is as follows:

General Obligation Bonds	General Purpose	School	Total
Issued and Outstanding	\$484,630,000	\$643,535,000	\$1,128,165,000
Authorized but Un-issued	\$63,486,000	\$ 25,845,000	\$89,331,000
Total	\$548,116,000	\$669,380,000	\$1,217,496,000
Bonds Paid off in 2011	\$26,050,000	\$57,665,000	\$83,715,000

Debt Service Payments	Principal	Interest	Total
<i>To be made in 2012 on all G. O. bonds</i>	\$89,445,000	\$52,672,480	\$142,117,480

*The **League of Women Voters of Anchorage**, which prepared this **Ballot Review**, is a non-partisan organization that promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation in government.*

PO Box 101345, Anchorage, AK 99510-1345

907-274-8477

www.lwvanchorage.org