



ALASKA
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

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Leaning Local

Strengthening Local Governments
Strengthening Alaska

Municipal
Review

SC&RA



CLASSIFICATION AND AUTHORITIES

Introduction to Local Government

Constitutional Basics – Maximum Local Self-Government

The delegates to the state's Constitutional Convention wanted to avoid overlapping local government jurisdictions and ensure local control. A guiding principle was that they did not want to force a particular form of government on any community or region of the state. At the same time, delegates placed an emphasis on maximizing local self-government, which is the purpose of Article 10 of the Constitution.

The Constitution articulates a system of local government that would be flexible enough to allow local decision-making, while providing ways in which greater regional cooperation might occur. Thus, while the Constitution does not mandate the incorporation of local or regional governments, it requires the establishment of organized and unorganized boroughs that are consistent with geography, economies and common interests.

The Constitution also mandates that an agency be included within the executive branch to advise and assist local governments.



Introduction to Local Government

Statutory Authorities – Title 29

Title 29 is State law that describes the classification, roles, responsibilities and other aspects of local government in Alaska. Classifications occur both for boroughs (home rule, first, and second class) and cities (home rule, first, and second class).

All local governments have certain fundamental duties such as conducting elections, holding regular meetings of the governing body, and taxation. Beyond that, the duties of a municipality in Alaska vary greatly based on their classification, inclusion or not in a borough, population size and geographic area.

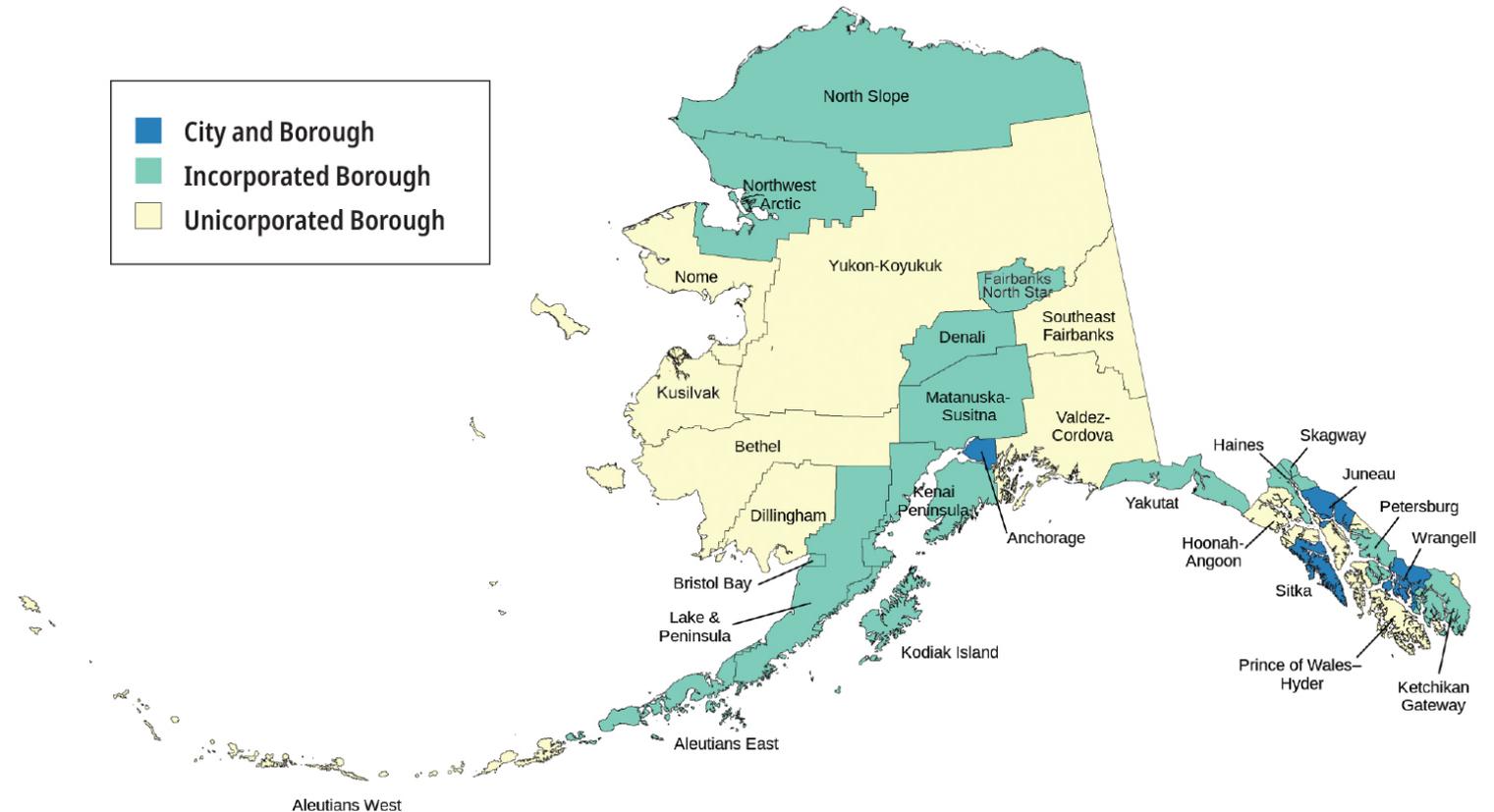
Title 29 is prescriptive in its delegation of powers to first- and second-class cities and boroughs. Home rule cities and boroughs have all legislative powers that their residents have agreed to, except for those prohibited by law.

While a home rule municipality adopts a charter, subject to voter approval, a general law municipality is often unchartered (a general law city or borough may adopt a charter) and its powers are granted by state law. There are two active classes of general law cities and boroughs – first and second class. The difference between the two classes of cities include taxing authority, responsibility for schools, and the powers and duties of the mayor. The differences between the two classes of boroughs are the manner in which they adopt additional powers.

Boroughs and Unified Municipalities

Organized boroughs are also municipal corporations and political subdivisions of the State. There are four classifications of organized boroughs:

- Unified Home Rule (3) – may exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter
- Non-Unified Home Rule (8) - may exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter
- First Class (1) – may exercise any power not prohibited by law on non-area wide basis
- Second Class (7) – must gain voter approval for authority to exercise non-area wide powers



Powers and Duties of Boroughs

Power	Unified Municipality & Home Rule Borough	First Class Borough	Second Class Borough
Public Education	The borough or unified municipality must provide the service areawide in accordance with AS 14	Same as for a home rule borough	Same as for a home rule borough
Planning, Platting & Land Use Regulation	The borough or unified municipality must exercise the powers areawide, but not necessarily in accordance with AS 29.40	The borough must exercise the powers areawide; in accordance with AS 29.40; the borough may allow cities to assume such powers within their boundaries	Same as for a first class borough
Provide Transportation systems, water & air pollution control, animal regulation	Determined by charter or ordinance	May be exercised on an areawide, nonareawide or service area based by ordinance	May be exercised on an areawide or nonareawide basis by ordinance; approval from voters or property owners required for service area powers
License Day Care Facilities	Determined by charter or ordinance	May be exercised on an areawide, nonareawide or service area basis by ordinance	May be exercised on an areawide basis by ordinance; voter approval required for exercise on a nonareawide or service area basis

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Power	Unified Municipality & Home Rule Borough	First Class Borough	Second Class Borough
Regulate Fireworks, provide solid & septic waste disposal, housing rehabilitation, eco-nomic development, roads & trails, EMS communications, regulate motor vehicles and development projects	Determined by charter or ordinance	May be exercised areawide upon approval of areawide voters or by transfer of powers from all cities; may be exercised by ordinance on a nonareawide or service area basis	May be exercised areawide upon approval of areawide voters; or by transfer of powers from all cities; may be exercised by ordinance on a nonareawide basis; may be exercised on a service area basis with voter approval
Hazardous Substance Control	Determined by charter or ordinance	Same as above	Same as above
Other Powers Not Prohibited	Determined by charter or ordinance	Same as above	May be exercised areawide upon approval of areawide voters; or by transfer of powers from all cities and approval of nonareawide voters; may be exercised nonareawide upon approval of nonareawide voters; may be exercised on a service area basis with voter approval
Property Tax	Limited to 30 mills except where a higher levy is necessary to avoid default on debt; voter approval to levy property taxes is required authority established by some charters	Same as home rule except there is no charter; still, some general law boroughs have more limited taxing by local action	Same as for a first class borough

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Power	Unified Municipality & Home Rule Borough	First Class Borough	Second Class Borough
Sales Tax	The rate of levy may be limited by charter; voter approval required to levy sales tax	No limit exists on the rate of levy; however, voter approval is required to levy sales taxes	Same as for a first class borough
Assembly composition and apportionment	Flexible; determined according to AS 29.20.060 rule borough	Same as for a home	May be exercised on an areawide or nonareawide basis by ordinance; approval from voters or property owners required for service area powers
Election and term of Mayor	Established by charter or ordinance AS 29.20.120	Elected at large for a 3-year term, unless a different term not to exceed 4 years is provided by ordinance	
Veto Power of the Mayor	Established by charter or ordinance	May vote to break a tie vote only if the borough has a manager form of government	
Ability to attain Home Rule status	Already has home rule status	Voters may adopt home rule charter	Would require adoption of home rule charter

Cities

A city can be within an organized borough or within the unorganized borough. All cities are municipal corporations and political subdivisions of the State. Typically, cities do not include large geographical regions or unpopulated areas. Classifications of cities include:

- Home Rule – 400+ permanent residents; legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter
- First Class – 400+ permanent residents; state law defines powers, duties and functions
- Second Class – 25+ permanent residents; state law defines powers, duties and functions

Powers and Duties

Important city powers described under Title 29 include (see classification table for more information):

- Public education (Unorganized Borough)
- Planning, platting, land use (Unorganized Borough)
- Property and sales tax authority
- Composition of council
- Election and term of officers
- Eminent domain

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Home Rule

Cordova • Fairbanks • Kenai • Ketchikan • Kodiak • Nenana • North Pole • Palmer • Seward • Soldotna • Valdez

First Class

Craig • Dillingham • Galena • Homer • Hoonah • Hydaburg • Kake • King Cove • Klawock • Nome
• Pelican • Saint Mary's • Sand Point • Seldovia • Unalaska • Utqiagvik • Wasilla

Second Class

Adak • Akhiok • Akiak • Akutan • Alakanuk • Aleknagik • Allakaket • Ambler • Anaktuvuk Pass • Anderson • Angoon
• Aniak • Anvik • Atka • Atkasuk • Bethel • Bettles • Brevig Mission • Buckland • Chefornek • Chevak • Chignik
• Chuathbaluk • Clark's Point • Coffman Cove • Cold Bay • Deering • Delta Junction • Diomede • Eagle • Eek • Egegik
• Ekwok • Elim • Emmonak • False Pass • Fort Yukon • Gambell • Golovin • Goodnews Bay • Grayling • Gustavus
• Holy Cross • Hooper Bay • Houston • Hughes • Huslia • Kachemak • Kaktovik • Kaltag • Kasaan • Kiana • Kivalina
• Kobuk • Kotlik • Kotzebue • Koyuk • Koyukuk • Kupreanof • Kwethluk • Larsen Bay • Lower Kalskag • Manokotak
• Marshall • McGrath • Mekoryuk • Mountain Village • Napakiak • Napaskiak • New Stuyahok • Newhalen • Nightmute •
Nikolai • Nondalton • Noorvik • Nuiqsut • Nulato • Nunam Iqua • Nunapitchuk • Old Harbor • Ouzinkie • Pilot Point
• Pilot Station • Platinum • Point Hope • Port Alexander • Port Heiden • Port Lions • Quinhagak • Ruby
• Russian Mission • Saint George • Saint Michael • Saint Paul • Savoonga • Saxman • Scammon Bay • Selawik
• Shageluk • Shaktoolik • Shishmaref • Shungnak • Stebbins • Tanana • Teller • Tenakee Springs • Thorne Bay • Togiak
• Toksook Bay • Unalakleet • Upper Kalskag • Wainwright • Wales • Whale Pass • White Mountain • Whittier

Organized Under Federal Law

Metlakatla Indian Community

Powers and Duties of Cities

Power	Home Rule City	First Class City	Second Class City	References
Public Education	City in unorganized borough must provide service in accordance with AS 14; city not permitted to do so within organized boroughs	Same as Home Rule City	City not allowed to provide service under any circumstances	AS 29.35.260(b)
Planning, Platting & Land Use Regulation	Cities in unorganized boroughs must exercise the powers; if in an organized borough, it may be permitted by borough to exercise the powers	Same as for a Home Rule City, except exercised in accordance with AS 29.40 (governance by assembly)	The City is not required to exercise powers, but may be permitted in the manner described for First Class Boroughs	AS 29.35.260(c) AS 29.35.260(c)
Property Tax	City may tax up to 30 mills, except where a higher levy is necessary to avoid default on debt; some home rule municipal charters require voter approval to authorize the levy of property taxes	The City may tax up to 30 mills except where a higher levy is necessary to avoid default on debt; voter approval is not required by statute, however, some general law municipal governments have more restrictive limitations imposed at the local level	The City may tax up to 20 mills, except where a higher levy is required to avoid default; voter approval is required	AS 29.45.550 AS 29.45.590

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Power	Home Rule City	First Class City	Second Class City	References
Sales Tax	The rate of levy may be limited by charter; requirements for voter approval may also be set by charter.	There is no limit on the rate of levy sales taxes; however, voter approval is required	Same as for a First Class City	AS 29.45.700
Other Powers	Possess all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter	May exercise other powers not prohibited by law	May exercise other powers not prohibited by law	Art. X, S 11, AK Const., AS 29.35.250
City Council Composition	Determined by charter or ordinance	Six members selected at large, except the council may provide for election other than at-large	Seven members elected at large, except the council may provide for election other than at-large	AS 29.20.130
Election and Term of Mayor	Determined by charter or ordinance	Elected at large for a 3-year term, unless a different term not to exceed four years is provided by ordinance	Elected from the City Council for a 1-year term, unless a longer term is provided by ordinance; mayor is selected by council (or by voters upon adoption of ordinance)	AS 29.20.230
Vote by Mayor	Determined by charter or ordinance	May vote to break a tie vote on the City Council	Votes on all matters	AS 29.20.250

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Power	Home Rule City	First Class City	Second Class City	References
Veto Power of Mayor	Determined by charter or ordinance except veto is not permitted on ordinance prohibiting possession of alcohol	Has veto power with the same exception noted for Home Rule Cities	Has no veto power	AS 29.20.270
Power of Eminent Domain	Permitted by statute	Permitted by statute	Permitted, but requires voter approval	AS 29.35.030
Ability to Attain Already has home Home Rule Status	Already has home rule status	Voters may adopt Home Rule Charter	May not adopt Home Rule Charter without first reclassifying to a First Class City	AS 29.10.010



Economic and Social Impact of Municipal Government in Alaska

Alaska has 165 municipalities; 145 cities, 19 boroughs, and one federally incorporated reservation. In all, 97% of Alaskans live within an organized municipality.

Fifteen of the nineteen organized boroughs levy a property tax, and some cities levy a property tax (12 within organized boroughs, 9 within the unorganized borough). Total property tax revenue in FY23 was \$1,653,725,306.

The majority of municipalities have implemented a sales tax. Nine boroughs and 95 cities have a sales tax, with a total revenue of \$328,976,720 in FY23.

Additional taxes include alcohol and tobacco, raw fish, car rental, and hotel and bed taxes, amounting to \$216,517,939 in FY23.

Municipal governments also receive revenue sharing and PILT funds from the State and Federal government, as well as grant funding from a variety of sources.

In FY21, the total expenditures by local governments in Alaska was \$2,362,933,130.

Municipalities contribute over 24% of direct education expenditures, totaling \$508,869,961 in FY23. Municipalities contributed an additional \$230 million more that year than required.

Municipalities employ approximately 39,000 Alaskans.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

Alaska has the nation's five largest county-equivalents (boroughs). Our largest is equal to the next six largest non-Alaskan counties. Our smallest is bigger than three US states.

In Alaska, municipalities are filling in where gaps appear in federal and state engagement and investment. The services provided by local governments run the gamut from public safety and emergency response to transportation and fisheries management.

The contributions of our municipal government can also be thought of in terms of area served – with more than half the state organized, local government is serving an area of 252,333 square miles. That's almost 100,000 more than Alaska State land ownership.

The North Slope Borough has more emergency response assets in the Arctic than the State of Alaska and the U.S. Federal government combined.

Alaska's municipal ports are some of the busiest in the nation, capturing six of the top ten spots in annual commercial fishery landings.

There are 37 municipal-owned public power utilities.

Municipalities operate 47 public libraries in Alaska.

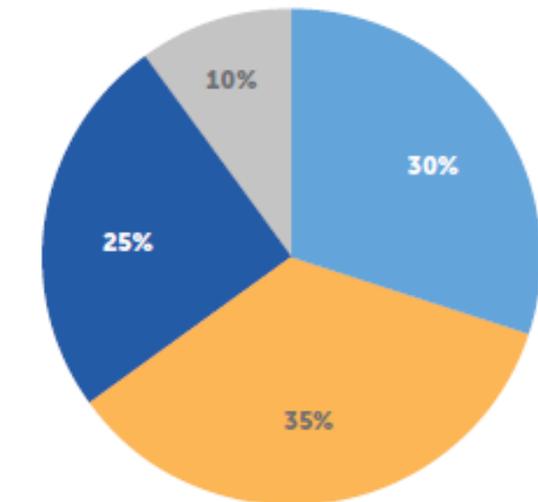
Municipalities own and operate over 30 swimming pools across the state.

Municipalities provide many services that support the visitor industry, and in turn receive revenue through sales and bed taxes, moorage fees, and other sources. During the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments in Alaska lost nearly \$80 million in revenue from the visitor industry.

Power in Partnership

State and local government are intertwined and interdependent, dating back to statehood. The Alaska Statehood Act and the Alaska Constitution recognize that the state's unique size, geography, isolation, distance from markets, and low population necessitated State provision of public education, public safety, public health, public welfare, a unified court system, infrastructure, and more.

Local government spending falls into a few categories:



- Public Safety:** police, fire, and emergency response
- Schools:** required contribution, respond to district needs, 75% of schools
- Utilities:** roads, landfills, water and sewer
- Quality of Life:** libraries, museums, rec centers, parks, playgrounds



ALASKA'S LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

ALASKA'S LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Education

34 municipal
school districts

4 greater than
State contribution

Transportation/ Public Works

Road Miles = DOT&PF
37 Electric Utilities
72 Ports and Harbors
112 Water/Wastewater

Public Safety

70 with police powers

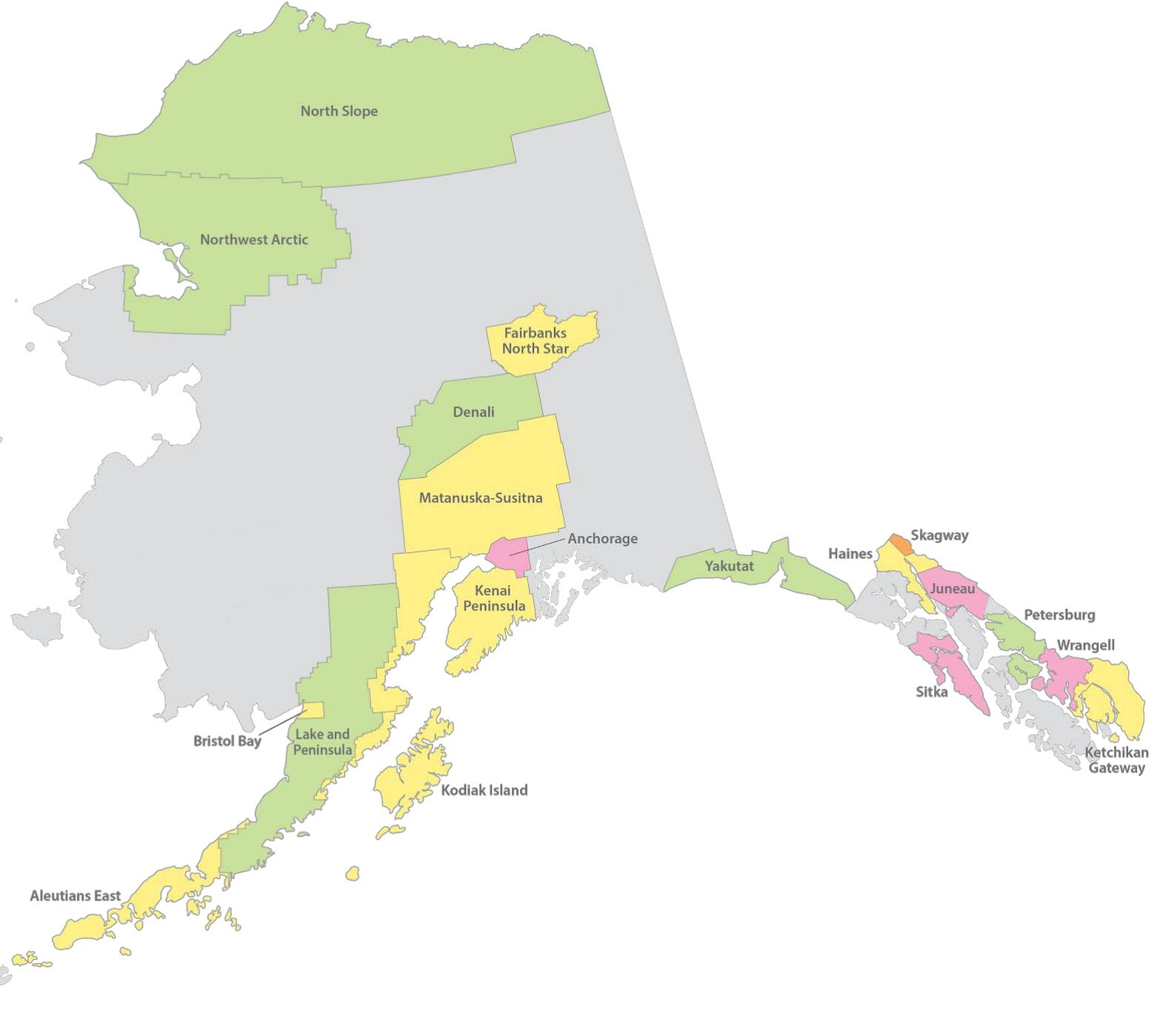
40 with combined
budgets \$75 million
more than DPS

Quality of Life

47 Public Libraries
Parks and Recreation
Community Pools

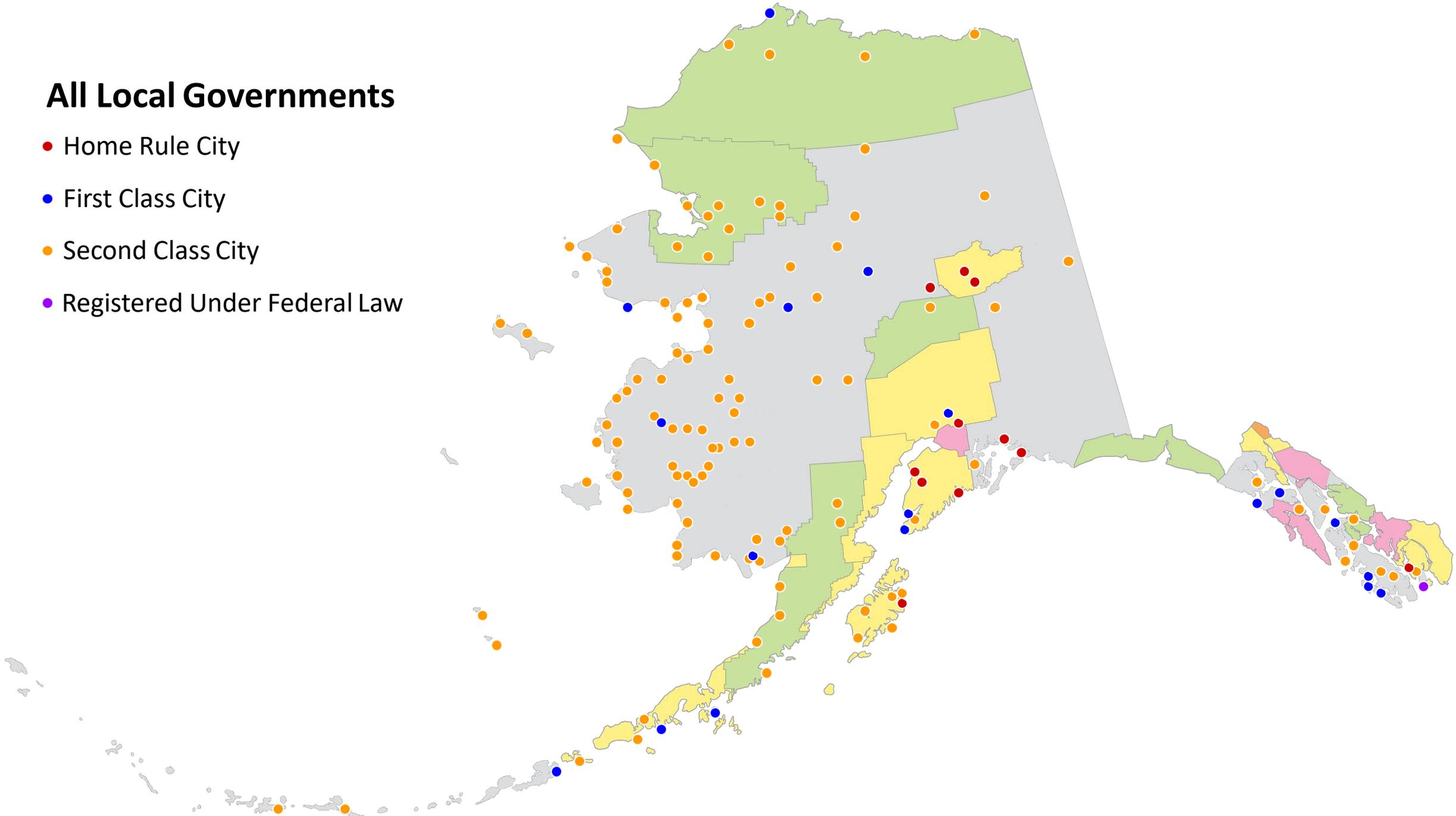
Borough Classification

- Non-unified Home Rule
- Unified Home Rule
- First Class Borough
- Second Class Borough
- Unorganized Borough



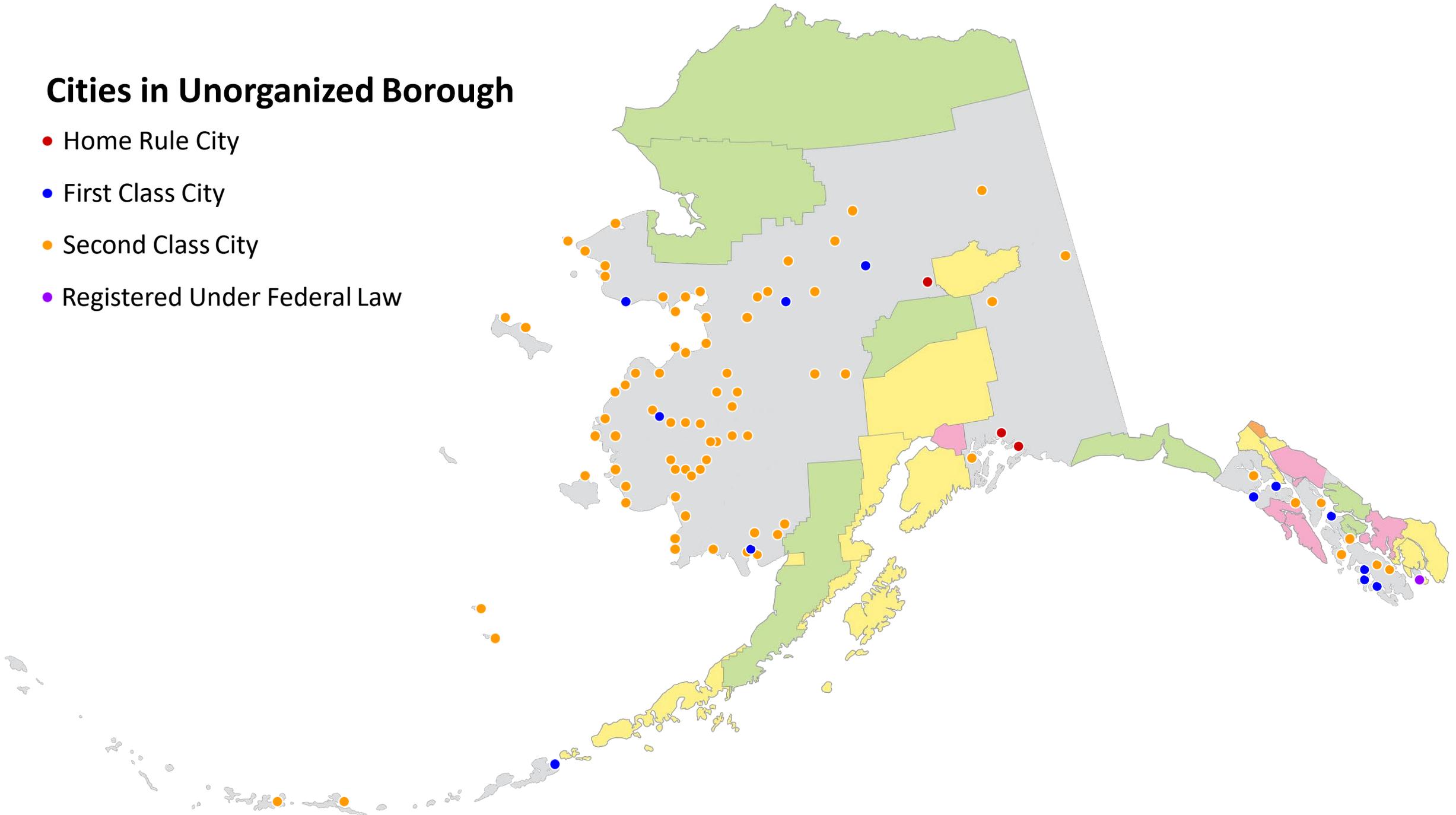
All Local Governments

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law



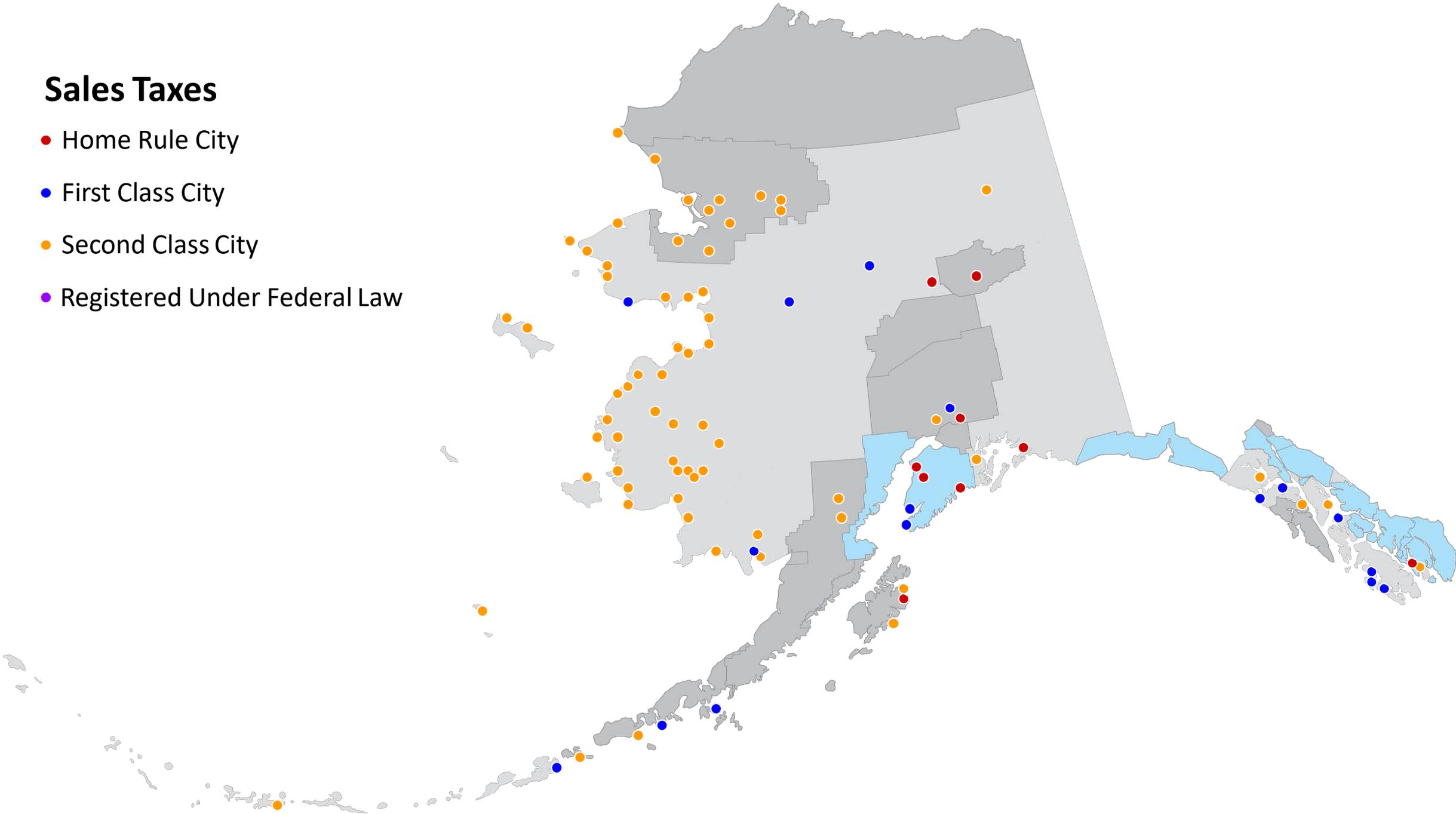
Cities in Unorganized Borough

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law



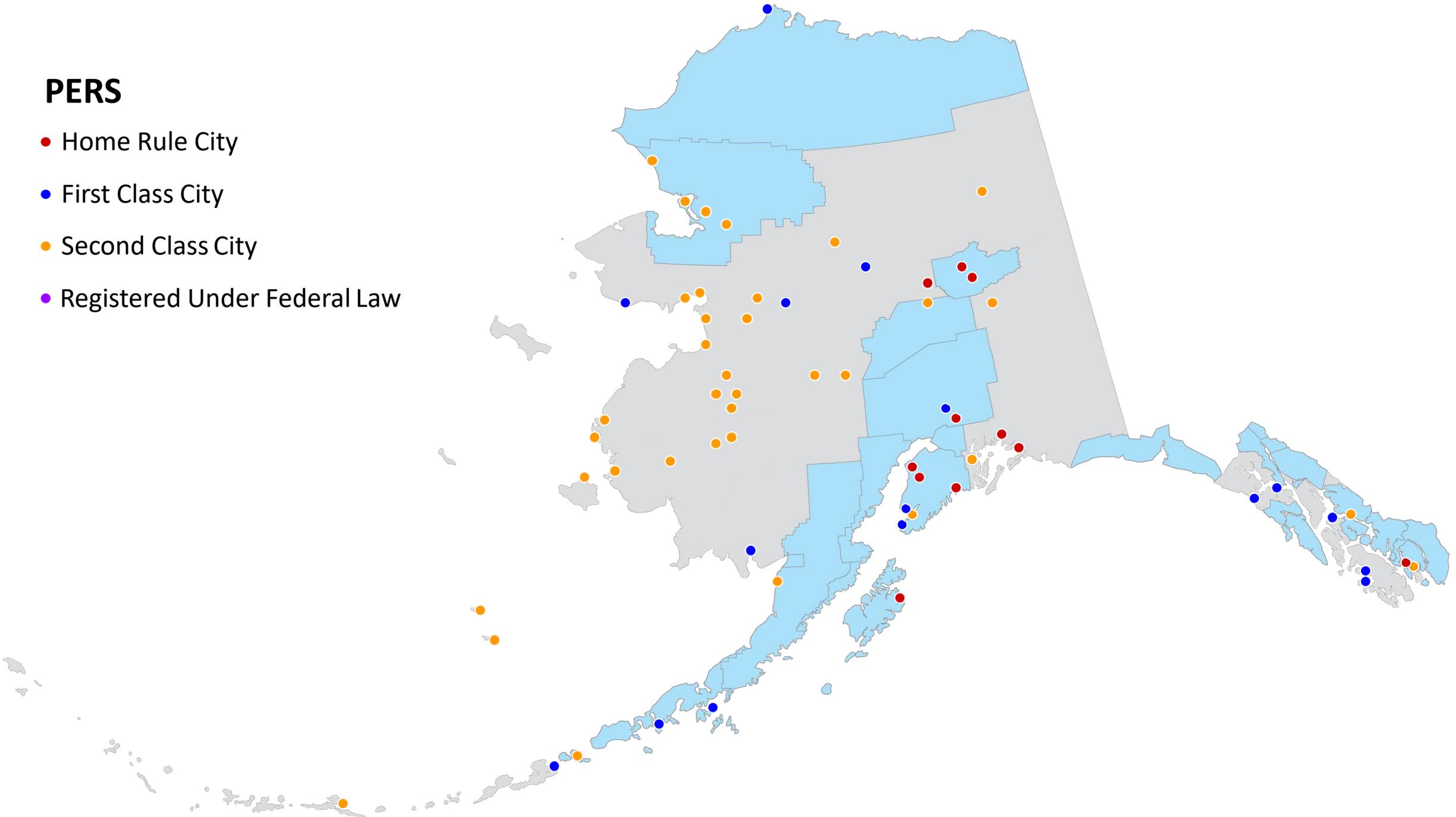
Sales Taxes

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law



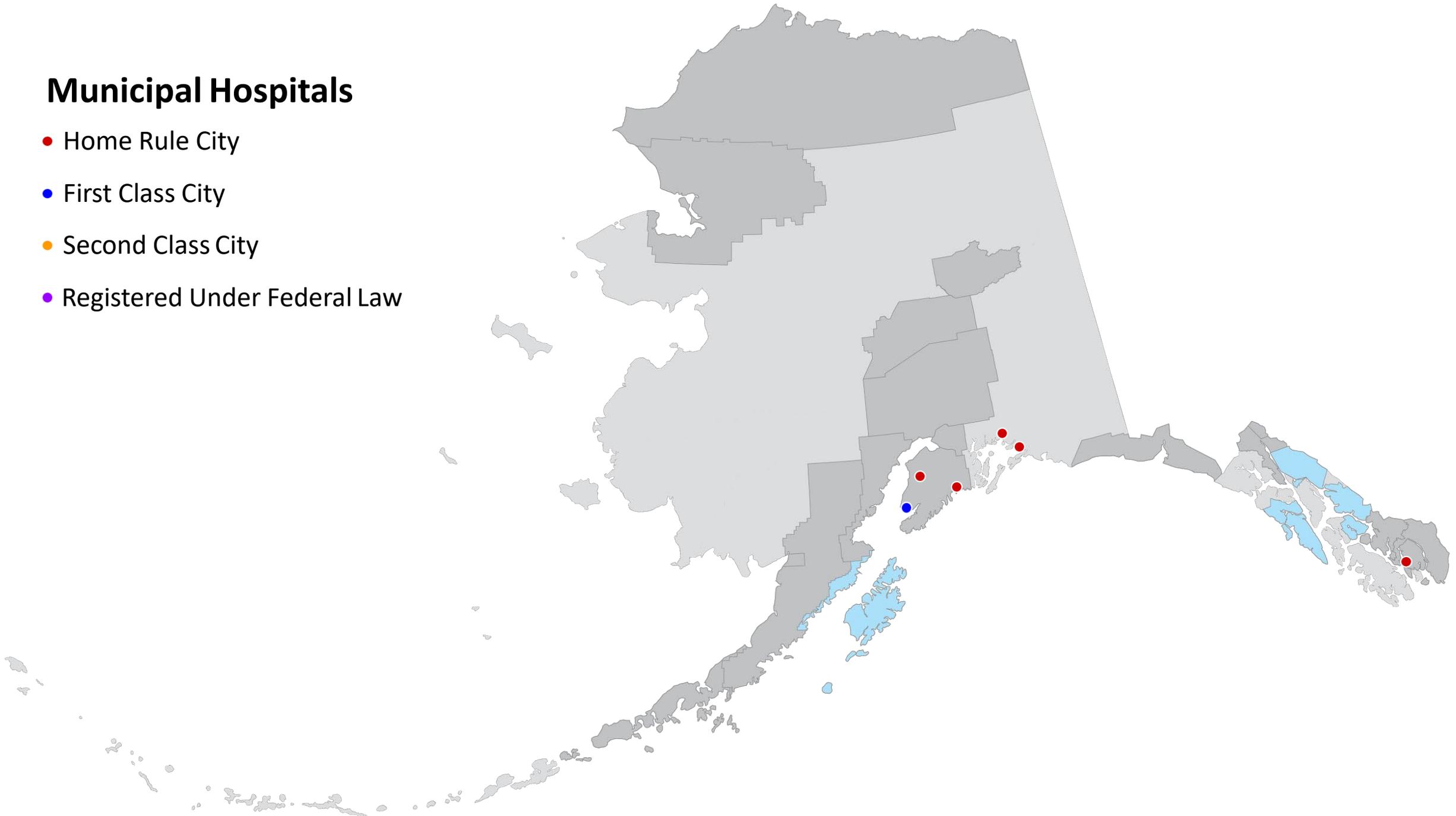
PERS

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law



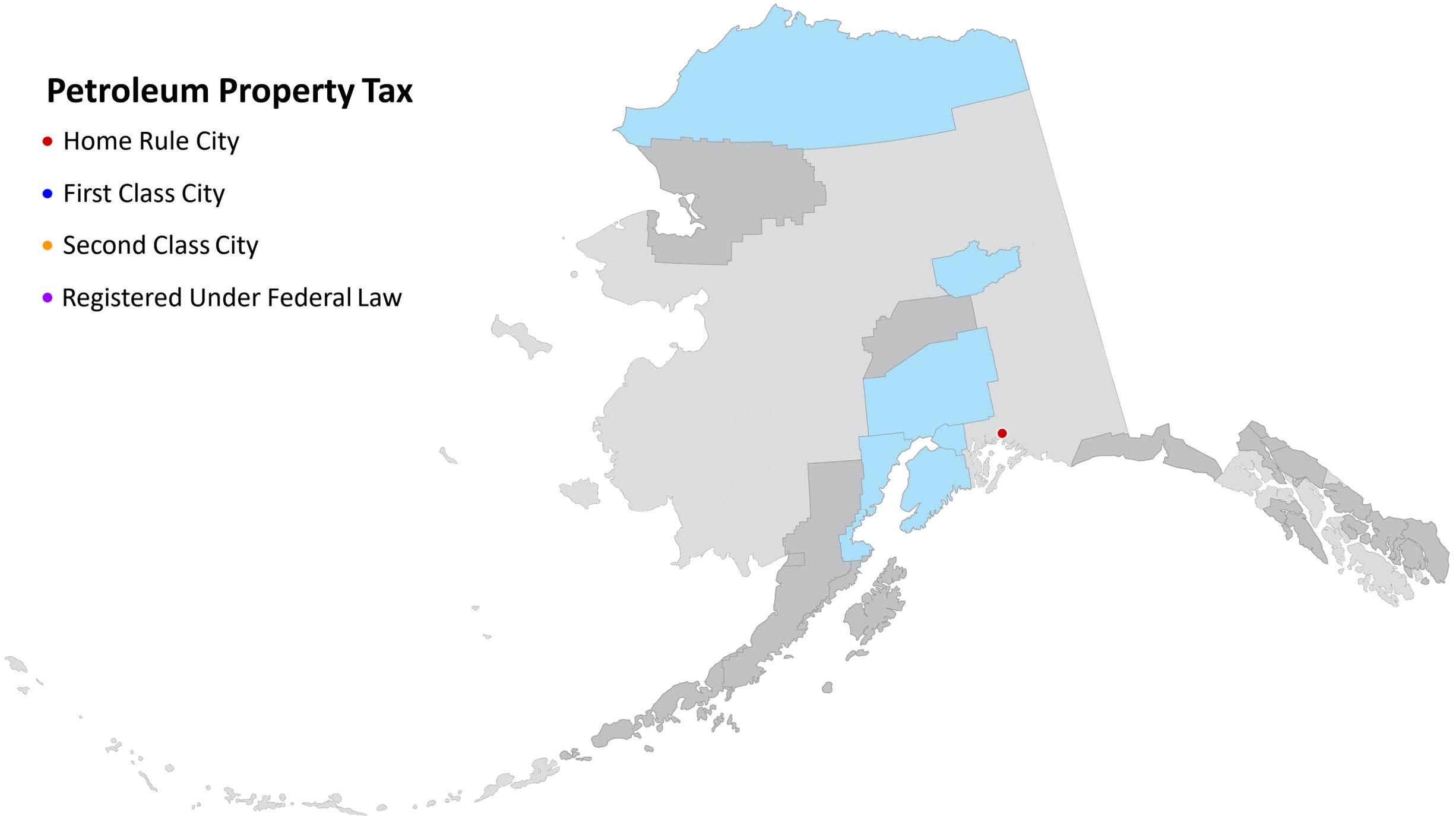
Municipal Hospitals

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law



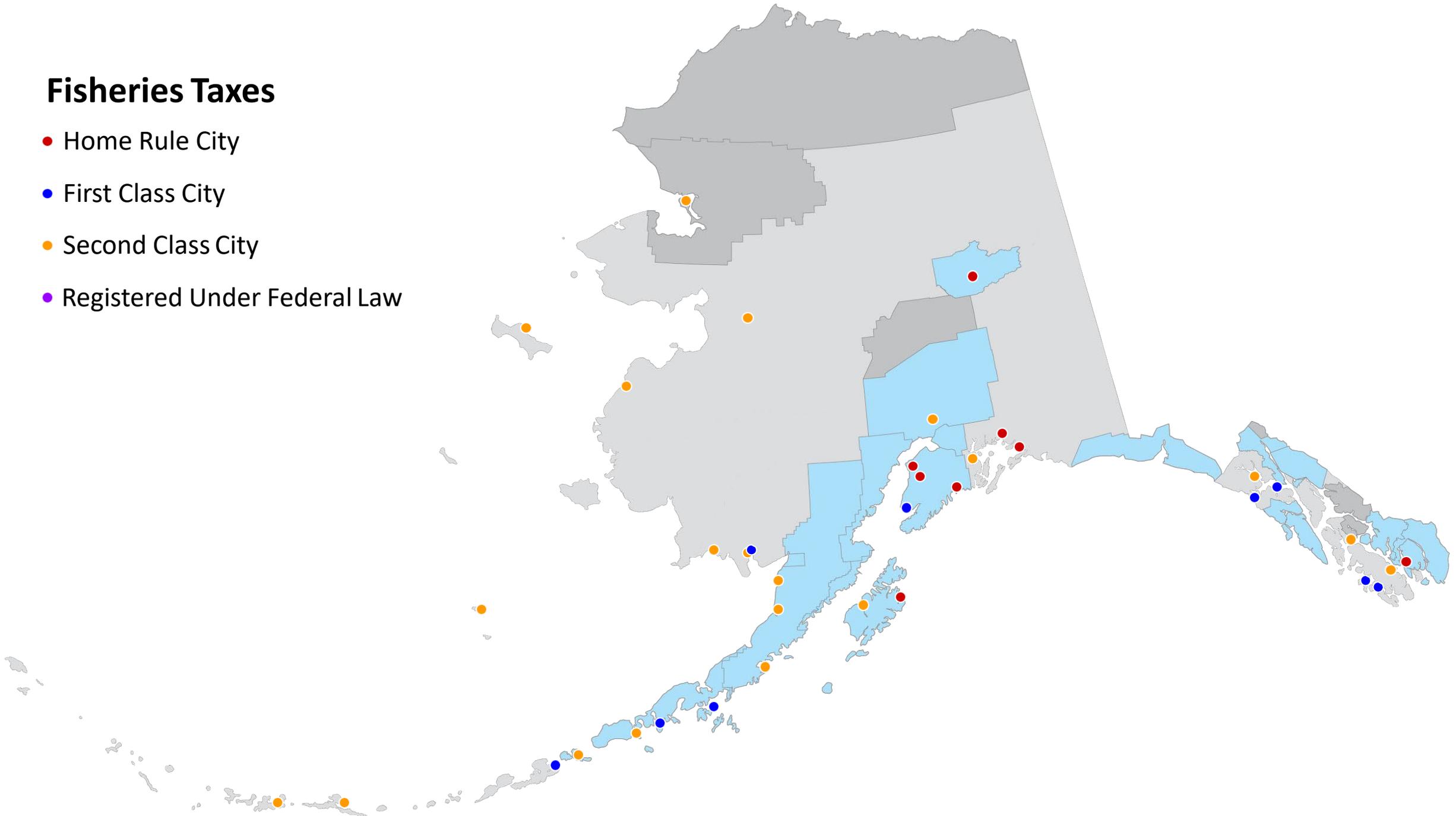
Petroleum Property Tax

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law



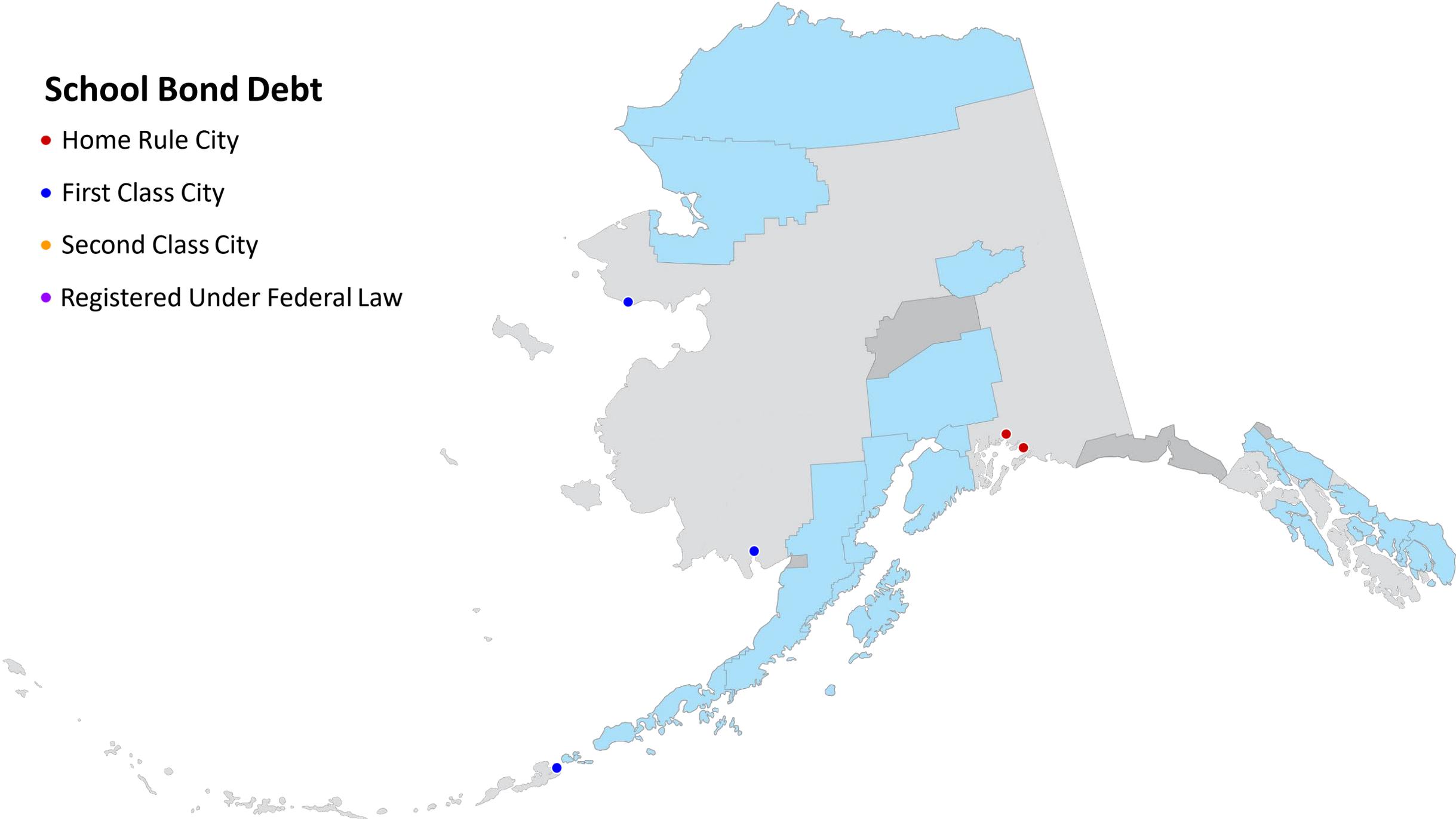
Fisheries Taxes

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law



School Bond Debt

- Home Rule City
- First Class City
- Second Class City
- Registered Under Federal Law





LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHALLENGES & PRIORITIES

AML Member Principles

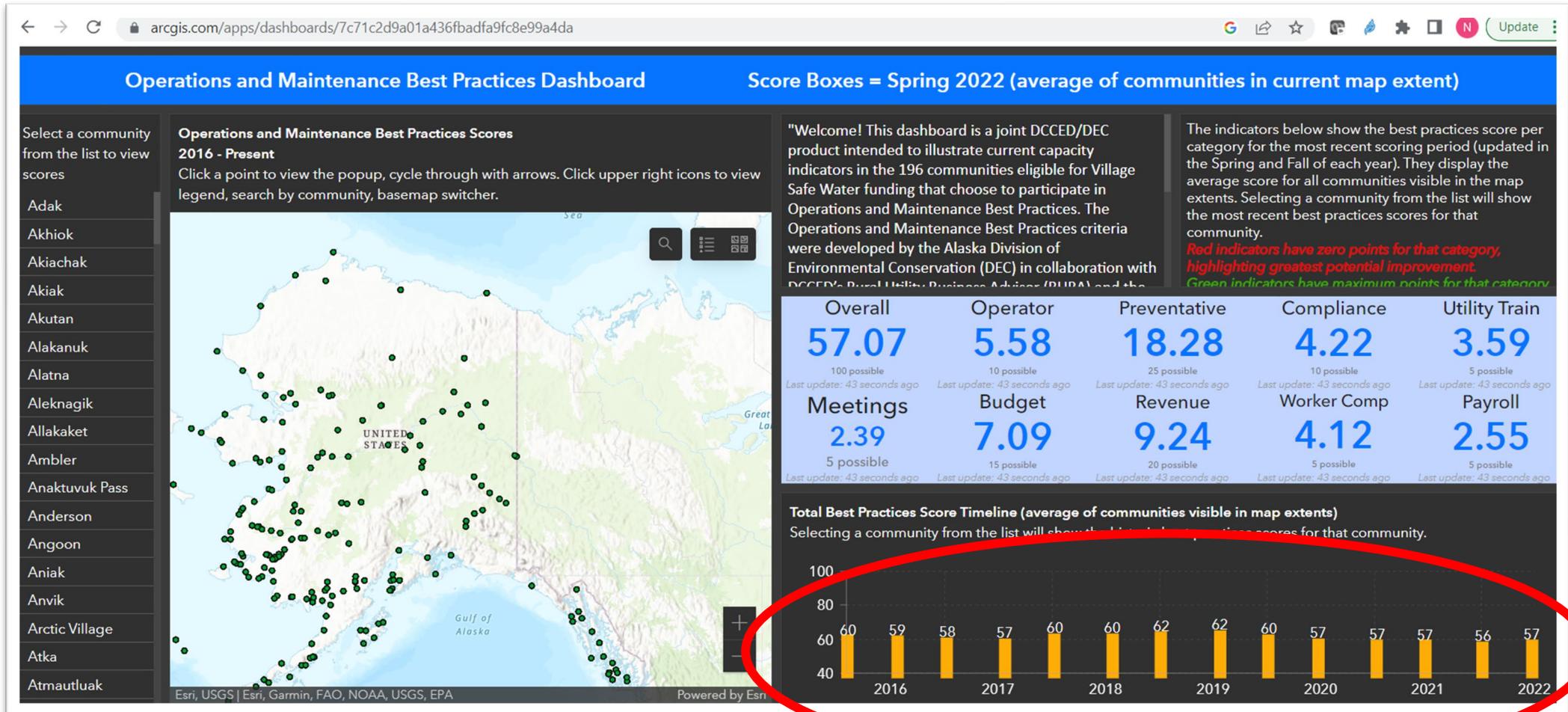
- Support the Alaska Constitution's mandate "to provide for maximum local self-government."
- Support policies that reduce tax burdens on local government and reimburse for State-mandated exemptions.
- Support State revenue-sharing as an investment in and support for municipal governance.
- Support adequate State funding for basic public services and infrastructure, such as: education, public safety, health, emergency services, and transportation that is necessary for strong and vibrant communities.
- Oppose unfunded and underfunded State or Federal legislative and administrative mandates.
- Oppose any efforts to reduce local revenues and local revenue authorities.
- Oppose State or Federal policies that shift responsibilities to local governments without a negotiated agreement that includes adequate and full annual funding.

Municipal Governance

State statutes regarding municipal governance should reflect the Constitution's intent to maximize local self-governance, understood to mean strengthening the capacity and effectiveness of local governments. Further, decision-making at the local level is most responsive to Alaskans' interests. To this end, AML:

- Supports increased capacity within and professionalization of State tax assessment.
- Supports improvements to records retention, public records access, and public notice.
- Supports issuance of a municipal impact fiscal note within proposed legislation.

Strengthening Local Governments



Community Assistance and Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing was originally conceived as a way in which to share state resource wealth with local government, thereby ensuring that all areas of the state have basic public services and reasonably equitable and stable local tax rates. While Alaska has had a revenue sharing program since 1969, it has had numerous changes over the years, including in 2017 to rename the program Community Assistance. Funding has been inconsistent over the years but is a priority for Alaska's municipalities. To ensure its continued inclusion in the budget, AML:

- Supports a baseline floor of \$60 million annually, and encourage a long-term, sustainable solution.
- Supports a method to waive debt, forgive loans, or otherwise bolster “stressed” communities whose revenue sharing funds are withheld.

History of Revenue Sharing

1970 – State Revenue Sharing – Reimburse for Services

1985 – Community Revenue Sharing \$140M

1997 – Safe Communities, focus on public health/safety

2003 – Community Assistance zeroed out

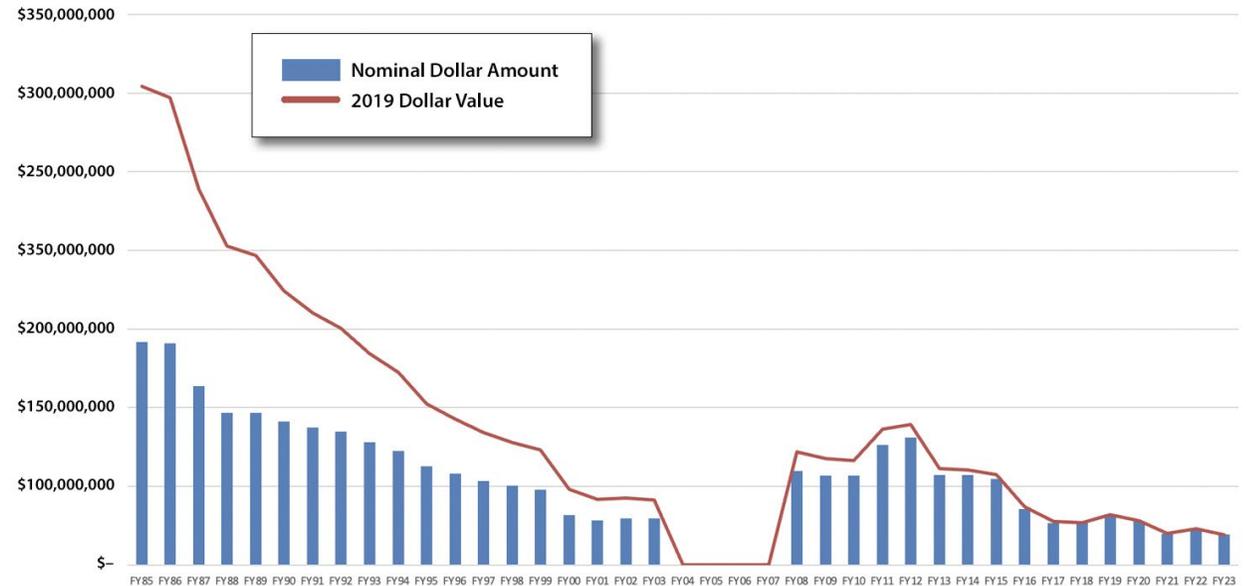
2009 - \$180M fund with \$60M distribution

2016 - \$90M fund with \$30M distribution

2020 – Vetoed recapitalization results in distribution of \$20m, or base.

2024 – Vetoed recapitalization.

Table 2: Alaska Communities at Risk	
Communities That Have Discontinued Municipal Operations	
Ahkiok, Ambler, Holy Cross, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kupreanof, Kwethluck, Mekoryuk, Nikolai, Noatak, Platinum, Quinhagak, Russian Mission	
Communities with Significant Financial Problems	
Allakaket, Buckland, Chevak, Ekwok, Goodnews Bay, Grayling, Hydaburg, Lower Kalskag, Napaskiak, Numan Iqua, Pilot Point, Point Hope, St. George, Shageluk, Shishmaref, Toksook Bay, Upper Kalskag, Wales	
Communities at Risk	
Akiak, Alakanuk, Anaktuvuk Pass, Angoon, Atkasook, Brevig Mission, Chignik, Chuathbaluk, Clark's Point, Deering, Diomede, Eek, Emmonak, Gambell, Golovin, Hooper Bay, Kaktovik, Kotlik, Koyuk, Koyukuk, Mountain Village, Napakiak, New Stuyahok, Nightmute, Nondalton, Noorvik, Nuiqsut, Nulato, Old Harbor, Pelican, Pilot Station, Port Heiden, Port Lions, Ruby, St. Michael, Savoonga, Scammon Bay, Selawik, Shaktoolik, Shungnak, Stebbins, Tanana, Teller, Tenakee Springs, Togiak, Wainwright	

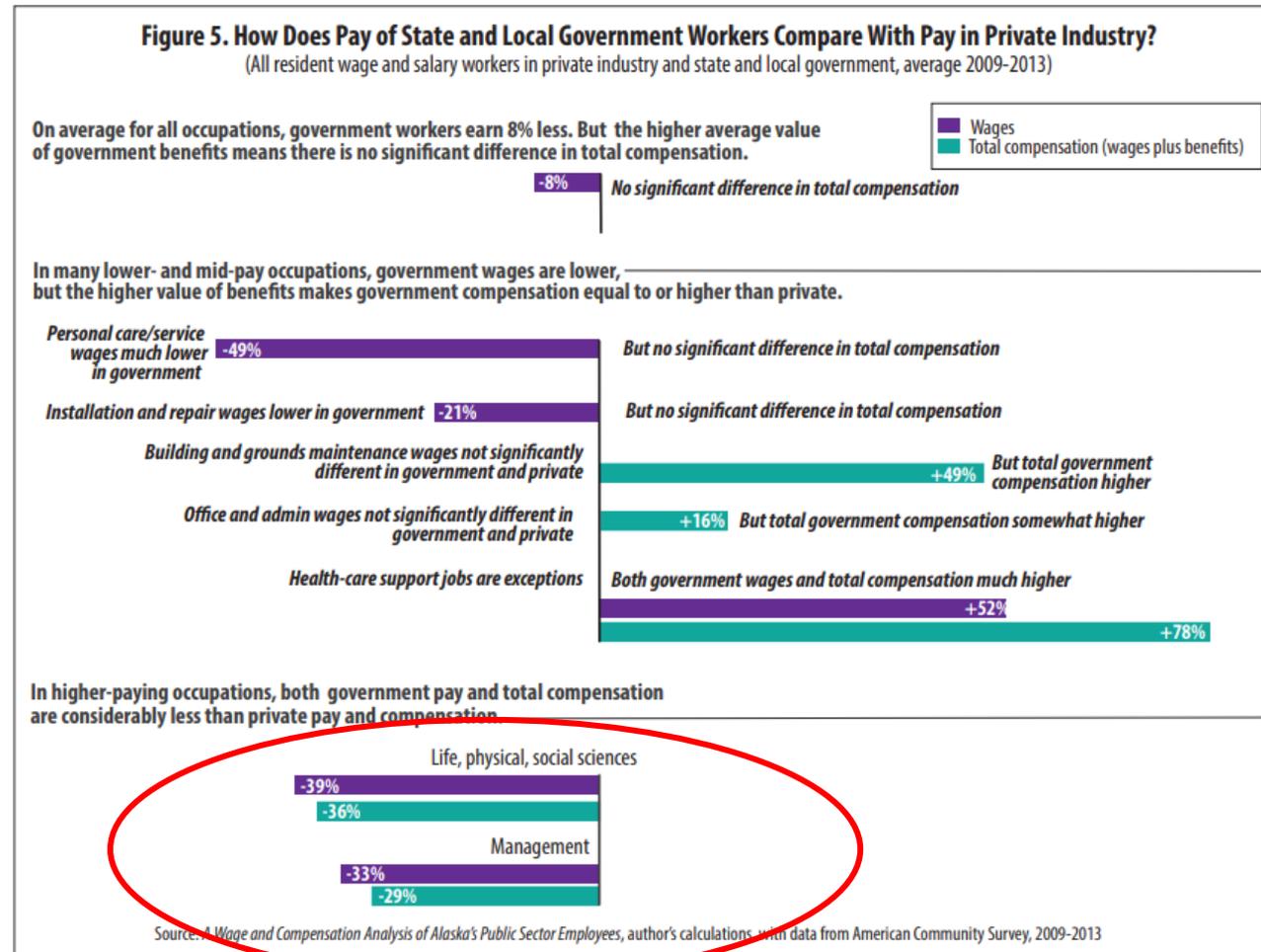


PERS/TRS

In recognition of the State's responsibility for the majority of the unfunded pension and health benefit liability, in 2008 the State amended its statutes regarding employer contributions to PERS and TRS, placing a cap on employer contributions at 22% of payroll and TRS contributions at 12.56% of payroll, with the State accepting responsibility for any costs in excess of this amount (the "on behalf" payment). For municipalities, many have become "prisoners of PERS" – unable to leave without a costly termination study and still the unfunded liability to address. AML:

- Supports amendments to termination studies and penalties for leaving PERS/TRS.
- Supports the development of a pathway to decrease overall unfunded liability.
- Opposes any cost shift of the State "on behalf" payment over 22%.

Workforce Recruitment and Retention



Fiscal Policy

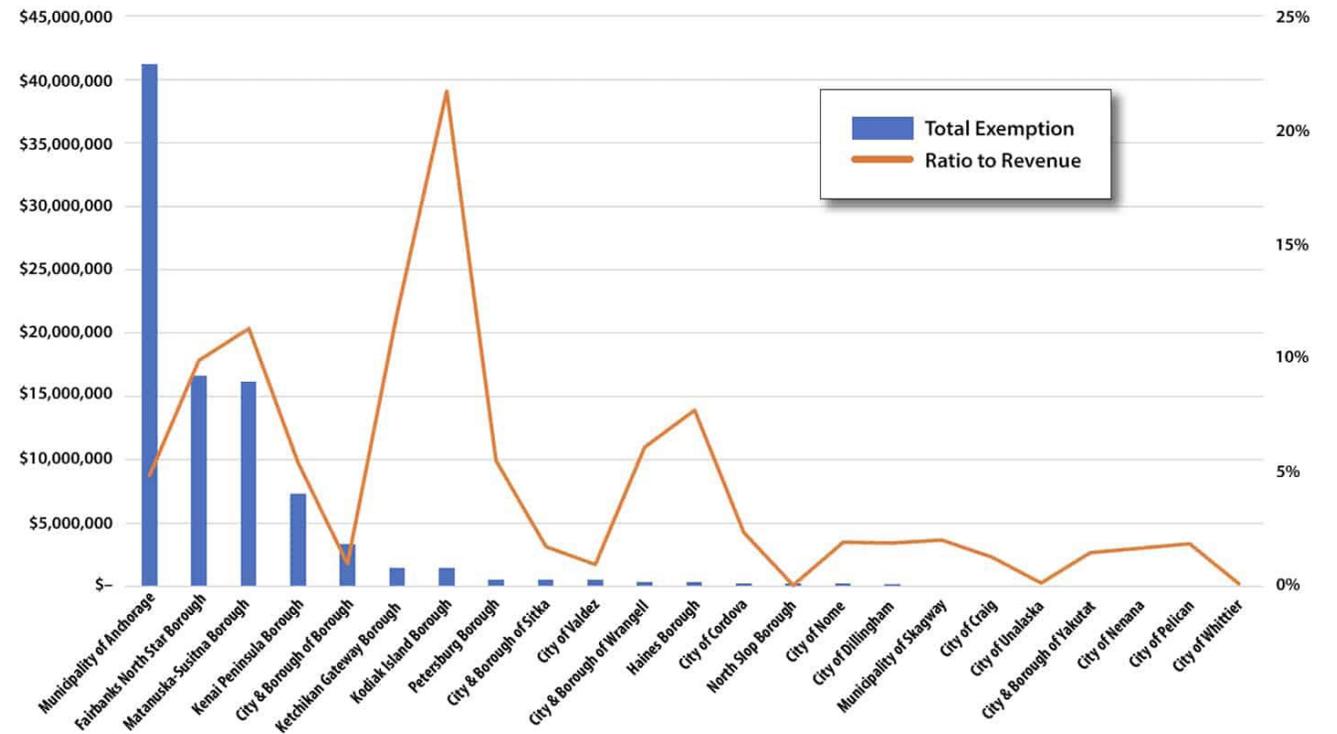
Municipal fiscal health is often a direct reflection of state fiscal health. If the state reduces its overall budget or revenue sharing, or shifts costs or responsibilities to municipalities, local governments either must draw from savings, raise local taxes, or become unable to deliver essential public services. Therefore, it is imperative that the state approach its fiscal policy with the utmost concern for impacts to the economy and political subdivisions of the state. If there is no capital budget, then infrastructure and economic development suffers. Reductions in the state's budget cannot come at the expense of local government, and AML:

- Supports agency and programmatic efficiency and right-sizing but opposes cost-shifting to municipalities and eliminating essential services.
- Supports the development of a broad-based tax or other mechanisms to increase state revenue.

Mandatory Exemptions

Mandatory exemptions reduce the available tax base of local governments by as much as 20%. Most importantly, it is worth recognizing that exemptions benefit the few at the expense of the many, shifting the tax burden and increasing costs elsewhere.

The Senior Exemption at right demonstrates magnitude of impact by jurisdiction, with a value last year of \$100 million that by law is supposed to be reimbursed.



Public Safety

Municipal governments play an essential role in delivering public safety to Alaskans. The majority of first responders are municipal employees and volunteers, and municipalities spend more on public safety than the state. The partnership between the federal, state and local governments must be strategic and responsive to threats to public safety, emergency response and the long-term well-being of Alaskans. AML encourages the state to:

- Increase officer recruitment and retention.
- Support and strengthen the VPSO program.
- Decrease access to and impacts from opioids.

Economic Development

Local governments are often at the heart of economic development in a community, providing an employee base as well as programmatic and infrastructure investments. Many municipalities have economic development arms, as well, which foster economic activity and support innovation and entrepreneurship. AML:

- Supports increased investment in diversification and small business development.
- Supports increased investment in training and workforce development.
- Supports state responsiveness to local economic development planning.

Access to Land

Municipal Lands

- Entitled by law – AS 29.65.010, 020, 030
- Patented - deed secured
 - Local government can subdivide, sell, develop
- Approved = no deed but planning can begin

Barriers to development

- Survey costs
- Utilities and access

Municipality	Entitlement	Patented	Approved	Ownership
Aleutians East Borough	7,633	451	7,223	5.91%
Municipality of Anchorage	44,893	21,122	3,596	47.05%
City of Anderson	1,182	912	349	77.16%
City of Cordova	235	169	76	71.91%
Denali Borough	49,789	5,212	43,302	10.47%
Fairbanks North Star Borough	112,000	97,246	15,697	86.83%
Haines Borough	5,967	2,562	2,424	42.94%
City and Borough of Juneau	19,584	17,190	2,993	87.78%
Kenai Peninsula Borough	155,780	100,429	41,994	64.47%
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	11,593	9,606	2,080	82.86%
Kodiak Island Borough	56,500	21,033	10,426	37.23%
Lake and Peninsula Borough	125,000	1	99,785	0.00%
Mat Su Borough	355,210	271,903	79,722	76.55%
North Slope Borough	89,850	4,489	8,360	5.00%
Northwest Arctic Borough	285,438	45,815	233,850	16.05%
Petersburg	14,666	458		3.12%
Municipality of Skagway	7,977	4,358	3,536	54.63%
City and Borough of Sitka	10,500	7,464	2,526	71.09%
City of Valdez	7,593	6,182	1,492	81.42%
City and Borough of Wrangell	9,006	2,029	7,205	22.53%
City and Borough of Yakutat	21,500	366	22,298	1.70%

Education

The state's constitution requires the legislature to establish and maintain a system of public schools. However, state statute assigns to local government the shared responsibility to contribute to that maintenance. Municipal investment makes up 25% of school funding in Alaska, without which many school districts would struggle to operate. AML:

- Supports early childhood education, career and technical education, and preparing, attracting and retaining qualified educators.
- Supports accountability and assessment that meets federal requirements and maximizes local control.
- Opposes any reduction in school funding and support investment in infrastructure and deferred maintenance.

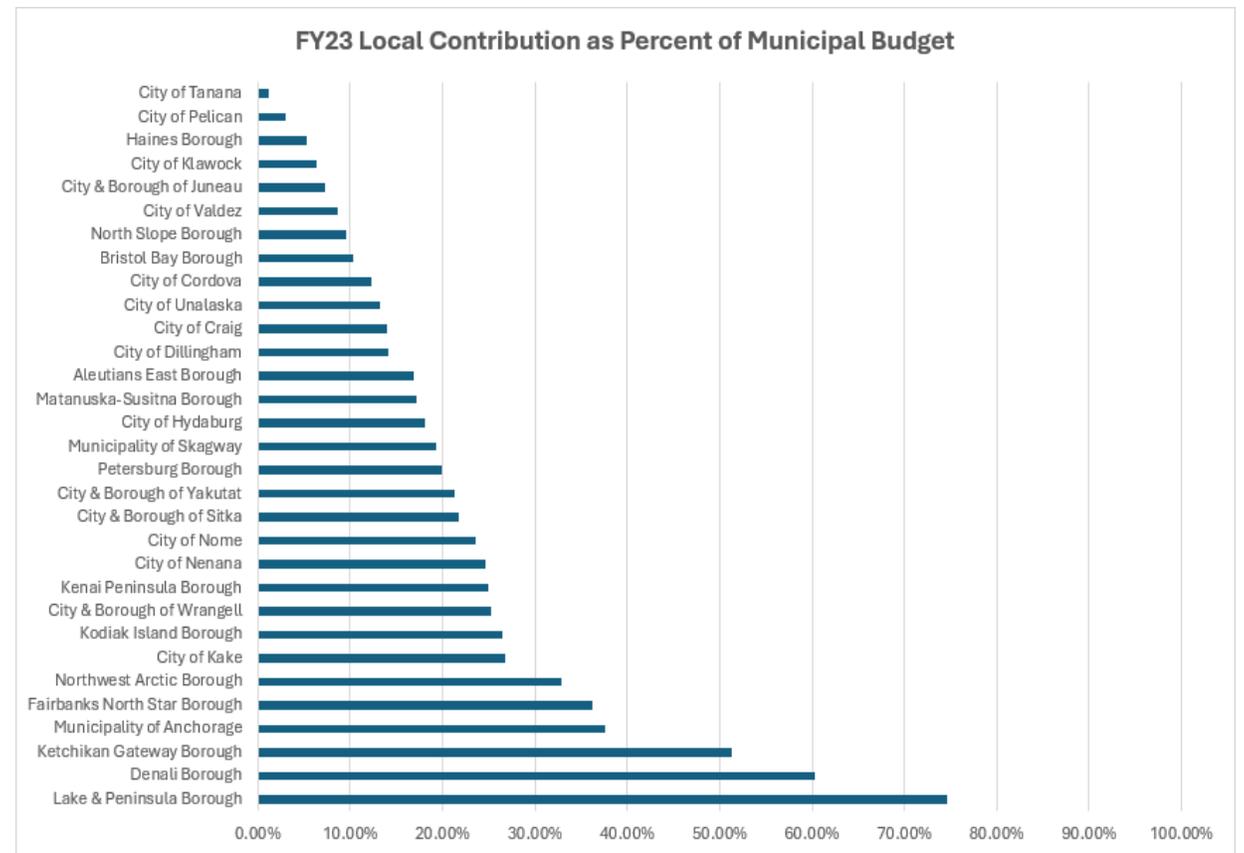
State and Local Funding

School Construction and Major Maintenance

- Average \$ funded = 14%
- 30 of 221 construction projects, or 13.5%
- 88 of 1,145 maintenance projects, or 7.6%

Fiscal Year/List	Number of Projects	Total Eligible State Share	Number of Projects Funded	Amount Funded
FY2011 Construction	35	\$411,643,149	3	\$128,500,000
FY2011 Maintenance	130	\$272,421,065	8	\$24,786,959
FY2012 Construction	32	\$313,999,772	3	\$61,910,901
FY2012 Maintenance	117	\$275,132,938	15	\$25,854,691
FY2013 Construction	27	\$276,691,304	2	\$60,973,515
FY2013 Maintenance	120	\$267,017,375	13	\$17,979,185
FY2014 Construction	24	\$284,133,432	3	\$60,619,572
FY2014 Maintenance	111	\$253,682,082	13	\$22,991,057
FY2015 Construction	17	\$274,150,436	2	\$43,279,791
FY2015 Maintenance	102	\$183,505,181	0	\$0
FY2016 Construction	18	\$230,920,120	1	\$43,237,400
FY2016 Maintenance	102	\$172,195,526	4	\$2,623,689
FY2017 Construction	17	\$206,267,345	4	\$73,735,471
FY2017 Maintenance	98	\$181,570,096	0	\$0
FY2018 Construction	15	\$123,294,419	3	\$46,305,477
FY2018 Maintenance	107	\$164,887,094	16	\$0
FY2019 Construction	11	\$179,214,343	7	\$42,527,459
FY2019 Maintenance	84	\$142,892,281	17	\$27,653,300
FY2020 Construction	11	\$190,353,374	2	\$20,082,467
FY2020 Maintenance	72	\$112,247,626	1	\$7,365,723
FY20201 Construction	14	\$142,797,809	0	\$0
FY2021 Maintenance	102	\$148,986,253	1	\$34,277

Required Local Contribution as portion of budget



Coastal Resilience

Alaska's port and harbors represent critical transportation links and economic drivers for the state, as well as public safety assets. The state transferred ownership of the majority of these facilities to municipalities, who have assumed the operational costs but for whom the maintenance and improvements are challenging. At the same time, Alaska's coastal communities are dependent on an active and well-managed commercial fishery. AML:

- Supports appropriately funded DF&G and increased investment in fisheries research and outreach.
- Supports continued investment in port and harbor infrastructure.
- Supports an active role in federal fisheries management, and clean water, as well as transboundary negotiations.

Energy

The high costs of heat and power in most of Alaska presents a burdensome transactional cost to doing business or providing public services. While Power Cost Equalization (PCE) is a reliable effort to stabilize and bring down costs for residents, there remains an incredible challenge to increase affordable energy in Alaska. Most local governments have identified the cost of energy as a primary detrimental influence affecting quality of life and economic expansion within their communities. AML:

- Supports vetting of and investing in energy projects, processes and programs that decrease energy costs

Transportation

Alaska's transportation infrastructure is pivotal to the state's economy and facilitates access to markets, supplies, and most of all, resources. Improving and investing in Alaska's air, marine, and ground transportation system will enhance the global competitiveness of Alaska business and economic opportunities for its people. Alaska needs new transportation infrastructure development to provide access to resources, reduce barriers for communities to participate in the economy, allow for safe and efficient transportation for all Alaskans, and to dramatically improve Alaskan's quality of life statewide. It is equally important to ensure the maintenance of our existing infrastructure. AML:

- Supports the establishment of an Alaska Transportation Fund that can be used to match or supplement federal funding and invest in multimodal transportation infrastructure.

Water and Wastewater

The delivery of water, wastewater and sanitation are the responsibility of many municipalities, and while improvements have been made in much of the state, more than 30 rural communities have no centralized water or wastewater systems. These are essential functions of local government and are supplemented by state investment and efforts. AML:

- Supports increased State investment in maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

Alaska Municipal League's Role

The **purpose** of the Alaska Municipal League is to:

- Safeguard the interests, rights, and privileges of Alaskan municipalities as they may be affected by Federal and State governmental actions.
- Secure cooperation among municipalities of the State in a thorough study of local problems and in the application of efficient methods of local government.
- Provide means whereby municipal officials may interchange ideas, experiences, and obtain expert advice.

The **objectives** of the Alaska Municipal League are to:

- Perpetuate and develop the League as an agency for the cooperation of municipalities in the state of Alaska for the practical study of municipal affairs.
- Promote application of the best methods in all branches of municipal service by holding at least one conference annually for the discussion of problems of administration.
- Gather and circulate information and experience concerning the most approved methods of municipal administration.
- Secure general and municipal legislation at the state and federal levels which will be beneficial to the municipalities and inhabitants thereof, and to oppose legislation injurious thereto.
- Engage in the study and preparation of uniform ordinances, resolutions, and practices; and to do any and all other things necessary and proper for the benefit of the municipalities of Alaska.
- Develop appropriate membership services and programs that strengthen Alaskan local governments' ability to govern their own affairs and improve

THANK YOU

Strengthening Local Governments

Questions: Nils Andreassen, Executive Director * nils@akml.org