

HB-218

HB 290, 291

Chairman cotten asked for the consensus of the Committee on these two bills. The members wanted them left in Committee until next year.

HB 377

Freeman doesn't see any reason for the bill. The rest of the Committee concurs. DEAD.

SB 125

This is the same one as HB 172 passed out earlier. Hershberger suggests leaving this one in committee and letting HB 172 go through the stages. Let a representative have this one. REST of the members concur.

HB 293

The Chairman received a telegram from Kodiak who are opposed to this bill. Freeman said that the Anchorage city and borough are interested. Want to wait for more testimony on this one.

HB 259

Hackney wants to study for the rest of the session. Cotten said the sponsor doesn't want to see it again. Dead for now.

HB 218
SB 209

Cotten said there was a constitutional problem with these bills. Dead for now.

HB 322, 359

Hackney wants rep. Specking to come. Also Chenoweth. These bills will be taken up tomorrow.

ADJOURN

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00.

ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS
% Ketchikan Gateway Borough
344 Front Street
Ketchikan, Alaska

TO: Senate and House State Affairs Committees, Senate and House Finance Committees, Senate and House Community and Regional Affairs Committees and Senate and House Judiciary Committees

DATE: March 27, 1975

SUBJ: AAMC POSITION ON ELECTION LEGISLATION

This is a position statement of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks on the following bills pertaining to elections and under consideration by the Ninth State Legislature.

HB 10 Increases the payment of election judges, clerks and counters from \$3.50 per hour to \$5.00 per hour.

Referral - Passed House.

POSITION: Opposed. This bill, if passed, would increase the cost of election boards by 33%. Average increase for local elections, statewide, would be \$33,750.00 per election. In conjunction with HBs 199 and 204, which lengthen the hours that polling places are open on election day, the costs would be even greater. We consider this to be an astronomical increase in local election costs which communities would have to bear.

HB 53 Changes the State General Election to the "first" Tuesday of November in every even numbered year instead of the "first Tuesday after the first Monday". Changes the date of the State Primary from the "fourth Tuesday of August" to the "first" Tuesday of "October" of every even numbered year.

Referral - State Affairs; Finance

POSITION: Opposed. Passage would make State Primaries and local elections fall on the same day. One is partisan and one non-partisan. Implementation of the passed bill would mean two separate precinct boards, two sets of procedures and shuffling of voters from one board to the other and vice versa. The State Election Offices may find it very difficult to prepare for two major State elections only one month apart. Voters would be vividly faced with the differences between local and state election procedures.

By law, the Federal election is held the "first Tuesday after the first Monday" of November. With passage of this bill there would be occasion that a State General Election would be held a week previous to the Federal election.

HB 54 Changes the administration of state elections from the Lt. Governor to an Alaska Election Administration Commission.

Referrals: State Affairs and Finance Committees

POSITION: Opposed to the bill in its present form. We support the theory of removing the Lt. Governor from the direct line of fire in being responsible for the conduct of elections. We would propose a State Elections Commission under the Office of the Lt. Governor which would have the responsibility for the conduct of the elections.

The Commission should be composed of five members all of which have expertise in the conduct of elections. This Commission would consist of the Lt. Governor as Chairman; a representative of each major political party selected from a list of three persons submitted by each party; a representative of a political action group and a fifth member whose current responsibility includes the conduct of municipal elections.

HB 199 Changes the time for opening and closing the polls from
HB 204 8:00 a. m. - 8:00 p. m. to 7:00 a. m. - 9:00 p. m. and
6:30 a. m. - 7:30 p. m., respectively.

Referrals: State Affairs and Judiciary.

POSITION: Opposed. Based upon prior experience of polls opening at 7:00 a. m. and closing at 8:00 p. m., we have found 12 hours to be a sufficient amount of time for voting. Surveys taken during that period of time indicate that, at most, only two voters per precinct voted during that morning hour while precinct boards were being paid at full staff capacity. The extension of hours would greatly increase costs, without justification from voter turnout. The addition of hours in the evening to an already existing 14 or 16 hour day would decrease efficiency at a time when accuracy is most critical.

HB 207 Allows voter to register any time of the year, even at the time of voting and allows a voter to vote if qualified in the election district rather than "precinct".

Referrals: State Affairs and Finance

POSITION: Opposed. Those voters choosing to register and vote on election day will, in all cases, have to vote a questioned or challenged ballot since there is no way for a precinct election judge to determine at that time the clear and unquestioned qualification of the voter.

The increase in questioned and challenged ballots then directly affects the time between election and canvass, delaying canvass because of the increased amount of investigation required. The bill, if passed, would discourage making timely change of address as well as early registration and would render the registration rolls virtually useless for the purposes for which they are

presently utilized, i. e. checking of nominating petitions, candidate mail out, initiative and referendum petitions.

HB 214 Provides that when none of the required persons is available for witnessing an absentee ballot it can be done by a single attesting witness who is at least 18.

Referral: State Affairs and Judiciary

POSITION: Opposed. As we feel AS 15.20.150 as it exists provides sufficient flexibility to secure witnesses for purposes of absentee voting.

HB 217 Exempts municipal elections from State law governing election campaign contributions and expenditures.

Referral: State Affairs and Judiciary

POSITION: Endorse. Local government should not be required to conform to standards set for state government unless it is the desire of local government. Candidates for local office find the reporting to be a form of harrassment. The inquiries into local campaign contributions have been minimal.

HB 218 Provides that residency requirements not exceeding three years be set for borough and city mayors and councilmen.

Referrals - Community and Regional Affairs and State Affairs

POSITION: Endorse. Home Rule City may now prescribe additional residency requirements for Mayor by charter. Amendment would extend privilege for prescribing durational residency requirements to general law cities and boroughs for the offices of councilmen and mayor.

HB 219 Provides for registration officials to serve in each polling place during municipal, primary and general elections.

Referrals - State Affairs and Finance

POSITION: Endorse. The registrar would be right at the polling place to make a change of address, name, etc. This would enable the voter who is angry at the time of voting because he made a change of address and it did not make the list - or didn't make a change and is just angry at having to vote a questioned ballot - to have his anger somewhat lessened, if not totally, by having a registrar available at that time to make the necessary change. This would aid in making the registration rolls more accurate and be an added convenience to the voter.

HB 223 Provides that a municipality may provide for plurality vote for election of official by ordinance ratified by a majority of the voters thus exempting itself from the 40% run-off requirement.

Referrals - ~~State~~ ^{Community & Regional} Affairs

POSITION: Support. Present 40% run-off provision is discriminatory in the first place by exempting home-rule cities. Home-rule cities have representatives on Borough Assemblies which may be elected by standards different than are required for the other Assemblymen. Voter apathy is apparent when examining voting statistics for run-off elections. Many times a candidate has won a run-off election with less votes than received in the general election. This is difficulty in computing the 40% in multi-seat races. Statistics show that the 40% run-off has only infrequently changed the outcome of the regular election. The run-off election is often more costly than the general election - in Borough's having an areawide run-off and not sharing election costs with the cities as they do in general elections.

HB 233 Provides that a voter who has failed to obtain a transfer from one precinct or election district to another may vote a questioned ballot in the district where he resides on election day.

Referrals - State Affairs

POSITION: Oppose. Endorse instead HB 300.

HB 240 Provides a tax credit against Alaska Income Tax to a taxpayer who votes in a state or local election during the tax year.

Referrals - State Affairs and Finance

POSITION: Opposed. Voting is a right, not a commodity to be purchased for \$10.00. Money has never proven to be a lasting incentive to sustain initiative.

HB 300 Clarifies voter's residency requirement.

Referrals - State Affairs and Finance

POSITION: Endorse. This bill will further clarify "residency requirements" for voting purposes by establishing criteria for judgements that have to be made at every election and affecting not only the voters, but candidates as well.

SENATE BILLS

SB 206 Provides that a voter who has failed to obtain a registration transfer shall vote a questioned ballot in his precinct of residence.

Referrals - State Affairs

POSITION: Opposed. Endorse instead HB 300.

SB 207 Permits a municipality to provide for plurality vote for election of officials by ordinance.

Referral - Community and Regional Affairs

POSITION: Opposed. Endorse instead SB 255.

SB 208 Provides for registration officials to serve in each polling place during municipal, primary and general elections.

Referrals - State Affairs

POSITION: Endorse. See HB 219.

SB 209 Provides that residency requirements not exceeding three years can be set for borough and city mayors and councilmen.

Referrals - Community and Regional Affairs

POSITION: Endorse. See HB 219.

SB 237 Changes time for opening polls from 8:00 a. m. to 6:30 a. m.

Referrals - State Affairs

POSITION: Opposed. See HB 199 and HB 204.

SB 255 Run-off Elections.

Referrals - Community and Regional Affairs.

POSITION: Opposed.

SB 269 Punch card voting.

Referrals - State Affairs

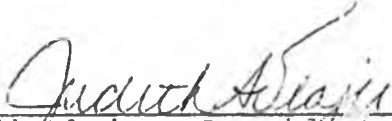
POSITION: Endorse. Existing statute does not deal efficiently with punch card voting.

SB 270 Municipal Election Date.

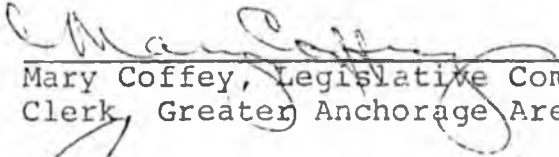
Referrals - Community and Regional Affairs

POSITION: Oppose.

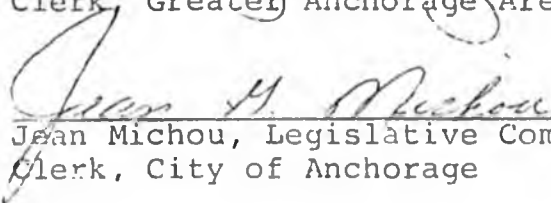
These positions were developed from a statewide consensus of the thirty-seven members of the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks, who serve with the municipalities as shown on the attached list.



Judi Slajer, President
Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks



Mary Coffey, Legislative Committee
Clerk, Greater Anchorage Area Borough



Jean Michou, Legislative Committee
Clerk, City of Anchorage

Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES

1975

City of Ambler	City of Kodiak
City of Anchorage	Kodiak Island Borough
City of Angoon	City of Kotzebue
City of Cordova	Matanuska-Susitna Borough
City of Craig	City of Nome
City of Delta Junction	City of North Pole
City of Dillingham	City of Palmer
Fairbanks North Star Borough	City of Petersburg
City of Fort Yukon	City of Seldovia
Greater Anchorage Area Borough	City of Seward
City of Haines	City and Borough of Sitka
City of Homer	City of Skagway
City of Hoonah	City of Soldotna
City and Borough of Juneau	City of Unalaska
City of Kenai	City of Valdez
Kenai Peninsula Borough	City of Wales
City of Ketchikan	City of Whittier
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	City of Wrangell
	City of Yakutat

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Hearings

HB218

~~2/4/75~~

Rep. Ted Smith

Notified

Present

Testified

5/28/75

AK Municipal League

CRA

Mary Cassee, GAAB clerk

Slater, Ketchikan clerk

Ed Hildebrand, C & B Junction

X
~~X~~
~~X~~
X
X
X

2/4/75

Rep Smith

AK Municipal League

Dept C & CRA

X
X