

1/27/09

OVERVIEW:

AK CHAM.

COMMERCE

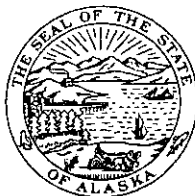
AK MUNI.

LEAGUE

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
House Community & Regional Affairs Committee

Rep. Cathy Muñoz, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 409
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Phone (907) 465-3744
Fax (907) 465-2273
Rep_Cathy_Munoz@legis.state.ak.us



Rep. Bob Herron, Co-Chair

State Capitol Building, Room 415
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907) 465-4942
Fax: (907) 465-4589
Rep_Bob_Herron@legis.state.ak.us

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 22nd, 2009

To: Suzi Lowell, Chief Clerk

From: Rep. Cathy Muñoz, Co-Chair
Rep. Bob Herron, Co-Chair

Re: House Community & Regional Affairs Committee Schedule

Schedule for House Community & Regional Affairs

Tuesday, January 27th at 8:00 a.m. Room 124

Alaska Municipal League Overview
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director

Alaska State Chamber of Commerce Overview
Wayne Stevens, President / CEO

+ Teleconferenced



217 Second Street, Suite 200 • Juneau, Alaska 99801
Tel (907) 586-1325 • Fax (907) 463-5480 • www.akml.org

- The Alaska Municipal League is a non-profit, membership organization made up of 150 cities and boroughs within the state.
- The League's mission is to lobby on a state and federal level for those issues which strengthen Alaska's municipalities.
- We also are responsible for training and local government help to all municipalities.
- We are the "headquarters" or provide support for the Alaska Conference of Mayors, the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks, the Alaska Municipal Managers Association, the Alaska Municipal Attorney's Association, the Alaska Government Finance Officers Association and the Alaska Assessors Association. We have seats on the Board of the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities and the Western Interstate Region.
- We have a board of 26 elected officials from each of 11 districts plus past AML Presidents and representatives from the previously mentioned associations.
- Our office is here in Juneau.
- We are attempting to improve our relationship with industry throughout Alaska, as municipalities understand that a community cannot be healthy without good jobs.
- We attempt to give our members the information and ability to participate in meetings throughout the state, by either helping to provide their travel or simply encouraging those closest to meeting locations to attend on behalf of AML.
- We do NOT operate a barge line.
- We provide the opportunity for members to join our insurance pool and our investment pool.
- We publish a quarterly magazine with information on legislation, congressional information, issues, classified job section and other information. We provide opportunity for state agencies to send us articles

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

and/or information which we send to our municipalities either through this newsletter or via email/fax.

- We do NOT lobby for capitol projects; only those issues which affect all municipalities. We do not (as a rule) take positions on regional issues that might pit one municipality against another or one region against another.
- We hold three conferences each year; January in Juneau (Legislative Conference); August in a mid-sized community (session wrap-up and priority drafting); and Annual Conference (rotated between Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks) to provide 2 days of Newly Elected Officials Training and three days of workshops and training for Councils and Assemblies.
- Publish and print the Municipal Officials Guide; the Alaska Municipal Salary Survey; a Legislative ebulletin; and a quarterly newsletter.



Board Mission and Introduction

AML MISSION

- To represent the unified voice of Alaska's municipalities to successfully influence favorable federal and state legislation;
- To build consensus and partnerships with organizations and the public to solve Alaska's challenges;
- To provide training and joint services to strengthen Alaska local government.

Welcome to the AML Board of Directors! Your job as board member is critical to the long-term well-being of Alaska, because in U.S. government, voluntary state municipal leagues provide the only unified voice for local governments which make the state and federal governments aware of local needs. Every state has a municipal league. In Alaska, our vast areas and wide variety of cultures and lifestyles make the need for AML even greater.

Basic Board member responsibilities:

- **Be prepared:** Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
- **Be present: Attempt to physically attend and actively participate in all four board and committee meetings throughout the year.**
 1. January – Joint meeting with Alaska Conference of Mayors and Legislative Committee – Juneau
 2. April – AML Board Retreat in Anchorage
 3. August – Joint meeting with Alaska Conference of Mayors and Legislative Committee Members – Location varies – held in smaller communities
 4. November - Annual Local Government Conference – Location varies – held in larger communities
- **Be informed: Make policy and operational decisions.** Learn about the organization's mission, services, policies and programs. Keep up-to-date on state and national developments that impact Alaska's municipalities. During the year, the Board gives staff detailed direction on current operational, program and policy issues.

- **Be an advocate: Legislative Contacts** – Board members will be called upon to contact Legislators throughout the year in order to discuss League policy and priority positions and to encourage support for those positions. Especially during session, Board members are encouraged to visit legislators and committee hearings while they are in Juneau and to write letters, emails and make phone calls with regards to those issues that affect all of Alaska's local governments. Advocate for AML's legislative agenda, member services and programs.
- **Be a participant:** Serve on committees and offer to take on special assignments when possible.
- **Be aware:** Follow conflict of interest and confidentiality policies.
- **Be engaged in the association business:** You have a fiduciary responsibility to review and understand the organization's finances outlined in the budget. Ensure that the budget matches the adopted Strategic Plan and require staff to demonstrate measurable results as outlined in the Strategic Plan. Adopt the annual AML budget.

The AML staff members are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director | kathie@akml.org |
| • Betty Svensson, Deputy Director | betty@akml.org |
| • Jeremy Woodrow, Communications Coordinator | jeremy@akml.org |
| • Sarah Geary, Bookkeeper | sarah@akml.org |
| • Rebecca Van Keuren, Administrative Assistant | rebecca@akml.org |

Contract Worker:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| • Ray Gillespie, Lobbyist | raygillespie@ak.net |
|---------------------------|--|

Toll Free Number – 1(877)636-1325 – If you ever have any questions or need assistance, we keep this toll-free number for use by our members. Our regular Juneau number is 1(907)586-1325.

Web page – www.akml.org – Our web page is updated regularly and you can find helpful information and links.

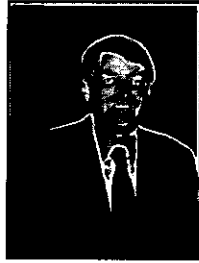
Fax Number – 1(907)463-5480

Thank you for committing to serve Alaska's local governments!

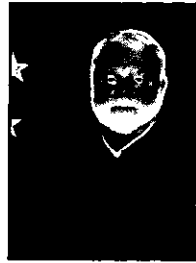
Alaska Municipal League 2009 Board of Directors



*President
Denise Michels, Mayor
City of Nome*



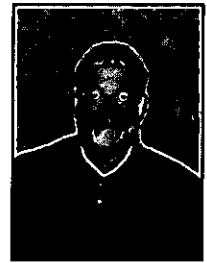
*First Vice-President
Bert Cottle, Mayor
City of Valdez*



*Second Vice-President
Hal Smalley, Assembly/Council
Kenai Pen. Boro./City of Kenai*



*District 1
Scott McAdams, Mayor
City and Borough of Sitka*



*District 2
Bruce Botelho, Mayor
City and Borough of Juneau*



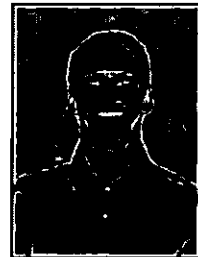
*District 4
Lynne Woods, Assembly
Matanuska-Susitna Boro.*



*District 5
Jennifer Johnston, Assembly
Municipality of Anchorage*



*District 6
Arenda Bulard, Assembly
Denali Borough*



*District 7
Luke Hopkins, Assembly
Fairbanks North Star Borough*



*District 9
Thor Williams
City of Bethel*



*District 10
Kay Andrews, Council
City of Aleknagik*



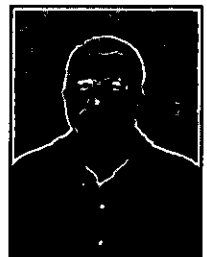
*Director At-Large
Eileen Holmes, Assembly
Denali Borough*



*Past President
Tim Beck, Assembly
Fairbanks North Star Borough*



*Past President
David Talerico, Mayor
Denali Borough*



*Past President
Jerome Selby, Mayor
Kodiak Island Borough*



*Past President & NACo Rep.
Pete Sprague, Assembly
Kenai Peninsula Borough*



*Past President & NLC Rep.
Carolyn Floyd, Mayor
City of Kodiak*



*ACoM Ex-Officio
Shirley Marquardt, Mayor
City of Unalaska*

Contact information for each AML Board Member is available online at www.akml.org under "About Us" → "AML Board"



*AMMA Ex-Officio
Walt Wrede
City of Homer*



*Leg. Comm. Co-Chair Ex-Officio
Michael Catsi
Southwest AK Municipal Conf.*



*Leg. Comm. Co-Chair Ex-Officio
Scott Brandt-Erichsen
Ketchikan Gateway Borough*

NOT PICTURED:

*District 3
Seat open at date of publish*

*District 8
Enoch Oktollik
Mayor, City of Wainwright*

*AAMC Ex-Officio
Julie Cozzi, CMC
Clerk, Haines Borough*

*AGFOA Ex-Officio
Deven Mitchell
AK Muni. Bond Bank Authority*

*AMAA Ex-Officio
Michael Gatti
Wohlforth, Johnson, Brecht,
Cartledge & Brooking*

ALASKA CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

2009 Leadership

President: Mayor Shirley Marquardt, City of Unalaska

1st Vice-President: Mayor Ernie Weiss, City of King Cove

2nd Vice-President: Mayor Bruce Botelho, City and Borough of Juneau

PAST PRESIDENTS

2008	Mayor Jim Whitaker, Fairbanks North Star Borough
2007	Mayor Dick Wyland, City of Seldovia
2006	Mayor Denise Michels, City of Nome
2005	Mayor Tim Anderson, Matanuska-Susitna Borough
2004	Mayor Kathie Wasserman, City of Pelican
2003	Mayor George Wuerch, Municipality of Anchorage
2002	Mayor Sarah Palin, City of Wasilla
2001	Mayor Sarah Palin, City of Wasilla
2000	Mayor Bob Knight, City of Nenana
1999	Mayor Mike Navarre, Kenai Peninsula Borough
1998	Mayor John Gonzales, Denali Borough
1997	Mayor Carolyn Floyd, City of Kodiak
1996	Mayor Rick Mystrom, Municipality of Anchorage
1995	Mayor Alaire Stanton, City of Ketchikan
1994	Mayor Don Long, City of Barrow
1993	Mayor Glen Alsworth, Sr., Lake & Peninsula Borough
1992	Mayor Dan Keck, City & Borough of Sitka
1991	Mayor Bob Brodie, City of Kodiak
1990	Mayor Willie Goodwin, City of Kotzebue
1989	Mayor John Williams, City of Kenai
1988	Mayor Erling Johansen, City of Cordova
1987	Mayor George Ahmaogak, North Slope Borough
1986	Mayor Tom Wagoner, City of Kenai
1985	Mayor John Dapcevich, City & Borough of Sitka
1984	Mayor John Halliwill, City of Haines
1983	Mayor Vincent O'Reilly, City of Kenai
1982	Mayor Leo Rasmussen, City of Nome
1981	Mayor W.D. Overstreet, City & Borough of Juneau

MAJOR AML MEMBER SERVICES

AML JOINT INSURANCE ASSOCIATION (AMLJIA)

- AML Board of Directors appoints 7 members of 9 member Board of Trustees
- AMLJIA is a member owned insurance pool that provides a full range of municipal insurance
- AMLJIA has 153 participants including municipalities and school districts
- AMLJIA provides an institutional fee of \$100,000 + 3% inflation to AML each year
- AMLJIA has staff offices in Anchorage and Juneau

AML INVESTMENT POOL (AMLIP)

- AML Board of Directors appoints 4 members of 7 member AMLIP Board of Directors
- AMLIP provides short-term pooled investment opportunities. Members can withdraw money immediately without penalty
- AMLIP has 70 municipal and school district participants

AML ENDORSED DEFERRED COMPENSATION PROGRAM

- AML endorses a National Association of Counties Program in conjunction with Nationwide Insurance Deferred Compensation Program
- AML receives a small institutional fee of approximately \$3,000 per year

U.S. COMMUNITIES MUNICIPAL JOINT PURCHASING PROGRAM

- AML endorses the NLC, NACo and ICMA purchasing program based on using bids from huge counties and cities like Los Angeles, to get low prices on computers, office supplies and equipment, etc. Often the vendor pays the shipping costs, which is another huge savings for municipalities in Alaska
- AML receives a small fee of one half of one percent of purchases

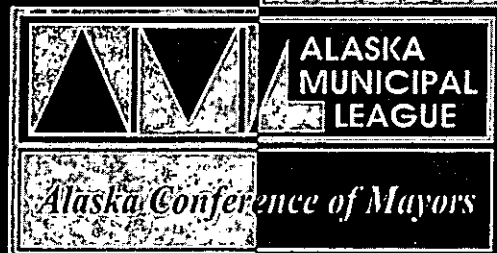
and/or information which we send to our municipalities either through this newsletter or via email/fax.

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ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2009 POLICY STATEMENT

Approved by AML Membership — November 2008



J. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL, & LANDFILLS

1. Solid Waste Reduction Programs:

The League supports funding and financial incentives for recycling and other regulatory programs to reduce solid waste in local landfills in order to extend their useful life.

2. Cleaning up our Communities:

- a. The League supports the funding for clean-up of junk/abandoned vehicles through the motor vehicle registration fee and the fuel tax. The League also supports legislation that will ease notice requirements in Title 28 for disposing of abandoned vehicles which are more appropriately defined as scrap metal. These vehicles have no Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) or other identifying marks.
- b. The League supports amendments to AS 30.090.100 to authorize municipalities to use the same process for the disposal of derelict vessels.

3. Public Landfills:

The League supports the concept of state-established public landfill sites, where no alternate sites exist to serve local and regional needs of small communities, which are currently bearing a considerable burden by complying with federal and state environmental regulations.

K. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTING

1. Alaska Rural Communications System (ARCS):

The League strongly supports continued funding for ARCS and public broadcasting as a critical link for emergency communications for communities across Alaska.

2. Bridging the Digital Divide:

The League supports efforts to ensure affordable, high-speed internet access statewide. Especially in consideration of Alaska's many physically remote communities, reliable, high-speed internet access is critical to economic development, commerce, education, and training.

3. State Oversight of Emergency Communications:

The League supports stronger state involvement to provide oversight and enforcement of safe operations of local radio communications, such as VHF band.

1. Support the findings and action recommendations of the Rural Energy Action Council which include:

- Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program Funding: Full funding of the PCE Endowment through joint congressional and state appropriations.
- Bulk Storage Operations and Maintenance
- Bulk Fuel Upgrade Projects
- Bulk Fuel Cooperatives
- High Cost of Bulk Fuel in Rural Alaska
- Diesel Powerhouse Efficiency Improvements
- Alternative Energy
- Energy Conservation and Building Weatherization Program
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Energy Funding for School Districts
- Rural Energy Centers

2. Provide Funding:

- a. Provide funding for construction, refurbishment and replacement of electric power infrastructure.
- b. Provide funding for exploration and development of renewable energy sources such as wind, hydro, solar, geothermal, tidal, biomass and wave.
- c. Provide funding for immediate or short-term programs designed to address current energy requirements while long-term energy solutions are developed.

3. Partnerships:

Work in partnership with local communities to enhance knowledge and expertise to move important energy projects forward.

4. Railbelt Energy Fund:

Use the Alaska Railbelt Energy Fund to pay for energy projects along the "rail belt" corridor of the state.

5. Interties:

Support the expansion of electrical utilities between communities through construction of interties, and upgrades to decrease line loss and increase efficiency.

6. Natural Gas:

The League supports development of plans or programs to bring the state's natural gas resources to as many local communities as possible.

7. Fuel Costs:

The Governor and Legislature are urged to develop a program which uses some of the State of Alaska owned oil to provide low cost fuel to Alaskan homes, businesses and industry.

G. UTILITY REGULATION

1. Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) Reauthorization:

RCA provides an important safeguard for Alaska utilities and their customers and should be reauthorized. However there should be a series of statutory changes and performance measurements that address timely case clearance and ensure the agency is operating in an effective and efficient manner.

2. Exemption of Municipal Utilities from RCA:

The League supports statutory exemptions that allow municipal utilities to operate in the best interest of the consumer without regulation by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA).

3. Solid Waste Collection and Disposal:

The League supports continued state regulation of solid waste collection and disposal. The lack of competition in this utility could increase costs to consumers, unless a municipality opts to take over solid waste collection and disposal regulations.

H. FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR UTILITIES

1. Sustainable Water and Sewer Funding:

The League urges the state to develop and implement a mechanism to create a fund that will result in a long-term sustainable state-funded water and sewer program.

1. Municipal Matching Grant Program:

The League strongly supports continuation of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's Municipal Matching Grant Program which provides at least 50 60 percent of the cost of sewage systems, auxiliary equipment, solid waste facilities, and water systems.

2. Village Safe Water Program:

The League strongly supports continuation of the Village Safe Water Program of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The League also strongly supports the funding of the Remote Maintenance Worker Program through the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The League supports state technical and financial assistance to rural communities to improve the basic sanitation facilities. The League supports an appropriation level to meet the needs of rural Alaskan communities throughout the state.

3. Revolving Loan Programs:

The League strongly supports continuation of revolving loan programs such as the Drinking Water Fund and the Clean Water Fund.

I. ENERGY

A statewide energy plan to provide reliable, sustainable, available, and affordable energy is critical to the citizens of Alaska and to the promotion of economic development opportunities. Therefore, the League recommends that the state:

- b. The League supports the transfer to municipalities of federal and/or state lands to provide for needed expansion and/or development of municipal-owned port and harbor facilities and operations.
- c. The League supports state funding of maintenance for state owned harbors and not deferring the cost to the local government.
- d. The League urges the State to complete a comprehensive statewide ports and harbors plan.

2. Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS):

Long-range planning and stable funding for maintenance, operation, and expansion of the system are necessary to ensure the most effective service to the users of the system and the most efficient operation of the vessels. The League strongly recommends:

- a. Changes to adopted AMHS Regional Transportation Plans must allow for community input and ensure adequate notice to minimize economic impacts to communities and their businesses.
- b. Funding be allocated to purchase new vessels and technology as needed, to replace the aging fleet and to comply with the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) deadlines.
- c. Funding that may currently be used for new vessel purchases, such as Shakwak funds, be used for such purpose and not for other transportation projects that have multiple funding sources.
- d. A baseline schedule be adopted and published at least 2 years in advance for all AMHS routes, and provide service commensurate with community size and usage.
- e. Full, consistent and predictable funding for maintenance and operation of the AMHS.
- f. DOT partner with communities to maximize marketing efforts and revenue potential for the AMHS.
- g. The Legislature reinstate the AMHS Trust Fund.
- h. The AMHS be included on an equitable basis with other state transportation systems, including the regional transportation plans.
- i. The use of state supported public and/or private feeder ferries as improvements to ferry service.
- j. Alaska shipyards, maintenance, and training services are used whenever possible.

F. STATE POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

1. Building Officials:

- a. The League supports continuation of state policy to not require building officials or plan reviewers to be registered architects or engineers.
- b. The League supports the rights of local communities that have statutory deferral to enforce the state building codes without interference by state officials. If an error occurs by a local government official, the state may then overrule the decision.

2. Safety Code Adoption:

The League urges municipal representation on any review panel for adoption of codes.

3. Payment & Performance Bonds for Public Works Projects:

The League supports an amendment to AS 36.25.010 providing for an inflationary increase up to \$250,000 in the contract limit for requiring payment and performance bonds of contractors for public buildings or public works projects.

5. Costs of Railroad Crossings:

The Alaska Municipal League supports the Alaska Railroad having the responsibility and incurring the cost of maintaining railroad crossings, traffic safety signals, and related infrastructure.

6. Historic Rights of Way (R.S. 2477):

The League supports continued research and identification of traditional public rights for rights-of-way on property as provided by R.S. 2477, and provide for a funding mechanism to assert designation.

7. Public Transit:

The League supports development and funding of cost-effective public transit systems. The Statewide Transportation Plan should include a statewide plan for public transportation. The League supports an annual appropriation to match federal and local funding to expand transportation services across the State and to include fuel cost reimbursement as part of the State energy assistance program. The League encourages the Legislature to explore changes to the pupil transportation funding requirements that would allow blending of public and pupil transit systems to achieve economies of scale.

8. Pedestrian/Bicycle Lanes:

The League supports legislation to require that provisions for and funding of pedestrian/bicycle lanes and/or paths be included on all major state road and rail projects where determined by local municipalities.

D. AIR TRANSPORTATION

1. Airport Maintenance:

The League supports adequate funding for equipment, maintenance, and operation of airports, including Homeland Security requirements.

2. Transfer of Land and Facilities for Municipal Airports:

The League supports the transfer of federal and/or state lands and facilities to municipalities, if requested, to provide for needed construction and expansion of municipal-owned airport facilities and operations.

3. Airport Construction Assistance:

The League supports an equitable approach to state construction assistance for both state and municipal airports and the concept of necessary expansion and upgrading of airports, airport facilities, and air navigational aids in Alaska.

4. Minimum Runway Lengths

The League supports that runway lengths be adequate to ensure safe transportation and to meet each community's need.

E. MARINE TRANSPORTATION

1. Port and Harbor Development:

- a. The League urges the state to fully fund deferred maintenance improvements to port and harbor facilities through the Municipal Harbor Facility Grant program. Enable municipalities to use the proceeds from the transfer of state harbors for the local matching share of harbor matching grant program.

8. Construction Standards Related to Climate Impact:

The League encourages the state to consider recommendations for new construction standards as identified by the State's energy plan and the State's climate change panel.

B. MUNICIPAL INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**1. Statewide Comprehensive Transportation Plan:**

The League supports the continued development of a statewide comprehensive transportation plan that combines overall state, regional, and local transportation needs. Planning should place more emphasis on the needs and priorities of communities as identified by residents and local governments.

2. Sustainable Transportation Funding:

The League urges the state to develop and implement a mechanism to create a fund that will result in a long-term sustainable state-funded transportation program.

C. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION**1. State Transportation System Maintenance:**

The League supports an increased level of funding for maintenance of the state transportation system (roads, bridges, bike paths, trails, etc.) to reflect the increasing costs and age of the system.

2. State Local Road Maintenance:

The League supports legislation to provide funding for local roads by allocating a portion of the state gas tax receipts, motor vehicle registration fees, and federal highway funds. Consolidation of state and local road maintenance operations may provide opportunities for cost savings and efficiencies. The League supports transfer of responsibility for road maintenance or ownership of roads from the state to a municipality only upon agreement by the affected municipality.

3. Federal Highway Funds:

The League strongly recommends the state Department of Transportation and Public Facilities:

- a. Ensure the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) follows the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) process to better involve citizens and local governments in the funding and implementation of prioritized local projects.
- b. Provide for an appropriate sharing of federal receipts for local road needs.
- c. Expend at least 10 percent of the surface transportation program for construction of project upgrades and at least 10 percent for safety programs.
- d. Set aside a percentage of federal highway funds be allocated for the maintenance of road, trail, and transit projects.
- e. Provide earmark funding directly to communities.
- f. Support local control of Metropolitan Area Planning Organization (MPO) transportation solutions.
- g. Enter into a Memoranda of Agreement with local tribal governments for road maintenance and construction.

4. Trail Marking:

The League strongly urges the continuation of a statewide program of uniform permanent trail marking and annual winter maintenance and trail staking be established and funded by the state, with local input.

PART IV PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE

The goal is to recognize the importance of transportation, energy programs and utilities infrastructure to the economic and social well being of Alaska communities, to support planning for an integrated transportation system, to assist local governments in providing potable water, wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal and other utilities and to advocate an equitable approach to the funding of construction and maintenance of these facilities.

A. PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

1. Deferred Maintenance:

The League believes deferred maintenance of public infrastructure is a shared responsibility between state and local government. The League supports the use of revenue sources other than just local taxation to fund maintenance that has been deferred. The League urges the state to share state revenues and recommends a high priority be placed on funding the backlog of deferred maintenance projects on the state and local level.

2. Bond Funding:

Bonding is a funding mechanism for infrastructure development and deferred maintenance. Bond funding is proactive, not reactive, therefore, the League supports bonding as a responsible funding mechanism for statewide infrastructure development and deferred maintenance of local and state facilities. The League urges the state to maintain current bonding commitments and provide additional funding of unprecedented increases in labor and material costs.

3. Davis-Bacon Projects:

The League advocates raising the threshold for state Davis-Bacon project filing requirements from \$2,000 to \$50,000 per project.

4. Force Accounting:

The use of force accounts is an effective tool to provide training and employment opportunities for rural Alaskan communities, while developing needed local infrastructure. The League supports a municipality's right to use force accounts without the imposition of limitations.

5. Municipal Capital Matching Grants:

The League supports funding the Municipal Capital Matching Grants Program as the most efficient and effective means of constructing needed public facilities. The construction and maintenance of public facilities is one of the most critical responsibilities of government. It is necessary for the state to share the resources of the people of Alaska with its political subdivisions to meet this responsibility at the level of government closest to the people.

6. Retainage Accounts:

The League encourages the state to base the retainage account interest payment requirements on actual interest earned by municipalities.

7. Financial Sustainability:

In order to protect infrastructure investments, the League acknowledges that maintenance and operations must be considered in the overall funding of projects. Therefore, the League recommends local participation in the development of reasonable criteria to ensure projects are sustainable.

4. Oil, Gas, and Mineral Resources:

- a. **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR):** The League urges the Congress of the United States to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Oil Reserve to environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production. The League strongly supports the 90-10 split of revenues as required by the Statehood Act.
- b. **National Petroleum Reserve Alaska:** The League supports oil and gas leasing and other mineral entry in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska.
- c. **Exploration and Development:** The League encourages the State of Alaska to promote environmentally responsible oil, gas, and mineral exploration and development that is not detrimental to Alaskan fisheries or subsistence activities.
- d. **Tax and Royalty Incentives:** The League supports the implementation by the State of Alaska of tax incentives that promote oil and gas exploration in mature and marginal oil and gas fields that would otherwise be uneconomical.
- e. **Rural Natural Gas Wells:** The League supports development of rural natural gas wells for local consumption and urges the state to fund a pilot program to test this technology.
- f. **Mineral Development:** The League supports private exploration and development of mineral resources including state-owned minerals, as well as the review of resource extraction fees. The League also urges the State of Alaska to redistribute federal mineral revenue sharing funds to local governments. The League supports a review of tax and royalty rates for mineral extraction.
- g. **State and Local Cooperation:** The League encourages state and federal agencies to fully participate with local governments in public processes associated with resource development decisions made by those entities.
- h. **Carbon Sequestration:** The League supports the study of carbon sequestration with proportionate amounts of those carbon sequestration credits going to municipalities.
- i. **In-state Refining:** The League strongly urges the state to fund the study and support the retention and expansion of oil refining and petro-chemical development.

7. Waste Disposal:

The League encourages the state and federal governments to adopt and maintain acceptable standards concerning waste disposal from the processing of all resources.

8. Human Resources:

- a. **Alaska Hire:** The League supports and encourages all efforts on the part of the Governor and the Legislature to implement a local, regional, and statewide hire policy.
- b. **Training Incentives:** The League supports the development of incentives that would encourage the Alaska education system, contractors, and other employers to train and hire local workers.

9. Rural and Affordable Housing:

- a. **Alaska Housing Finance Corporation:** The League supports full funding for the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to meet general U.S. housing standards.
- b. **Tribal Designated Housing Entities:** The League supports and encourages any effort to include language in state policies, statutes, and regulations that would give Tribal Designated Housing Entities the same access to planning activities, loans, and grants as are now available to Alaska Housing Authorities.
- c. The League encourages development of affordable housing.

- g. **Fisheries Business Tax Credits:** The League supports fisheries business tax credits that would allow onshore fish processors to receive credit for capital improvements to fish processing plants for value added processing. The League supports the application of the fisheries business tax credit to cooperative or municipal utility construction related to value added processing.
- h. **Marketing:** The League supports increased state funding of the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI), with emphasis on wider distribution of higher value products. The League supports a geographic balance on the Board of Directors of ASMI.
- i. **Fresh Product Marketing Access:** The League supports the development of marine, air, and ground transportation links for the purpose of enhancing the marketing of fresh fish and higher value products.
- j. **Crab Management:** The League strongly urges the state to retain jurisdiction over management of the crab fishery in the federal Exclusive Economic Zone. The Legislature is urged to appropriate any additional funds necessary to allow the state to comply with federal requirements.
- k. **Mariculture:** The League supports the development of a stable, year-round, private shellfish mariculture industry, in a manner compatible with existing fisheries and other traditional activities.
- l. **Aquaculture:** The league supports Alaska's salmon ocean ranching program and continues to oppose finfish aquaculture.
- m. **State Control of Fishery Management:** The League urges the state to fund research necessary to ensure that the state maintains management authority over groundfish and other fishery allocations within federal waters off Alaska. The League urges the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to incorporate provisions in any comprehensive rationalization plan relating to federal fisheries off Alaska's coast to ensure processing onshore and to maximize opportunities for Alaskan fishermen to enter and participate in these fisheries.
- n. **High Seas Interception:** The League supports continued state and federal efforts to end the high seas interception of Alaska's fisheries resources and illegal taking of fish in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone.
- o. **Fish Escapement Count:** The League urges the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to review its fish escapement count procedures for accuracy on all anadromous rivers and seek broad public input.
- p. **Groundfish Rationalization:** The League urges the state to call upon the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for a moratorium on rationalization of Gulf of Alaska ground fisheries until the social and economic impacts to coastal communities are understood.
- q. **Socio-Economic Impacts:** The League urges the state to call upon the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to use data regarding socio and economic impacts on communities for revision of existing and for development of future fisheries management policy.
- r. **Crew Data Collection:** The League urges the state to expedite the development of collecting crew data for use in social and economic impact studies, for use in existing and future fisheries rationalization/management programs.

3. Agriculture and Timber:

a. Agriculture:

The League supports state and local encouragement of agriculture through farmland preservation, the opening up of new agriculture lands with adequate road access, the authority for municipal tax credits, education and research, and aggressive support of the development, processing, and marketing of Alaska agricultural products.

b. Timber:

The League supports the sustainable management of state-owned, municipally-owned, or privately-owned timber resources.

the exploration, inventory, planning, conservation, development, mitigation of impacts, processing, and marketing of natural resources in a manner that produces maximum long-term benefit for the state and municipalities.

C. STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

1. Recreation and Tourism:

- a. **Promotion and Attraction:** The League encourages assistance to municipalities for local and regional tourism promotion.
- b. **Rural Tourism Development:** The League supports implementation of rural tourism development including non-consumptive eco-tourism, and marketing strategies that assist rural communities' residents in realizing the potential of tourism in their communities, and in understanding the challenges and impacts.
- c. **Alaska Tourism Marketing:** The League supports increased funding for Alaska tourism marketing.
- d. **Independent Travelers:** The League supports increased marketing efforts to attract more independent travelers. The positive economic impact from independent travelers benefits many communities around the state.
- e. **Visitor Industry:** The League supports providing a business and regulatory environment that will encourage the growth of Alaska's visitor industry and not impose additional requirements that are burdensome, duplicative, and non-productive.
- f. **Parks and Recreational Facilities:** The League supports increased funding for staff, maintenance and operation of parks, trails for motorized and non-motorized users, and other recreational facilities to accommodate, disperse, and expand recreation opportunities for residents and visitors.
- g. **International Exchanges:** The League supports local, state, and federal efforts to encourage trade, tourism, and exchanges of educational and scientific projects between the people of the State of Alaska and international communities.

2. Fisheries:

The League urges the Governor and Legislature to develop a long-term statewide policy on commercial fisheries, focusing on scientific resource management and limiting political influence.

- a. **Management and Enforcement:** The League supports adequate funding for management, research, and enforcement, which will assure a sustained maximum harvest on a long-term basis.
- b. **Fisheries Enhancement, Protection, and Projects:** The League supports fisheries enhancement and protection programs, funded through Alaska Department of Fish & Game cost recovery and additional legislative appropriation.
- c. **Fisheries Habitat Protection:** The League encourages the state to develop programs and policies for fisheries habitat protection in cooperation with affected local governments.
- d. **Adequate Shares for Alaska under Salmon Treaties:** The League urges state and federal negotiators on the North Pacific Salmon Commission to ensure that Alaskans have a proportionate and equitable share of the fish controlled by treaty.
- e. **Fisheries Research:** The League supports increased state and federal fisheries, marine mammal, and avian research programs the League supports full federal funding for ~~and~~ the domestic observer program.
- f. **Marine Mammal Research:** The League urges the state to fund peer reviewed scientific research on any marine mammals that are threatened or listed as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection act (MMPA) or the Endangered Species Act.

RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The goal is to support responsible and sustainable community economic development and resource management and provide for community growth. In addition, the League supports policies that will assist communities to establish economic development programs that improve quality of life through incentives for concurrent, diversified and vertically integrated economic development, such as: high tech industry, Made in Alaska, Alaska gas line, and to promote tourism, international trade, fisheries, agriculture, timber, oil, gas, and mineral development, and their associated, value-added components. The League also supports policies for the development of the human resources in Alaska's communities, focusing on creating and sustaining private sector employment.

A. AUTHORITY AND INCENTIVES

1. Cooperative Projects:

The League encourages expansion of a "partnership" approach to economic development.

2. Alaska Regional Development Organizations:

a. Reauthorization and Funding: The League urges the state Legislature to reauthorize and increase funding to the Alaska Regional Development Organizations (ARDOR), and to leverage more private funds.

4. Denali Commission:

The League supports the Denali Commission as it improves infrastructure, supports training, encourages economic development, and plays a key role in coordinating federal agencies and services in Alaska.

5. Workforce Development Act:

The League supports the reinstatement of funding to support continued employment and reemployment at the local level.

6. Micro-enterprise and Small Business:

The League urges the state administration and Legislature to provide improved programming and assistance for the development of the entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and small business sectors of the Alaskan economy.

B. IMPACT

1. Impact Assistance:

The League urges a collaborative approach of municipal, state, and federal legislation that would provide appropriate financial assistance as identified by the municipalities facing socioeconomic impacts of development or other activity.

2. Development Projects:

The League urges that development projects substantially impacting communities be reviewed by the municipalities and that municipalities be involved as full partners in the development process.

3. Natural Resource Development Policies:

The League supports the adoption and implementation by the State of Alaska of a Natural Resource Development Plan, in cooperation with the private sector. Such a plan would include policies for

J. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

In order to address the effects of global climate change, the League encourages the State of Alaska to undertake initiatives for energy conservation and to support development of alternative, renewable and clean energy resources; address environment, infrastructure, and potentially conflicting federal compliance impacts in order to establish a long-term, sustainable plan for the state and local communities.

1. Funding for Research on the Effects of Climate Change in Alaska:

The Alaska Municipal League supports increased state and federal funding for research in Alaska on the effects of global climate change and on feasible ways to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Increased funding should particularly be directed to research within the University of Alaska system, including research regarding renewable and alternative energy, energy efficiency, and social and economic costs of climate change.

G. LAND SALES AND SUBDIVISIONS

1. Recording Requirements:

All property owners should be required to record any land transfer or boundary change within 30 days and approval should be required before any land transfer is recorded by the District Recorder's Office including the sales price.

2. Inspections:

The League urges the state to fund and reinstate its program for inspection of individual septic systems and water quality.

3. ADEC Review of Plats:

Where adequate municipal oversight does not exist, the League supports the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's review of subdivision plats for adequate on-site water and sewage disposal systems.

H. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Computer based geographical information systems should continue to be coordinated and standardized to allow for sharing of data between state and local agencies. Data should be web-based and readily accessible for public information and use.

I. STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

1. Recreational Opportunities:

The League strongly supports maintaining existing state parks and facilities.

2. Fish and Game Resources:

The League supports Alaska's right and responsibility to manage its own fish and game resources.

3. Regulatory Authority:

The League opposes state and federal legislation that attempts to limit land use regulatory authority of municipalities by any means.

4. Gravel Extraction:

The League supports legislation that sets priorities for the reasonable extraction of gravel and sediments in or near streambeds for prevention, control, and mitigation of erosion, flooding, or damage. Extraction for public purposes should be free of royalty payments to state and federal governments.

5. Leaking Storage Tanks:

The League strongly encourages the state to reauthorize the Board of Storage Tank Assistance, the underground storage tank revolving loan fund, and the tank cleanup loan program.

6. Transfer of Federal Lands:

The League urges the State of Alaska to assist and cooperate with tribes, municipalities and other entities for the expeditious transfer or retransfer of federal lands.

2. Land Disposals:

The disposal of interests in State lands to private interests, including the sales price, should be recorded by the state at the District Recorder's offices within 30 days.

3. Enforcement:

The state should provide the resources to actively manage and enforce existing state land management policies and regulations.

D. COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT**1. Local Control and Participation:**

The League supports maximum local control and involvement in the development, management, and implementation, and expedited appeals process of coastal planning and policies. The League recognizes the vital role that coastal districts and coastal resource service areas (CRSA's) provide in reviewing these plans and policies. The program should continue to include review and evaluation processes.

2. Agency Review of Local District Programs and Projects:

The League supports legislation or administrative actions that would require state and federal agencies to disclose all comments and recommendations to municipalities prior to the approval of projects.

3. Notice:

The League urges the State of Alaska and the federal government to provide immediate notice of changes to coastal management programs to communities impacted by such changes.

4. Quality Standards:

The state should reinstate the air, land and water quality standards into the Coastal Zone Management policy.

E. WATERSHEDS**1. Protection and Maintenance:**

The league supports the protection, restoration, and maintenance of watersheds.

2. Coordination and Funding:

The League encourages the state to improve funding for watershed protection, and the more efficient use of government resources.

F. WETLANDS

The League supports the protection restoration, and maintenance and use of wetlands, where appropriate, for private and public infrastructure needs. The League supports the development of a regionalized rapid assessment approach to evaluate wetlands for unique characteristics.

PART III LAND USE, RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE

The goal of the Land Use section is to encourage the adoption of policies that will establish the authority, knowledge, and intergovernmental cooperation necessary for municipalities to document ownership and control of land and manage public lands.

A. LOCAL OPTIONS

1. Planning, Zoning and Land Use:

- a. The League believes that local planning and zoning laws, review processes, and land use and subdivision regulations apply to all state land use actions. This will allow for comprehensive local control of community development, including the same access requirements as municipalities or private developers.

B. LAND SELECTION

1. Easements, Conveyance & Land Use:

The League supports programs to identify easements and entitlement lands, and requests all land transfers be conducted expeditiously.

2. Conveyance and Land Use:

- a. The state should reevaluate its land survey criteria for conveying large, remote parcels in order to save time and money.
- b. The League urges cooperative efforts to resolve conveyance issues of lands not yet jointly agreed upon by municipal, state, and federal government on lands affected by the municipal land selection process.
- c. The state and federal government and their agencies should clean up all hazardous material, including previously undisclosed hazardous material at active and formerly used defense sites. The cleanup effort should meet EPA and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) standards and standards acceptable to the community that are consistent with the intended use of the property.
- d. The League opposes any changes to Section 14, paragraph (c) (3) of ANCSA that would reduce the ability of municipalities to receive their full entitlement to lands.

C. STATE LAND MANAGEMENT

1. State Land Use Decisions:

The state and its instrumentalities should fully include municipalities in state land use decisions for lands within or adjacent to a municipality or land use decisions having potential impact on municipalities.

E. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

1. Adequate Funding and Job Opportunities:

- a. The League urges the state to match federal funding dollar-for-dollar under the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program.
- b. The League urges the state to fund childcare, work services, and other services designed to help welfare recipients into the workforce statewide.
- c. The League urges the state to provide funding for training and economic development to further increase employment opportunities statewide.

2. Safety Net:

The League urges a state-maintained safety net for those moving from welfare to work. This net may vary with each recipient, but should encompass assistance needed for childcare, transportation, training and education, health care, and counseling.

3. Focus:

The focus of the Welfare to Work Program should remain on finding and creating jobs, providing supportive services, protecting the welfare of children, and keeping people employed.

6. Funding for Distance Delivery of Education for Nurses and Nursing Assistants:

Acknowledging the serious shortage of qualified nursing personnel across the state, the League urges the state to fund the University of Alaska and technical education centers to increase the programs and delivery models which will allow students to obtain most of their training in their local communities through distance delivery to achieve licenses in Practical Nursing (LPN), Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN), Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (BSN), and Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA).

7. Telemedicine:

The League supports telemedicine services throughout Alaska.

C. LIABILITY ISSUES

1. Liability for Failure to Take an Incapacitated Person into Custody:

The League supports removing any implied liability of a municipality for failing to take a person incapacitated by alcohol, drugs, or mental illness into custody.

2. Liability for Emergency Response Outside Municipal Boundaries:

The League supports legislation limiting liability when a municipal service is provided outside municipal boundaries during an emergency.

3. Liability of Health Clinics and Hospitals for Actions of Non-Employee:

The League supports legislation to limit the liability of a municipality and its local health facility for actions of a non-employee.

4. Liability for Corrections Community Service Workers:

The League supports legislation that would require the State of Alaska to assume full responsibility for medical costs and liability related to state court-ordered corrections community service workers.

5. Liability for Jail/Prison Operations:

The League supports legislation providing reasonable statutory immunity from civil damages resulting from an act or omission in the administration, operation, or monitoring of a correctional facility.

6. Municipal Liability Limitations:

The League supports legislation which limits liability of the state and municipalities for attorney fees.

D. STATE-FUNDED SOCIAL PROGRAMS

The League urges the state to adequately fund essential social programs:

- Child protection
- Substance abuse
- Domestic and sexual abuse
- Suicide prevention
- Fetal Alcohol Effect/Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Mental Health

e. **Research on Therapeutic Courts:** The League supports researching the cost and effectiveness of the therapeutic court program throughout the state.

6. Workers' Compensation for Emergency Service Personnel:

The League opposes any changes to workers' compensation laws that eliminate local government options for alternative coverage of volunteer firefighters, police, paramedics, and other emergency service personnel. The League opposes any changes in the law that would presume that any heart, respiratory, or circulatory disease, or cancer arose out of past or present service as a firefighter or other emergency service provider. The League further opposes proposals to change the basis for computing compensation for injured volunteers and urges continuation of current provisions establishing the rate of compensation for volunteer firefighters.

7. Training:

The League urges the Legislature to assure, through state assistance, that local, full-time, on-call responders, volunteer police, fire, emergency medical, and other emergency preparedness personnel throughout the State of Alaska have access to adequate facilities and program resources for training.

8. Violence Prevention:

Recognizing that prevention and education are more cost efficient than adjudication, the League supports and encourages programs and funding which prevent and intervene in the cycle of violence.

B. HEALTH

1. Statewide Comprehensive Health Planning and Negotiation of Governmental Roles:

The League supports development of a statewide plan identifying core physical and mental health care needs and defining the roles and options for government, tribal, nonprofit, and private sector programs for the prevention and treatment of injury or illness.

2. Public Health Nursing:

The League supports full funding of public health nursing.

3. Health Care Costs:

The League urges the development of state policies and programs aimed at providing affordable and accessible medical care for all Alaskans, including exploration of pooling, utilization review, and a method of providing insurance for underinsured and uninsured residents of Alaska. Municipal governments must be involved in the discussion of any proposal dealing with health care costs. Proposed statewide solutions should allow for locally developed alternatives.

4. Hospital and Health Facility Funding:

The League supports state assistance for hospital and health facility construction and operating costs.

5. EMS Equipment:

The League supports funding for EMS Capital Equipment.

- d. **Rehabilitation Programs:** The League supports the restoration of funding for rehabilitation programs that include education, mental health counseling, job skills, and drug and alcohol treatment. Youth treatment programs should include long-term residential care and after-care treatment.
- e. **Preventive Programs:** The League supports preventive programs for youth and families.
- f. **National and Community Service:** The League supports the federal AmeriCorps and VISTA programs. AmeriCorps and VISTA provide public services to many Alaskan communities and train young people to become community leaders by giving them responsibility. Many of Alaska's leaders are former Americorps or VISTA volunteers.
- g. **Gang Activities:** Increased gang activity and growth must be addressed now by state and local authorities.

4. **Jails and Correction Facilities:**

- a. **Community Jail Funding:** The League supports legislation that fully funds community jails. Community jails serve all Alaskans and provide a great savings to the State by reducing inter-state prisoner transportation costs. Municipalities should not pick up the cost for a state responsibility. The League supports a balanced and equitable formula to fund all correctional facilities in the state.
- b. **New Jail Space:** Overcrowding in jails is a serious problem and new jail space is needed. Alaska could gain through economic multiplier effects by housing Alaskan prisoners in state. The League recommends that additional funding for new jail space and operations be appropriated. Public safety for all Alaskans is critically affected by the availability of jails. The cost of building and operating jails is beyond the financial abilities of local municipalities.
- c. **Contract Jails and Holding Facilities:** There is a strong need for increased funding for contract jails. The state should accept an equitable share of staff training and liability associated with operating these jails and set standards for the safe operation and maintenance of facilities. The League urges the state to provide funds for additional community jails in areas that do not have them because of the lack of state funding.
- d. **Halfway Houses:** Halfway houses serve an appropriate role in the correctional process. The League supports locating these in communities to which the prisoner will return upon release. The state should reach agreement with the local governments on the location of halfway houses in their area.
- e. **Probation/Parole:** The League supports full staffing of probation and parole offices throughout the state.
- f. **Corrections Officer Training:** The League urges the State to increase corrections officer training availability to ensure timely receipt of this training for newly hired community jail corrections officers.

5. **Courts:**

- a. **Prosecution Costs:** The League recommends full funding for the Department of Law so that criminals are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. The League opposes any legislation that forces municipalities to prosecute criminals.
- b. **Criminal Defense Costs:** The League recommends the state provide full financial support for the Public Defender Agency and the Office of Public Advocacy so that all citizens may receive the full benefit of their state and federal constitutional rights.
- c. **Funding:** The League recommends full funding for the Alaska Court System for the efficient administration of justice.
- d. **Tribal Courts:** The League urges the state to recognize shared jurisdiction between state, local governments, and tribes for misdemeanors and offenses to reduce costs to the state and local governments, recognizing tribal courts can be more effective, and in some cases, tribal courts may be the only alternative.

1. **Animal Cruelty:** The League supports an amendment to the animal cruelty statute to allow either a municipal animal control officer or a peace officer to take an animal into custody without first obtaining an opinion from a licensed veterinarian that cruelty has probably occurred. The League further supports legislation that would allow an animal taken into custody to be placed in a municipal animal shelter without first trying to place the animal in a shelter operated by a veterinarian. Municipal animal control officers and facilities are adequate to assess and care for animals that are victims of cruelty and can arrange for proper veterinary care, if needed.

2. **Emergency Communications:**

a. **E-911 Emergency Dispatch Services**

- For Statewide E-911 service, ensure that all residents and visitors within the State of Alaska have access to E-911. Basic E-911 service is not available to all communities in the State of Alaska, due primarily to a lack of designated Primary Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's).
- The League supports amending current Alaska statutes so that the E-911 surcharge is equitable for all devices and modes capable of calling E-911 and provide a mechanism for sufficient funding to accommodate the changing requirements of E-911 public safety answering points. Current E-911 technology in the State is not compatible with Next Generation calling services used by the public, including Voice over Internet Protocol, Short Messaging Service, Instant Messaging, and Telematics.
- The League supports amending the current Alaska statutes so that the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) has clear authority for the local exchange carrier provision of E-911 dispatch calling services and develop a statewide organization with local representation and sufficient authority to administer the needs of a statewide E-911 system. Many issues related to the effectiveness of E-911 emergency calling must be resolved at a statewide level. The State of Alaska does not have an effective mechanism for administering the complex operational and technical issues related to E-911.

b. **Development of a Statewide Integrated Emergency Radio Communications System:**

The League supports the continued development and implementation of the Alaska's Land Mobile Radio System (ALMR), to ensure good stable communications during disasters. However, the League opposes passing on the operations and maintenance costs to local jurisdictions. Passing these costs on to local governments will drastically reduce the number of participants on this system, further reducing statewide interoperable communications

3. **Youth:**

- a. **Juvenile Crime Issues:** The League recognizes that juvenile crime continues to be a serious problem in Alaska. The nature of juvenile crime is becoming more violent, and the cost of vandalism is increasing. The League recommends that juvenile laws be equitably enforced. While accountability and consequence should be a part of our juvenile system, without effective follow-through with case-managed social services and rehabilitation programs, the system will continue to fail our youth. Confidentiality should be balanced between the public's need to know and the juvenile offender's best interest.
- b. **Jurisdiction for Juveniles:** Jurisdiction for minor offenses for juvenile crimes should be extended to the municipalities that want to participate. The League recognizes and encourages increased state and local support and funding of youth courts.
- c. **Juvenile Detention and Correction Costs:** The League supports a state/local process to develop consistent policies for state/local roles in providing police, jail, and prosecution services. Juvenile detention and correctional programs require different facilities. The League supports the construction and operation of these facilities in local communities to minimize transportation costs and maintain community and family involvement.

PUBLIC SERVICES

The goal is to ensure adequate state support for public safety, health, and welfare of all Alaskans. This support should include funding for a systematic review of the criminal justice system. This will allow the Department of Public Safety, the Court System, and the Department of Corrections to evaluate their workloads, coordinate priorities, and fulfill their missions.

A. STATE PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY

1. Public Safety:

- a. **State Public Safety Funding:** The League urges the Legislature to provide full funding for the Department of Public Safety so that an appropriate level of service will be provided statewide, including necessary incentives to establish full trooper staffing to protect the health and welfare of our communities.
- b. **Homeland Security:** The League urges the state to pass through funding to municipalities in a timely manner for local homeland security needs, while ensuring, to the extent possible, a regional cooperation and application process.
- c. **VPSO Funding:** The League urges the Legislature to provide appropriate funding, including cost-of-living adjustments and housing, and necessary resources for the Village Public Safety Officer Program directly to the affected non-profit organization who will be fully responsible for this position.
- d. **Training for VPO's/VPSO's:** There is a critical need for mandatory certification, training, and background verification for Village Police Officers (VPO's). Village Public Safety Officers' (VPSO's) and Village Police Officers' (VPO's) training should be certified and recognized by the State of Alaska.
- e. **Alaska Police Standards Certification Tiers:** The League supports authorizing the Alaska Police Standards Council (APSC) by statute to create tiers of peace officers, as well as task APSC with creating the corresponding training standards and minimum qualifications for officers. Currently, law enforcement across the state spans a spectrum that ranges from highly-skilled to barely-skilled personnel and departments. Creating tiers will improve standards and structure to current law enforcement programs. A tiered program will codify hiring and training standards across the state, and improve public safety.
- f. **Hazard Mitigation and Fuel Management:** The League advocates legislation supporting funding for communities in the development of hazard mitigation and urban and wildland fuel management programs.
- g. **Firefighting Equipment:** The League supports continued state and federal support for acquisition of replacement of aging fire fighting equipment and for training on the operation of the equipment throughout the state, including fire service areas.
- h. **Local Control of Minimum Fire Staffing:** The League supports and encourages cooperative agreements between municipalities, neighboring departments, and communities in order to meet the minimum staffing requirements set out by national standards.
- i. **Fire Standards Council:** The League supports continued funding of the Fire Standards Council to develop appropriate training standards for Alaskan communities. However, the League opposes efforts to mandate national standards on Alaskan communities.
- j. **The Office of Rural Fire Protection:** The League supports continued funding for the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention, Office of Rural Fire Protection. This office provides the maintenance and continuing education for participants in the successful Project Code Red program.
- k. **Methamphetamines:** The League supports legislation designed to address the growing problem with methamphetamine production, including public awareness.

F. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The state has a duty under Article 10, Section 14 of the Alaska State Constitution to advise and assist local governments. Many communities are on the verge of dissolution and failure of their local government. It is critical that the state assist communities with either sustaining municipalities or the orderly dissolution of failing municipalities. Adequate funding must be provided to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy to provide this advice and their services.

1. Local Government Service Center:

The League supports an information, research, service, and training clearinghouse for municipal and tribal local governments in Alaska.

2. Local Planning:

The League encourages local governments to include elements of affordable housing in comprehensive and local planning processes.

3. Sustainability Programs:

The League urges the state to assist communities to develop sustainability programs.

G. CONTRACTING STATE SERVICES

The League supports the voluntary contracting of state services to appropriate local governments when such action is cost effective and appropriate and accepted by the local governing body.

H. STATE POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Open Meetings Act:

To increase public understanding and support for legislative policy decisions, the Legislature should hold all meetings open to the public.

Recorder's Office:

The League supports the funding, maintenance and accessibility of the District Recorder's Offices, recognizing that the function is vital to all communities, municipalities, businesses, and citizens.

Pro-rata Reduction of Benefits:

The League opposes pro-rata reduction of benefits. When the state underestimates the needs in the budget, this policy shifts the impact to the recipients of the service.

Financial Disclosure Reporting

The League supports returning to the 2007 APOC financial disclosure and conflict of interest forms for local governments.

C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LABOR RELATIONS

1. Alaska Public Employees Labor Relations Act:

The League opposes any legislation that would force municipalities to be subject to the provisions of the Alaska Public Employees Labor Relations Act. Just as strongly, the League opposes any legislative efforts to dictate the provisions of local public employee labor relations ordinances. The League supports legislation to allow each municipality to reject or withdraw from the terms of the Alaska Public Employees Labor Relations Act at any time by action of the governing body. The scope of decisions as to local government finance and labor policies is best left to the local governing body.

2. Binding Arbitration:

Binding arbitration on local governments and school districts is not acceptable to the League. Binding arbitration hinders local elected officials' ability to determine their personnel costs and prevents local governments from having complete control of determining the local tax rate. The scope of decisions with regard to what local government can afford for labor is best left to the local bodies possessing that knowledge.

D. TRIBAL COUNCIL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

1. Rural Governance:

The League supports and encourages efforts on the part of the Legislature and other concerned parties to address tribal/state and municipal government relations.

2. Partnerships:

The League encourages rural municipalities to partner with the local tribes to provide municipal services where rural municipalities cannot afford to provide services on their own.

E. FORMATION AND ALTERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

1. Local Government Structure in the Unorganized Borough:

The League supports state policies that provide incentives to encourage the formation of boroughs or annexation to boroughs in the unorganized areas of the state, but does not mandate such action. The League urges the Legislature to take a more active role as the Assembly of the Unorganized Borough as mandated by the Constitution.

2. New Incorporation or Annexation:

The League urges the Alaska Legislature to amend Title 29 of Alaska Statutes to allow petitions for borough incorporation on the basis of their merits rather than administratively imposed criteria.

3. Entitlement Lands:

The League supports legislative changes to entitlement lands provisions to encourage existing municipalities to provide services to portions of the unorganized borough through annexation.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The goal is to preserve to the greatest degree and number local government options and prerogatives to ensure municipal government can be highly responsive to unique local circumstances and to meet the mandate of the Alaska Constitution "to provide for maximum local self government."

A. PRESERVE LOCAL AUTONOMY

1. Effective, Independent, and Economically Sustainable Local Government:

The League supports legislative and regulatory action that promotes more effective, independent, and economically sustainable local government.

2. Lobbying:

The League supports the continued exemption of municipal officials and employees from the lobbying reporting of Alaska State Statutes.

3. State-wide Ballot Initiatives:

The League opposes restrictions on municipalities' involvement in state-wide ballot initiatives.

4. Antitrust Laws:

The League supports legislation at both the state and federal levels placing municipalities in an equal position with state governments with respect to federal antitrust laws.

5. Local Construction:

The League supports amendments to Title 36, the Public Contracts Code, to permit local governments to establish their own notice, reporting, local hire, and prevailing wage requirements and methods for local construction. The League recommends an amendment to Alaska Statute 36.25.010 providing for an inflationary increase in the contract limit for requiring bonds of contractors for public buildings or public works projects. The League opposes any requirements that would have the state set local wage levels.

B. ELECTIONS AND REAPPORTIONMENT

1. Local Elections:

The League opposes legislation that would diminish the authority of municipalities to conduct their own elections. The League opposes changes to AS 29.20.060 that restricts the ability of a municipality to establish local election districts.

2. Amendment to National Voter Registration Act (Motor Voter):

The League supports efforts by the Division of Elections to seek amendments to the NVRA to allow for the removal of voters' names from the list of registered voters when voters have not voted in four calendar years.

3. Help America Vote Act (HAVA):

The League supports full funding from the Legislature to support the HAVA requirements.

5. University of Alaska:

The League supports increased funding for the University of Alaska and its extended campuses to fulfill their role as a critical economic engine for Alaska to:

- Provide a first-class teacher education program with statewide accessibility,
- Provide a first-class undergraduate and graduate education to Alaskan students,
- Provide job training programs to prepare Alaskans to fill existing jobs in the state, as well as further expand the economy,
- Research and develop new technologies and strategies to support the growth of Alaska's economy, and
- Coordinate with K-12 schools to address unique local needs in development of their teacher education programs.
- Develop entrepreneurial programs.

6. Technical and Vocational Education:

The League supports funding for Technical and Vocational education programs.

7. Consolidation:

Any discussion of school district consolidation by the Legislature must involve municipalities and should consider potential impacts, educational benefits, and cost savings.

D. FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING EDUCATION:

1. NCLB Flexibility:

The League supports DEED's plan for flexibility in the "No Child Left Behind" act.

2. Support of School Nutritional Programs:

- a. The League recognizes the need for school nutrition programs including breakfast and lunch to ensure students are ready to learn, including use of federal funds and local community groups to meet these nutritional needs.
- b. The League encourages the use of Alaskan food sources in school nutritional programs.

8. Local Autonomy to Provide Funding:

The League supports local autonomy to supplement state funding while recognizing the importance of maintaining a reasonable local funding "cap" to prevent wide disparities in education quality across the state.

9. Block Grants:

The League supports a needs-based block grant that is adequate to meet the specific bilingual and vocational education needs in all communities.

B. ASSEMBLY/COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORITY:

The League supports assembly/council authority in education matters. As the local governing body is responsible for levying taxes to support education, it must retain control over expenditures for school operating and capital expenses so that it may strike a balance for the tax burden placed upon local taxpayers.

C. STATE POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES:**1. Community Schools:**

The League recognizes the importance of community schools and supports reinstatement and increased funding for the program. Community schools provide an integral link between a community and its citizens by promoting the advancement and development of learning and skills for citizens in school districts.

2. Charter Schools:

The League recognizes the benefits and contributions of charter schools and supports charter schools as authorized by state statutes, provided that local school districts retain the authority to grant and revoke charter schools in their district.

3. Early Childhood Education:

The League recognizes the importance of voluntary early childhood education and developmental programs for all children from birth through age eight, and supports continued development, regulation, and maintenance of standards for such programs. The League urges the Legislature to fund public preschool and early childhood programs as a component of state education program funding. The League encourages the Legislature to establish statewide Early Childhood Program standards to promote quality childcare to include a safe, healthy, enriching environment and trained, professional staff with personal background checks that go beyond current childcare licensing requirements.

4. Distance Delivery Programs & Other Alternatives:

The League supports distance delivery programs to meet specific educational needs of various student populations. The League recognizes that certain distance delivery opportunities are the best alternative for certain student populations, particularly in remote areas. The state must compensate for any federal funding reductions to distance delivery costs including e-rates.

4. Basic Education Adequacy Standards:

An adequate education shall provide all students opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to prepare them to take a productive role in society by creating a prepared workforce for Alaska's future.

The necessary components of an adequate education are:

- a. A locally adopted curricula that meet or exceed Alaska State Standards.
- b. Qualified educators who are provided the time and support for professional development.
- c. A safe and healthy environment, in well-maintained facilities that are capable of supporting appropriate technology for programs.
- d. Facilities:
 - Adequate construction and condition per Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) standards, including lighting, ventilation
- e. Operations and Maintenance: Adequate funding to:
 - Provide required heat, light, etc. with costs adjusted regionally
 - Perform required maintenance and replacement
 - Provide student transportation
 - Utilize distance education to meet curriculum needs of all students

The League supports that maintenance be fully considered in the education adequacy review.

5. Grants for School Construction and Maintenance Programs:

- a. The League supports funding of the priority-based school construction and maintenance grant programs established by AS 14.11.007-019 equitably to all districts.
- b. The League supports a grant program for improving energy efficiency of existing and new school facilities.

6. School Performance:

AML Supports:

- a. Evaluative tools for the purpose of making communities aware of their school performance. The purpose of evaluative tools is not to close down schools, but to help communities, families, school staff and students become aware of how well students are learning in their school.
- b. Continued funding for school improvement plans.
- c. Develop and implement funding to prepare teachers to teach in rural communities.
- c. Funding for programs, including scholarships or educational loan forgiveness that encourages Alaskans to teach in Alaska.

7. Bonded Indebtedness for School Construction and Major Maintenance:

- a. The League urges the Governor and Legislature to fully fund all current school debt reimbursement programs. Short funding of school debt reimbursement may put municipalities in default, conflict with bond ballot language, and adversely impact future bond propositions on both the local and state levels if voter trust is damaged.
- b. The League urges the state to authorize additional bonding for the municipal school debt reimbursement in an amount adequate to meet existing school facility needs and allow need and construction costs to determine the limit on the amount of bonding included in the program for any one school district.
- c. The League opposes any effort by the state to reduce school debt reimbursement through deduction of interest earned on school bond proceeds.

PART II EDUCATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICES

EDUCATION

The goal is to ensure the level of state support required by the Alaska Constitution so that all residents of Alaska have access to high-quality educational opportunities. The schools of Alaska need to be nurtured and guided at the local level to meet high standards of performance.

A. BASIC EDUCATION SUPPORT

1. Alaska's Constitutional Mandate Regarding Education:

The Alaska State Constitution requires that the state establish and maintain a system of public education open to all children of the state. In the opinion of the League, the state has fallen short of this goal. The League recommends the foundation formula be automatically adjusted annually to avoid losing education quality due to the impacts of inflation. Since education is a state responsibility, funding for education shall not be a consideration when comparing state aid to municipalities with the budget for state operations.

In *MacCauley v. Hildebrand* (1971), the Alaska Supreme Court states:

The constitutional mandate for pervasive state authority in the field of education could not be clearer. First, the language is mandatory, not permissive. Second, the section not only requires that the Legislature "establish" a school system, but also gives to that body the continuing obligation to "maintain" the system. Finally, the provision is unqualified: no other unit of government shares responsibility or authority.

The Alaska Supreme Court reaffirmed this position in subsequent rulings.

2. State Education Funding Formula:

The League urges the Governor and Legislature to continually fully fund the education funding formula and monitor the allocation of funds to promote equity in educational opportunities across the state, taking cost differentials into consideration.

Area Cost Differentials: The League supports program funding adjusted by the Area Cost Differential (the ISER study) to mitigate the economy of scale to offset increased heating and energy costs, travel costs, cost of rural transportation, increased operating costs in all rural areas of the state, and lack of access to goods and services. The League supports funding for a periodic update of the ISER study to ensure currency.

3. Early Funding for Education:

The League urges the Legislature to continue early funding so that school districts know the amount of funding available prior to the deadline for submission of school budgets, by forward funding and/or early approval of school funding appropriations.

F. FEDERAL ISSUES

1. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR):

(Note: Also in Section IV- Land Use, Resources, and Economic Development) The League urges the Congress of the United States to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic oil reserve, including the Alaska Native Claims settlement lands, to environmentally responsible oil and gas exploration, development, and production and upon collaboration with the local residents. The League also strongly supports the 90-10 split of revenues as required by the Statehood Act. The League also urges the State of Alaska to redistribute federal mineral revenue sharing funds to local governments.

2. PILT:

The League supports full funding of the federal Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program and legislation that would inflation proof the program. In addition, the League supports the continued inclusion of direct payments to municipalities in the unorganized borough under the PILT program.

3. Internet Sales Tax and Out-of-State Sales:

The League supports the efforts of the National League of Cities and National Association of Counties to fairly tax internet and out-of-state transactions, respecting local option to the extent feasible, and allowing collection by parties involved in the transactions.

4. National Forest Receipts:

The League opposes the state's addition of any constraints not contained in federal law on how recipient municipalities may spend National Forest Receipts monies. The League also opposes the state's retention of any part of such funds.

5. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Revenue Sharing:

The League endorses enactment by the United States Congress of an OCS revenue sharing program, to be funded annually from the proceeds of the oil, gas, and mineral recovery lease sales on the OCS at fifty percent (50%). The League also endorses an automatic direct pass-through of a fair and equitable amount of the state's allocation under this program to communities affected by OCS activities during exploration, development and production.

6. Municipal Bond Tax Exemption:

The League supports the maintenance of the tax exemption of municipal bonds and federal legislation to remove restrictions placed on municipal bonds.

7. School Construction Federal Arbitrage Rules:

The League supports federal legislative changes to the Internal Revenue Code (S.526 – Public School Construction Partnership Act and H.R. 1084 – Lifetime Tax Relief Act of 1999) modifying public school construction arbitrage rules to extend the arbitrage period from two years to four years. Where most other states enjoy the benefit of up to a 12-month construction season, Alaska communities are faced with a limited construction season. Accordingly, the existing arbitrage rules are extremely restrictive and costly to Alaska taxpayers.

8. Educational Initiatives:

The League urges the federal government to fund the national initiatives regarding education such as Head Start, special education, and No Child Left Behind.

urges the state to take financial responsibility for the mandated state PERS/TRS cost increases; the mandated Senior Citizen/Disabled Veteran Property Tax Exemption; and the exemption of state-owned property that shifts the costs of protecting and serving state facilities to local taxpayers. The League urges the legislature to resist passing spending mandates to local government through revenue sharing programs.

3. Municipalities Support Negotiated and Funded Public Service Transfers:

The League supports the negotiation of service responsibility transfers from the state to municipalities, provided the state enters into good faith negotiations to identify and transfer appropriate services, which may more effectively be provided on the local level, and ensure adequate, stable resources and timely payment in the future to implement these services. Municipalities should also be allowed to bid on provisions of state services. The League opposes unfunded transfers of state responsibility including food inspections, maintenance of Class III state roads, and any other unilateral unfunded transfers of current state responsibility to communities. The League encourages the state to make safety, code, and maintenance upgrades to transfers before communities accept responsibility.

4. Tort Reform:

The League supports continued tort reform that minimizes the financial exposure of municipalities. Issues of particular concern include, but not limited to, recreational activities on public lands, parks, trails, or facilities.

5. Support of the Municipal Bond Bank:

The League urges the state to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that the Municipal Bond Bank continues to be an independent and strong entity to help municipalities meet public facility construction needs at the lowest possible bonding cost.

6. Direct Deposit of Transfer Payments:

The League requests the State of Alaska to provide the option to municipalities to receive all municipal transfer payments by direct deposit if requested by the municipality.

7. Liens on Property for Delinquent Municipal Payments:

The League supports legislation that would provide municipal authority to lien property to include delinquent utility payments where it does not now exist.

8. Tax Caps:

The League opposes any attempt to lower the statutory limits on property taxation levels for service or projects at the local level.

9. Utility Fees:

The League supports legislation to remove prohibitions in AS 42.05.641 that prevent municipalities from assessing fees on utilities regulated by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska.

10. Budget Surpluses:

In the years of budget surplus the legislature is encouraged to balance use of the funds between capital projects, unfunded mandates, deferred maintenance, etc. and to set surplus funds aside for future lean years

D. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS**1. Funding of Massive Unexpected Increases in PERS/TRS Costs Due to Inaccurate Projections:**

The League recognizes the work of the Alaska State Legislature and Governor Palin and her administration to address the PERS/TRS crisis. To avoid catastrophic negative impacts on local services and significant hardship for local taxpayers, the existing unfunded liability of PERS should be addressed through a long term legislative solution in which the State continues to bear its appropriate share of unfunded past service costs. The League still believes the State should bear responsibility for 85% of the unfunded past service cost liability, and the employer paying 15%. The League supports the state permanently paying all past service costs related to the TRS system. In addition, the League urges the State to "pay down" the unfunded PERS/TRS obligations through cash payments and/or Pension Obligation Bonds and should amortize the 8.25% debt over as short a time as possible.

2. Increases in Benefits:

The League opposes any legislation that increases the cost of the Public Employees' Retirement System or the Teachers' Retirement System.

The League strongly urges the development of a mandatory statutory process that implements a comprehensive actuarial analysis including long-term impacts on the state, municipalities, school districts and university members, and requires a full public and employer review/comment process under the Alaska Retirement Management (ARM) Board, prior to action by the Legislature. Due to the permanent and irrevocable nature of any benefit changes in the PERS/TRS systems, benefit changes should be acted on by the Legislature in the year following introduction to allow for an adequate comprehensive actuarial analysis, discussion with employers, and allow time for the public decision-making process.

3. Inclusion of Political Subdivisions in State Group Health Insurance:

The League urges the Commissioner of Administration to allow political subdivisions to participate in the state group health insurance plan in order to save money for Alaskan taxpayers without additional cost to the state.

4. Public Employee Retiree Rehire:

The League supports an amendment to state statute that would only allow a defined benefit retiree to return to work on active service as a defined contribution plan employee.

E. STATE-LOCAL FINANCIAL POLICIES AND RELATIONS**1. North Slope Natural Gas Pipeline:**

The League strongly endorses the construction of an all Alaskan natural gas pipeline from the North Slope, including regional spurs and petrochemical development as proposed by the Alaska Gas Pipeline Port Authority and the Alaska Natural Gas Development Authority. The program should be structured in such a way to include a provision for a PILT program or other guaranteed mechanism for local municipalities to levy local taxes.

2. State Unfunded Mandates on Local Taxpayers:

The League supports a statutory prohibition of state unfunded mandates passed down to municipalities that is similar to the federal statute prohibiting federal unfunded mandates passed down to states. The federal statute was strongly supported by the State of Alaska. The League strongly

C. LOCAL TAXES

1. Tax Levying Authority:

The League opposes any action that would diminish the existing statutory authority of local governments to raise needed revenues through the levy of taxes. The League opposes any efforts by the state that would reduce local tax bases or adversely affect the marketability of municipal bonds. The League supports legislation to remove the prohibition in AS 4.21.010. (c) that prevents local voters from approving a special tax on alcohol.

2. Sales and Property Taxes:

- a. The League supports municipal control over sales and property tax. These taxes are the principal sources of local government revenue and, therefore, require local control. Specifically, the League supports an amendment to AS 29.45.050 (a) to increase the optional residential property tax exemption to \$50,000. Additionally, currently 100 of 162 municipalities depend on sales tax of 1% - 7%. The League vigorously defends sales tax as a local option to maintain control over this key local revenue source. Imposition of a state sales tax would jeopardize local economics and cause a reduction in municipal sales tax.
- b. **Keep Sales Tax Local:** State sales taxes, or statewide mandated sales tax exemptions, are strongly discouraged because they would jeopardize local economies, reduce municipal sales tax revenue, and interfere with the evolution of municipal sales tax codes and exemptions, which have been refined and tailored to individual communities.

3. Property Tax Rate and Assessment Equity:

The League opposes state legislation and initiatives that result in discrimination against individuals, businesses, and classes of property taxpayers. Equitable taxation based on the market value of property is the basis of property tax. Discriminatory tax rates and assessment policies discourage business development and treat individuals inequitably.

4. Mandatory Sales Disclosure:

The League supports legislation to require mandatory sales reporting of real estate transfers. This information will be used by municipalities that levy property tax to assist in assuring more equitable property assessments.

5. State-Mandated Local Senior Citizen/Disabled Veteran:

The unfunded mandatory state property tax exemptions, such as the senior citizen/disabled veteran property tax exemption, must be funded by the state according to AS 29.45.030 (g), "The state shall reimburse a city or borough for real property tax revenues lost."

6. Legislative Definition of Tax Exemption Due to Charitable Purposes:

The League supports enactment of a statutory definition of the "charitable purposes" real property tax exemption as requested by the Alaska Association of Assessing Officials.

2. State Funding for Education

Full Funding for Education: The League supports continued long-term full funding of the education foundation program, school debt reimbursement, and construction and opposes any change in the State's Foundation Formula that would increase the burden to local governments. (See Part II, Education for a full discussion of AML's position.)

3. Municipal Capital Matching Grants

- a. **Full Funding for the Municipal Capital Matching Grant Program:** The League supports full funding for the Municipal Capital Matching Grant Program for local capital infrastructure needs at not less than the historical funding level of \$20 million level per year, adjusted for inflation since inception of the program in 1993. (See also A.1. in Public Works and Infrastructure section). The purpose of the Municipal Capital Matching Grant Program was to allow communities to meet their top infrastructure needs most efficiently while shielding them from the political legislative allocation process.
- b. **State and Municipal Facilities and Infrastructure:** Funding for the maintenance of state and municipal facilities and infrastructure should be provided on a timely and consistent basis.
- c. **Deferred Maintenance:** The existing program to provide ongoing funding for deferred maintenance for state and municipal public facilities and infrastructure should be expanded using revenue sources other than local taxation for state mandated facilities.
- d. **Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement Number 34:** State support should be at a level at which municipalities can implement a deferred maintenance program and establish necessary reserves sufficient for future maintenance in order to comply with GASB 34.

B. ADMINISTRATION OF MUNICIPAL GRANTS AND ENTITLEMENTS

1. Regulation of Grants & Entitlements

- a. **Standardized Grant and Entitlement Programs:** The League supports simple and standardized grant and entitlement programs. The League opposes the addition of special conditions or regulations to grants and entitlement programs by state departments administering the grants when such conditions are not contained in the appropriation or the authorizing legislation. Further, legislatively authorized grant award time frames should not be reduced due to administrative grant management policies.
- b. **Reduction of Administrative Fees:** The League further supports the reduction of all administrative fees deducted by state departments administering the grants programs, and supports direct expenditures for those services.
- c. **Interest Earned on Grant Funds:** The League supports the grantees' retention or use of interest earned on grant funds.

2. Maintaining the Integrity of Objective Project and Program Ranking Processes

The League supports maintaining the integrity of objective state grant ranking processes, developed in cooperation with the Legislature, municipalities and school districts. Such objective ranking processes include Capital Project Matching Grants, School Construction Grants, and Water and Sewer Construction Grants. Rather than substitute projects at the legislative level, the League supports revision of the prioritization criteria, as appropriate, to best reflect the needs of Alaskans.

PART I REVENUE AND FINANCE

The goal is for municipalities to partner with the state to provide needed public services to Alaskans while maintaining the lowest possible cost to the public, municipalities, and the state, recognizing that all states provide financial support to their political subdivisions to reduce local taxes and equitably share state resources

A. REVENUE SHARING, FUNDING FOR EDUCATION, GRANTS, & FISCAL PLANNING.

1. State Revenue Sharing

- a. **Sustainable Revenue Sharing:** The State of Alaska is urged to adopt a sustainable revenue sharing program by annually appropriating 6% of natural resource revenues, with no cap, to municipalities; with a base amount of \$250,000 to all boroughs, \$75,000 to all cities, and \$25,000 to unincorporated communities, with the remainder to be allocated on a per capita basis. The sharing of state revenues is consistent with the Owner State concept, intergovernmental cooperation, and constitutional provisions, which provide for natural resource ownership by all the people of the State of Alaska. Delivery of services at the local level is part of the annual state responsibility to citizen/owners for the betterment of the State of Alaska. Fish tax, which has a revenue sharing program, is excluded from this program. The League opposes linking community revenue sharing with PERS/TRS and education funding.
- b. **Return of Locally-Generated State Revenues:** State shared revenues should be tied to specific locally generated revenues. Money to be returned to local governments and taxpayers should be based on:
 - **Tobacco Tax:** Tobacco tax settlement revenues should be shared with local taxpayers for health and social services impacted by tobacco use.
 - **Alcohol Tax:** The wholesale tax on alcohol should be shared equitably with municipalities for programs that mitigate the impacts of alcohol consumption based on a proportion of the local vs. state expenditures for public safety and alcohol treatment.
 - **Marine Fuel Taxes:** Eighty percent (80%) of all the taxes from the sale of marine fuel used in watercraft shall be allocated to municipalities that have responsibility and/or ownership for marine ports/harbors for use in marine port harbor facilities maintenance and improvements.
 - **Motor Vehicle Registration Fee and Fuel Tax:** Fuel tax and vehicle registration fees should be used to fund state and municipal highway road operation, maintenance, and improvements. The motor vehicle fuel tax and vehicle registration fees should be shared on an equitable basis between local and state government based on the proportion of local vs. state maintained center-line road miles. The League also supports an increase in fuel tax and vehicle registration fees, provided they are used for the benefit of road maintenance, for public transportation, and/or for the elimination of the 10% local match for federal highway funds.
 - **State Fisheries Business and Fisheries Landing Taxes:** The state needs to strengthen its enforcement and collection efforts in this program and further recommends the state share collection information with municipalities upon request.
- c. **State PILT:** State lands and facilities consume local government services but AS 29.45.030 exempts them from local property and sales taxes that are applicable to all other citizens and businesses. A state PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) similar to the federal PILT program should be established to reduce local taxpayer subsidization of state lands, state parks, and facilities. Based on the above criteria, local taxpayers are currently subsidizing state government by approximately \$75 million per year. These subsidies should be funded with a PILT.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

F. STATE POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES.....	39
1. Building Officials:	39
2. Safety Code Adoption:	39
3. Payment & Performance Bonds for Public Works Projects:	39
G. UTILITY REGULATION.....	40
1. Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) Reauthorization:	40
2. Exemption of Municipal Utilities from RCA:	40
3. Solid Waste Collection and Disposal:	40
H. FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR UTILITIES	40
1. Sustainable Water and Sewer Funding:	40
1. Municipal Matching Grant Program:	40
2. Village Safe Water Program:	40
3. Revolving Loan Programs:	40
I. ENERGY	40
1. Support the findings and action recommendations of the Rural Energy Action Council which include:	41
2. Provide Funding:	41
3. Partnerships:	41
4. Railbelt Energy Fund:	41
5. Interties:	41
6. Natural Gas:	41
7. Fuel Costs:	41
J. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL, & LANDFILLS.....	42
1. Solid Waste Reduction Programs:	42
2. Cleaning up our Communities:	42
3. Public Landfills:	42
K. TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMPUTING	42
1. Alaska Rural Communications System (ARCS):	42
2. Bridging the Digital Divide:	42
3. State Oversight of Emergency Communications:	42

TABLE OF CONTENTS

B. IMPACT.....	32
1. Impact Assistance:	32
2. Development Projects:	32
3. Natural Resource Development Policies:	32
C. STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES	33
1. Recreation and Tourism:.....	33
2. Fisheries:	33
3. Agriculture and Timber:.....	34
4. Oil, Gas, and Mineral Resources:.....	35
7. Waste Disposal:.....	35
8. Human Resources:.....	35
9. Rural and Affordable Housing:.....	35
PART IV: PUBLIC WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE.....	36
A. PUBLIC WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY.....	36
1. Deferred Maintenance:	36
2. Bond Funding:	36
3. Davis-Bacon Projects:	36
4. Force Accounting:	36
5. Municipal Capital Matching Grants:	36
6. Retainage Accounts:	36
7. Financial Sustainability:	36
8. Construction Standards Related to Climate Impact:	37
B. MUNICIPAL INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING	37
1. Statewide Comprehensive Transportation Plan:.....	37
2. Sustainable Transportation Funding:.....	37
C. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION	37
1. State Transportation System Maintenance:	37
2. State Local Road Maintenance:	37
3. Federal Highway Funds:	37
4. Trail Marking:	37
5. Costs of Railroad Crossings:	38
6. Historic Rights of Way (R.S. 2477):	38
7. Public Transit:	38
8. Pedestrian/Bicycle Lanes:	38
D. AIR TRANSPORTATION	38
1. Airport Maintenance:	38
2. Transfer of Land and Facilities for Municipal Airports:	38
3. Airport Construction Assistance:	38
E. MARINE TRANSPORTATION	38
1. Port and Harbor Development:	38
2. Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS):	39

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART III: LAND USE, RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	28
LAND USE	28
A. LOCAL OPTIONS	28
1. Planning, Zoning and Land Use:	28
B. LAND SELECTION	28
1. Easements, Conveyance & Land Use:	28
2. Conveyance and Land Use:	28
C. STATE LAND MANAGEMENT	28
1. State Land Use Decisions:	28
2. Land Disposals:	29
3. Enforcement:	29
D. COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT	29
1. Local Control and Participation:	29
2. Agency Review of Local District Programs and Projects:	29
3. Notice:	29
4. Quality Standards:	29
E. WATERSHEDS	29
1. Protection and Maintenance:	29
2. Coordination and Funding:	29
F. WETLANDS	29
G. LAND SALES AND SUBDIVISIONS	30
1. Recording Requirements:	30
2. Inspections:	30
3. ADEC Review of Plats:	30
H. GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS	30
I. STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES	30
1. Recreational Opportunities:	30
2. Fish and Game Resources:	30
3. Regulatory Authority:	30
4. Gravel Extraction:	30
5. Leaking Storage Tanks:	30
6. Transfer of Federal Lands:	30
J. GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE	31
1. Funding for Research on the Effects of Climate Change in Alaska:	31
RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	32
A. AUTHORITY AND INCENTIVES	32
1. Cooperative Projects:	32
2. Alaska Regional Development Organizations:	32
4. Denali Commission:	32
5. Workforce Development Act:	32
6. Micro-enterprise and Small Business:	32

TABLE OF CONTENTS

E. FORMATION AND ALTERATION OF MUNICIPALITIES	20
1. Local Government Structure in the Unorganized Borough:	20
2. New Incorporation or Annexation:	20
3. Entitlement Lands:	20
F. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	21
1. Local Government Service Center:	21
2. Local Planning:	21
3. Sustainability Programs:	21
G. CONTRACTING STATE SERVICES	21
H. STATE POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES	21
Open Meetings Act:	21
Recorder's Office:	21
Pro-rata Reduction of Benefits:	21
PUBLIC SERVICES	22
A. STATE PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSIBILITY	22
1. Public Safety:	22
3. Youth:	23
4. Jails and Correction Facilities:	24
5. Courts:	24
6. Workers' Compensation for Emergency Service Personnel:	25
7. Training:	25
8. Violence Prevention:	25
B. HEALTH	25
1. Statewide Comprehensive Health Planning and Negotiation of Governmental Roles:	25
2. Public Health Nursing:	25
3. Health Care Costs:	25
4. Hospital and Health Facility Funding:	25
5. EMS Equipment:	25
6. Funding for Distance Delivery of Education for Nurses and Nursing Assistants:	26
7. Telemedicine:	26
C. LIABILITY ISSUES	26
1. Liability for Failure to Take an Incapacitated Person into Custody:	26
2. Liability for Emergency Response Outside Municipal Boundaries:	26
3. Liability of Health Clinics and Hospitals for Actions of Non-Employee:	26
4. Liability for Corrections Community Service Workers:	26
5. Liability for Jail/Prison Operations:	26
6. Municipal Liability Limitations:	26
D. STATE-FUNDED SOCIAL PROGRAMS	26
E. ALASKA TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	27
1. Adequate Funding and Job Opportunities:	27
2. Safety Net:	27
3. Focus:	27

TABLE OF CONTENTS

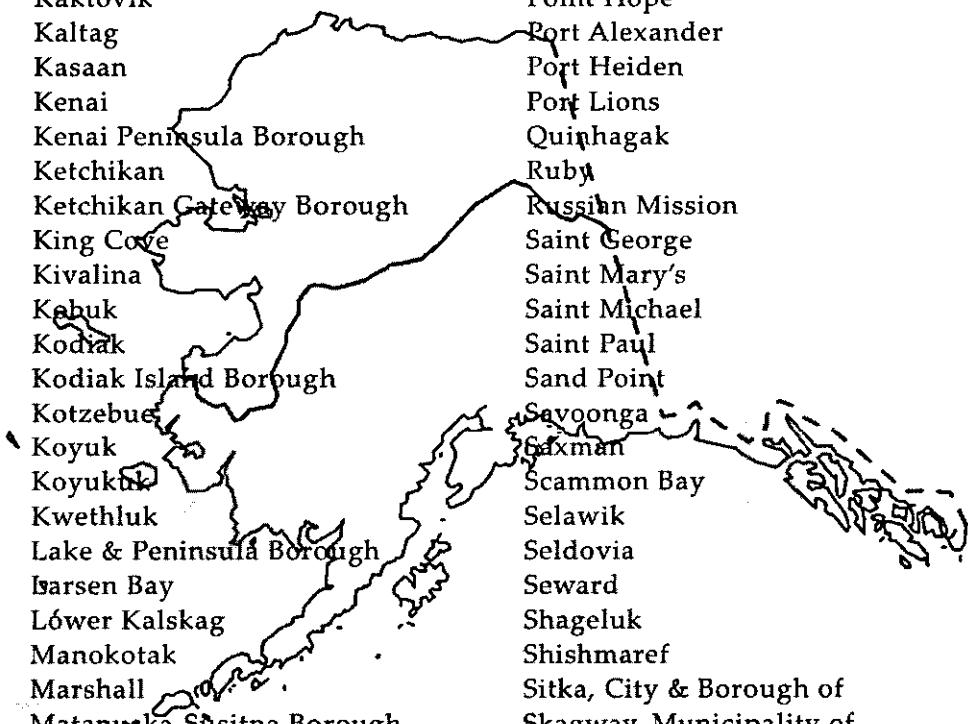
PART II: EDUCATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SERVICES	15
EDUCATION	15
A. BASIC EDUCATION SUPPORT	15
1. Alaska's Constitutional Mandate Regarding Education:	15
2. State Education Funding Formula:	15
3. Early Funding for Education:	15
4. Basic Education Adequacy Standards:	16
5. Grants for School Construction and Maintenance Programs:	16
6. School Performance:	16
7. Bonded Indebtedness for School Construction and Major Maintenance:.....	16
8. Local Autonomy to Provide Funding:.....	17
9. Block Grants:	17
B. ASSEMBLY/COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD AUTHORITY:.....	17
C. STATE POLICIES AFFECTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES:.....	17
1. Community Schools:	17
2. Charter Schools:	17
3. Early Childhood Education:	17
4. Distance Delivery Programs & Other Alternatives:	17
5. University of Alaska:	18
6. Technical and Vocational Education:	18
7. Consolidation:	18
D. FEDERAL POLICIES AFFECTING EDUCATION:.....	18
1. NCLB Flexibility:	18
2. Support of School Nutritional Programs:	18
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	19
A. PRESERVE LOCAL AUTONOMY	19
1. Effective, Independent, and Economically Sustainable Local Government:	19
2. Lobbying:	19
3. State-wide Ballot Initiatives:	19
4. Antitrust Laws:	19
5. Local Construction:	19
B. ELECTIONS AND REAPPORTIONMENT	19
1. Local Elections:	19
2. Amendment to National Voter Registration Act (Motor Voter):	19
3. Help America Vote Act (HAVA):	19
C. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LABOR RELATIONS.....	20
1. Alaska Public Employees Labor Relations Act:	20
2. Binding Arbitration:	20
D. TRIBAL COUNCIL/LOCAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS.....	20
1. Rural Governance:	20
2. Partnerships:	20

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I: REVENUE AND FINANCE	9
A. REVENUE SHARING, FUNDING FOR EDUCATION, GRANTS, & FISCAL PLANNING.....	9
1. State Revenue Sharing	9
2. State Funding for Education	10
3. Municipal Capital Matching Grants	10
B. ADMINISTRATION OF MUNICIPAL GRANTS AND ENTITLEMENTS	10
1. Regulation of Grants & Entitlements.....	10
2. Maintaining the Integrity of Objective Project and Program Ranking Processes	10
C. LOCAL TAXES	11
1. Tax Levying Authority:	11
2. Sales and Property Taxes:	11
3. Property Tax Rate and Assessment Equity:	11
4. Mandatory Sales Disclosure:	11
5. State-Mandated Local Senior Citizen/Disabled Veteran:	11
6. Legislative Definition of Tax Exemption Due to Charitable Purposes:	11
D. PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT AND BENEFITS.....	12
1. Funding of Massive Unexpected Increases in PERS/TRS Costs Due to Inaccurate Projections:	12
2. Increases in Benefits:	12
3. Inclusion of Political Subdivisions in State Group Health Insurance:	12
4. Public Employee Retiree Rehire:	12
E. STATE-LOCAL FINANCIAL POLICIES AND RELATIONS	12
1. North Slope Natural Gas Pipeline:	12
2. State Unfunded Mandates on Local Taxpayers:	12
3. Municipalities Support Negotiated and Funded Public Service Transfers:	13
4. Tort Reform:	13
5. Support of the Municipal Bond Bank:	13
6. Direct Deposit of Transfer Payments:	13
7. Liens on Property for Delinquent Municipal Payments:	13
8. Tax Caps:	13
9. Utility Fees:	13
F. FEDERAL ISSUES	14
1. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR):	14
2. PILT:	14
3. Internet Sales Tax and Out-of-State Sales:	14
4. National Forest Receipts:	14
5. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Revenue Sharing:	14
6. Municipal Bond Tax Exemption:	14
7. School Construction Federal Arbitrage Rules:	14
8. Educational Initiatives:	14

Alaska Municipal League Member Municipalities

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adak | Holy Cross | Nunapitchuk |
| Akhiok | Homer | Old Harbor |
| Akutan | Hoonah | Ouzinkie |
| Alakanuk | Houston | Palmer |
| Aleknagik | Hughes | Pelican |
| Aleutians East Borough | Huslia | Petersburg |
| Allakaket | Juneau, City & Borough of | Pilot Point |
| Ambler | Kachemak | Pilot Station |
| Anchorage, Municipality of | Kake | Platinum |
| Anderson | Kaktovik | Point Hope |
| Angoon | Kaltag | Port Alexander |
| Aniak | Kasaan | Port Heiden |
| Anvik | Kenai | Port Lions |
| Atka | Kenai Peninsula Borough | Quinhagak |
| Atkasuk | Ketchikan | Ruby |
| Barrow | Ketchikan Gateway Borough | Russian Mission |
| Bethel | King Cove | Saint George |
| Bettles | Kivalina | Saint Mary's |
| Brevig Mission | Kebuk | Saint Michael |
| Bristol Bay Borough | Kodiak | Saint Paul |
| Buckland | Kodiak Island Borough | Sand Point |
| Chefornak | Kotzebue | Savoonga |
| Chevak | Koyuk | Saxman |
| Chignik | Koyukuk | Scammon Bay |
| Chuathbaluk | Kwethluk | Selawik |
| Clark's Point | Lake & Peninsula Borough | Seldovia |
| Coffman Cove | Larsen Bay | Seward |
| Cold Bay | Lower Kalskag | Shageluk |
| Cordova | Manokotak | Shishmaref |
| Craig | Marshall | Sitka, City & Borough of |
| Delta Junction | Matanuska-Susitna Borough | Skagway, Municipality of |
| Denali Borough | McGrath | Soldotna |
| Dillingham | Mekoryuk | Stebbins |
| Diomedes | Metlakatla Indian Community | Tanana |
| Eagle | Mountain Village | Teller |
| Eek | Napakiak | Tenakee Springs |
| Egegik | Napaskiak | Thorne Bay |
| Ekwok | Nenana | Togiak |
| Elim | New Stuyahok | Toksook Bay |
| Emmonak | Newhalen | Unalakleet |
| Fairbanks | Nightmute | Unalaska |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough | Nikolai | Upper Kalskag |
| False Pass | Nome | Valdez |
| Fort Yukon | Noorvik | Wainwright |
| Galena | North Slope Borough | Wales |
| Gambell | North Pole | Wasilla |
| Golovin | Northwest Arctic Borough | White Mountain |
| Goodnews Bay | Nuiqsut | Whittier |
| Grayling | Nulato | Wrangell, City & Borough of |
| Gustavus | NunamIqua | Yakutat, City & Borough of |
| Haines Borough | | |



ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

2009 RESOLUTIONS

Approved by AML Membership — November 2008



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2009-01	Page 1
A resolution Supporting Passage of S.777 and H.R.1023 which would repeal the 3% withholding requirement of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2006	
2009-02	Page 3
A resolution urging the Governor's Administration and the Alaska Legislature to re-establish the Department of Community and Regional Affairs as a cabinet level department of state government	
2009-03	Page 5
A resolution in support of Legislation requiring mandatory real estate disclosure	
2009-04	Page 7
A resolution requesting the Governor to include an additional \$15 million in the proposed FY2010 budget for Community Revenue Sharing, bringing the program to a minimum funding level of \$75 million as the state ramps up to 6% of natural resource revenues, adjusted annually for inflation	
2009-05	defeated
A resolution urging the Alaska Legislature to repeal laws that deprive boroughs of state services, or assistance; or impose penalties because of incorporation	
2009-06	Page 9
A resolution supporting the immediate ban relating to the retail sale or distribution of toy-like novelty lighters within the boundaries of the State of Alaska	
2009-07	Page 11
A resolution of the Alaska Municipal League supporting exemption of state disclosure requirements for municipal officers and candidates	
2009-08	Page 13
A resolution of the Alaska Municipal League urging the Alaska State Legislature in 2009, to modify, based on science, the standards governing the discharge of cruise ship wastewater such that those standards will continue to protect aquatic life and the environment; and establishing an effective date	
2009-09	Page 15
A resolution of the Alaska Municipal League advocating for the reconsideration of the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey data gathering methodology	
2009-10	defeated
A resolution affirming Alaska Municipal League's support of and partnership with the 2010 Census	
2009-11	Page 17
A resolution urging the Governor and Alaska Legislature to develop the state's renewable energy resources and continue to expand programs that increase end-use conservation and energy efficiency	
2009-12	Page 19
A resolution urging the Governor and Alaska Legislature to capitalize stable long-term transportation funding for Alaska	
2009-13	Page 21
A resolution supporting A.S. 14.56.355: Public Library Construction and Major Expansion Grants and recommending full appropriation of funds to implement the program	
2009-14	Page 23
A resolution urging the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to expand the Power Cost Equalization Program to include municipal facilities, schools, health clinics, and commercial enterprises not eligible under existing law	
2009-15	Page 25
A resolution of the Alaska Municipal League urging the Governor and Legislature to get involved in the EPA greenhouse emissions regulatory efforts	



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-01**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PASSAGE OF S.777 AND H.R.1023 WHICH WOULD
REPEAL THE 3% WITHHOLDING REQUIREMENT OF THE TAX INCREASE PREVENTION
AND RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2006.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is charged with leading the members in developing statewide policy for the member municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-222) will require boroughs, cities and states to withhold 3% of payments from nearly all vendors and contractors for federal income and tax purposes; and

WHEREAS, this federal income tax withholding provision will dampen competitive bidding, increase the cost of public sector procurement, as well as the burden on city and borough taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, while cities and boroughs do not fall under this mandate yet, it will most probably fall under it in the next few years; and

WHEREAS, complying with this law will be onerous for cities and boroughs, their vendors and their contractors; and

WHEREAS, Section 511 will not accomplish its stated goal of closing the budget gap.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League is opposed to Section 511 of the Tax Increase Prevention and Reconciliation Act of 2006 and supports passage of S.777 and H.R.1023 and encourages the Governor and Legislature to work to support passage of these acts.

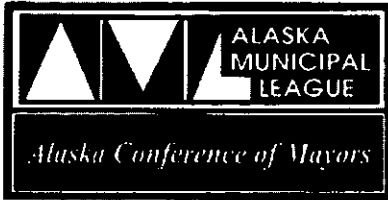
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: _____


Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____


Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-02**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR'S ADMINISTRATION AND THE ALASKA
LEGISLATURE TO RE-ESTABLISH THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL
AFFAIRS AS A CABINET LEVEL DEPARTMENT OF STATE GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska relies on healthy, functional communities for the delivery of vital services and for maintaining social and economic stability at the local and regional levels; and

WHEREAS, Alaska communities face unprecedented challenges underscored by high energy prices and related costs; and

WHEREAS, for 27 years, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs provided direct services and assistance to urban and rural communities throughout the state; and


WHEREAS, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs was a vital source of knowledge on community issues and conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs provided communities a "seat at the table" and a distinct voice in the Governor's cabinet; and

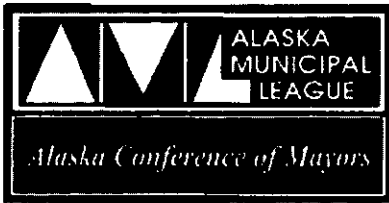
WHEREAS, the importance of maintaining healthy, functional communities is a crucial component in the formulation of state policies across a wide range of topics and activities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Governor's Administration and the Alaska Legislature are urged to re-establish the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs to provide cabinet-level standing for vital community, regional and rural issues and concerns.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-03**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION REQUIRING MANDATORY REAL
ESTATE DISCLOSURE.**

WHEREAS, Borough assessors are bound by AS 29.45.110 to assess real property at its full and true value; and

WHEREAS, full and true value is the estimated price that a property would bring in an open market and under prevailing market conditions in a sale between a willing buyer and a willing seller; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of taxpayers are becoming disenchanted with assessment values and are calling for better mechanics of the assessing process; and

WHEREAS, correct data is imperative in the ability to arrive at true and equitable assessments; and

WHEREAS, data is currently obtained from requests for information through questionnaire mailers in many jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, this process is often incomplete and erroneous, and not a true reflection of actual market values; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory Real Estate Sales Disclosure of Sales Price would greatly aid and enhance accuracy within assessing departments statewide; and

WHEREAS, 35 states in the U.S. currently require mandatory sales disclosure.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the 26th Alaska State Legislature to enact legislation requiring mandatory real estate sales disclosure.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

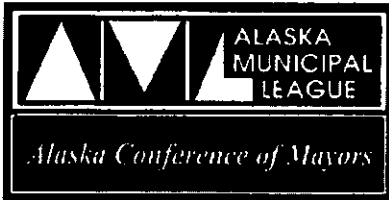
Signed: _____


Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____


Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-04**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL \$15 MILLION IN THE PROPOSED FY2010 BUDGET FOR COMMUNITY REVENUE SHARING, BRINGING THE PROGRAM TO A MINIMUM FUNDING LEVEL OF \$75 MILLION AS THE STATE RAMPS UP TO 6% OF NATURAL RESOURCE REVENUES, ADJUSTED ANNUALLY FOR INFLATION.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League commends the Governor and the Legislature for approving SB 72; and

WHEREAS, SB 72 establishes the Community Revenue Sharing fund which calls for a \$60 million Revenue Sharing program; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is experiencing budget surpluses while costs of providing local government services continues to escalate dramatically; and

WHEREAS, in 1985, annual Revenue Sharing was \$141 million at a time when the price of oil was about \$20 per barrel; and

WHEREAS, local governments and communities need additional state support when inflation increases, population increases and increasing energy costs are taken into consideration.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League request the Governor include an additional \$15 million in her proposed FY2010 budget for Community Revenue Sharing, bringing the program to a funding level of \$75 million, adjusted annually for inflation.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League request the Governor introduce legislation amending SB 72 and the Community Revenue Sharing fund so it will generate an annual revenue sharing fund of \$75 million, adjusted annually for inflation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Alaska is urged to adopt a sustainable revenue sharing program by annually appropriating 6% of natural resource revenues, with no cap, to municipalities; with a base amount of \$250,000 to all boroughs, \$75,000 to all cities, and \$25,000 to unincorporated communities, with the remainder to be allocated on a per capita basis.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League request the Governor include an annual revenue sharing fund of \$75 million in the 10-year Fiscal Plan contemplated by HB 125.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

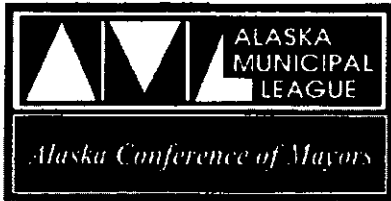
Signed: _____


Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____


Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-06**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE IMMEDIATE BAN RELATING TO THE RETAIL SALE
OR DISTRIBUTION OF TOY-LIKE NOVELTY LIGHTERS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF
THE STATE OF ALASKA.**

WHEREAS, juvenile fire setting has been identified as the fastest growing fire threat in the United States; and

WHEREAS, novelty lighters have features that are attractive to children; and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled thousands of novelty lighters since 1996 due to their danger to the public safety; and

WHEREAS, the National Fire Protection Association, Western Fire Chief's Association, National Association of State Fire Marshals, along with many other state and national public safety agencies have supported the prohibition of the sale and distribution of novelty lighters; and

WHEREAS, the function of a lighter can be achieved without the novelty of visual effects, flashing lights, musical sounds or toy-like designs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League does encourage and support the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal, as provided within the authority of Alaska Statute 18.70.10 to immediately ban the sale and distribution of novelty lighters within the State of Alaska.

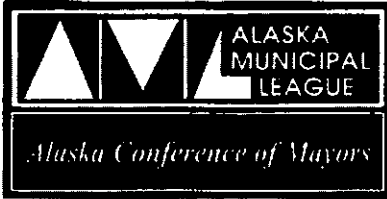
PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 

Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE SUPPORTING THE EXEMPTION
OF STATE DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND
CANDIDATES.**

WHEREAS, State Statute 39.50, effective in 2008, requires financial business and conflict of interest reporting, available on the state web site, for all state and municipal officials, candidates, board members and commission members and their spouses, domestic partners and dependent children; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is NOT opposed to the filing of financial business and conflict of interest reports; but does oppose web posting of that information from spouses, domestic partners and dependent children; and

WHEREAS, under AS 39.50, mayors, council members, assembly members, school board members, city and borough managers, planning and zoning commissioners, and elected utility board members are all required to file these public conflict of interest reports; and

WHEREAS, these new rules require sources of income over \$1,000, as well as the amount of the income, thereby requiring all business owners to list how much money his/her business makes and to report such income as salary, social security, interest, dividends, rental income and retirement money (IRAs, etc.); and

WHEREAS, this statute also invades the privacy of those people doing business with the candidate or municipal official; and

WHEREAS, this information is to be posted on the internet, local municipal officials are concerned with identity theft and invasion of privacy; and

WHEREAS, these new rulings have severely limited those people willing to serve their local municipalities, it will become more and more difficult to find residents to step up to the plate for positions that hold little or no financial gain, yet can be contentious, time consuming and difficult, at best; and

WHEREAS, close to half of Alaska's municipalities have voted to be exempt from this state disclosure requirement and many placed the question on the ballot during this last election; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities already have disclosure regulations in place that are available upon request at the Borough or City Hall.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the automatic exemption of all Alaska municipalities from the State of Alaska Financial Disclosure rule, to be replaced by local financial disclosure forms to be available to all of the public upon request rather than posted on the internet.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests the state create filing forms and regulations for public official financial disclosure reports that separate state officials, local officials and lobbyists from one another.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League fears that the requirement of state disclosure laws will drastically reduce the availability of qualified persons willing to serve in local government.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed:  _____
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-08**

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE URGING THE ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE IN 2009, TO MODIFY, BASED ON SCIENCE, THE STANDARDS GOVERNING THE DISCHARGE OF CRUISE SHIP WASTEWATER SUCH THAT THOSE STANDARDS WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT AQUATIC LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, during the 1990s, the size and number of cruise ships visiting Alaska coastal communities grew dramatically and became an increasingly important component of the local and regional economies; and

WHEREAS, in 1999, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, members of the Southeast Conference, representatives of the cruise ship industry, and local concerned citizens formed a group to explore ways to improve environmental standards for the cruise ship industry in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Cruise Ship Initiative (ACSI) group was created in 2000 to 1). Identify waste streams from cruise ships; 2). Develop pollution prevention and waste management solutions; 3). Assess and verify compliance with volunteer wastewater sampling; and 4). Keep the Alaska public informed; and

WHEREAS, in late 2000, the ACSI commissioned a Science Advisory Panel with expertise in oceanography, bacteriology, chemistry, aquatic and human toxicology, marine biology, ecology and vessel engineering to address issues concerning treatment, discharge, dispersion, fate, and effects of wastewaters produced by commercial cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, the work of the groups noted above led to the enactment of laws (AS 46.03.460 – AS 46.06.490) by the Alaska Legislature in 2001 establishing wastewater discharge standards for cruise ships and creating the Commercial Passenger Vessel Environmental Compliance Program; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation adopted regulations (18 AAC 69) to implement and interpret the laws enacted by the Legislature in 2001; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Alaska Legislature refined laws enacted in 2001 (AS 46.03.460 – AS 46.06.490); and

WHEREAS, in 2006, following a two-year rule-making effort, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation adopted regulations to interpret and implement the 2004 statutory changes; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska cruise ship industry has invested more than \$200 million to install some of the most advanced wastewater treatment systems in the world; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, following the adoption of regulations by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska voters approved an initiative further governing the operation and regulation of large cruise ships; and

WHEREAS, in March 2008, as a major step toward fulfilling the terms of the 2006 initiative, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation issued the first ever general permit for wastewater discharge from large cruise ships operating in Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, the standards imposed on cruise ships are far in excess of those imposed on shore-based municipal wastewater facilities, as was recognized in the Department of Environmental Conservation press release announcing the March 2008 permit, which stated:

The majority of large cruise ships operating in Alaska have advanced wastewater treatment systems that produce a very high quality discharge – much higher, for example, than shore-based municipal sewage treatment systems. Even so, cruise ship discharges are expected to have trouble meeting water quality standards for four parameters – ammonia, copper, nickel and zinc; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that it is currently unfeasible or impractical to meet discharge standards for the ammonia, copper, nickel and zinc parameters, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation applied more lenient standards during the 2008 and 2009 seasons and postponed implementation of the stricter standards until the 2010 season; and

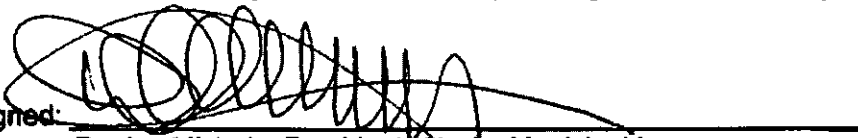
WHEREAS, the point-of-release standards could mean that beginning in 2010, cruise ships will have to defer all discharges until they are out of Alaska waters; and

WHEREAS, compelling cruise ships to postpone discharge of wastewater until outside Alaska waters will likely shorten the time cruise ships are in port and result in fewer ports of call, which will negatively impact Alaskan businesses.

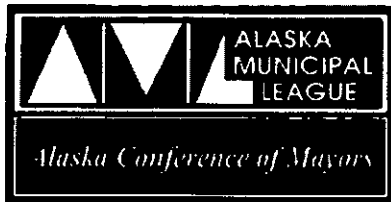
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Alaska State Legislature in 2009, to modify, based on science, the standards governing the discharge of cruise ship wastewater such that those standards governing the discharge of cruise ship wastewater such that those standards will continue to protect aquatic life and the environment.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that this resolution becomes effective immediately upon adoption by the State Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ADVOCATING FOR THE
RECONSIDERATION OF THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU'S AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY
DATA GATHERING METHODOLOGY.**

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is tasked with promoting strong economies, healthy communities and a quality environment in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the socioeconomic health of communities in Alaska is often evaluated by statistical reports produced by government agencies such as the U.S. Census Bureau; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League is committed to ensuring every resident is counted; and

WHEREAS, the collection and availability of accurate data is important to understanding regional and local socioeconomic conditions; and

WHEREAS, many important economic and political decisions are based on socioeconomic information gathered for Alaskan communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau has discontinued the Decennial Long-form for the 2010 Census and implemented the American Community Survey, an annual survey for collecting community demographic and economic information; and

WHEREAS, the American Community Survey's methodology uses a significantly reduced sample size than the Decennial Long-form's methodology, resulting in an overall reduction in data reliability and longitudinal comparability; and

WHEREAS, rural Alaskan communities vary widely in socioeconomic characteristics and smaller sample sizes could distort American Community Survey findings; and

WHEREAS, current American Community Survey methodology calls for selection of sample participants using street addresses and land-based phone lines, and many residents of rural Alaskan communities have neither, excluding many rural Alaskan residents from the population considered for sample selection.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League requests that the U.S. Census Bureau increase American Community Survey sample sizes to increase data reliability and ensure comparability with 2000 U.S. Census Decennial Long-form data; and

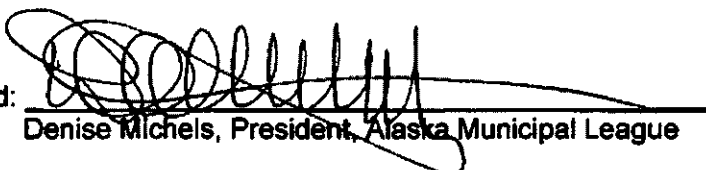
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal league requests that the U.S. Census Bureau give special consideration to data gathering in small rural communities to ensure accurate representation of the socioeconomic characteristics of those communities in the Census data.

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AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League appeals to local organizations and groups to partner together to achieve an accurate and complete count throughout Alaska.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League encourages residents to participate in Census promotional events and initiatives that will raise the overall awareness of the 2010 Census and increase participation among all populations.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-11**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO
DEVELOP THE STATE'S RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND CONTINUE TO
EXPAND PROGRAMS THAT INCREASE END-USE CONSERVATION AND ENERGY
EFFICIENCY.**

WHEREAS, there has been an increase in the volatility of the price for crude oil; and

WHEREAS, the resulting uncertainty has caused great concern among Alaska's residents, businesses and public entities; and

WHEREAS, fuel costs for space heating and electricity production are excessively high throughout Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the future sustainability of communities and the state as a whole depends upon the development of renewable energy resources, increasing the efficient use of energy, and increasing the widespread use of conservation measures; and

WHEREAS, Alaska is blessed with abundant renewable energy resources including wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, biomass, solar and in-water (tidal, wave, river) resources; and

WHEREAS, substantial energy savings for households, businesses and local governments will result from new and retrofitted energy-efficient buildings, appliances and heating systems; and

WHEREAS, the state's and the nation's energy security is enhanced to the extent that imported fossil fuel is replaced with renewable energy sources and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, it is both timely and urgent to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels; and

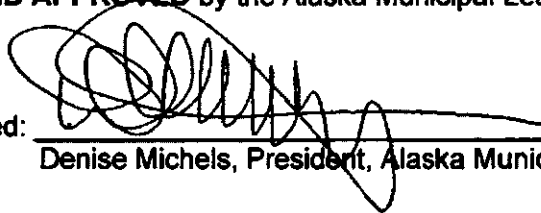
WHEREAS, it is in the state's ability to implement and expand renewable energy and energy conservation programs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to:

- Fully fund the Home Energy Rebate Program and expand the program to include business and industry;
- Supplement funding for the Low Income Home Weatherization Program;
- Provide funding assistance to expand the percentage of energy produced in the state from renewable and alternative sources, particularly in high-cost regions;
- Create funding incentives for utilities to develop alternative resources;
- Create a regulatory environment which will encourage development of alternative and renewable energy;
- Provide funding assistance to all new and retrofitted public buildings to meet certified energy efficiency standards; and
- Coordinate regional energy planning to promote efficiencies.

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed:  _____
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest:  _____
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-12**

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO
CAPITALIZE STABLE LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION FUNDING FOR ALASKA**

WHEREAS, Alaska's transportation system has fallen far behind the needs of Alaska for cost effective transportation which allows economic growth and the safe cost-effective movement of people, goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Highway System, the Alaska Marine Highway System, Alaska airports, Alaska ports and harbors and Alaska's local roads, all need several years of significant funding for infrastructure improvement, upgrade and expansion; and

WHEREAS, the general appropriation process has resulted in significant underfunding of transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the economic future of Alaska is highly dependent upon a quality, cost-effective transportation system; and

WHEREAS, the development of Alaska transportation infrastructure is dependent upon a steady and reliable stream of revenue; and

WHEREAS, the development of an energy policy that works for Alaska requires a quality transportation system in order to be successful; and

WHEREAS, estimates of annual funding needs for transportation infrastructure improvements, upgrades and expansions exceed \$300 million per year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska is in a position to seriously consider long-term transportation financing at this moment in history.


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to establish a Transportation Trust Fund for Alaska or other suitable and sustainable funding mechanisms that generate at least \$300 million annually to accomplish the following purposes:

- Generate investment earnings to develop transportation infrastructure in Alaska.
- Improve, upgrade and expand State of Alaska roads and highways.
- Improve, upgrade and expand the Alaska Marine Highway System.
- Improve, upgrade and expand the airports in Alaska.
- Improve, upgrade and expand Alaska's ports and harbors.
- Provide regular funding to Alaska's communities to improve, upgrade and expand public transit and local roads built to local road standards.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that not less than 15-percent of the total funding will be allocated to each of the five programs each year (roads and highways, Alaska Marine Highway System, airports, ports and harbors, public transit and local roads).

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-13**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING as 14.56.355: PUBLIC LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AND MAJOR EXPANSION GRANTS AND RECOMMENDING FULL APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Alaska's first formal programs relating to public library construction was passed in 1970; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.56.350 outlined a public library construction program for rural areas that required a minimum 10% match of cash, land, service or "other items acceptable to the division of state libraries."; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.56.350 outlined a public library construction program that allowed larger communities to apply for funding with an expected 40% match; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of public libraries (50) were built between 1970 and 1998 utilizing federal and state library construction grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the rural and urban Public Library Construction Grant program for public library construction was repealed in 1998; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the federal Library Technology and Services Act (LSTA) specifically excluded library construction from grant consideration; and

WHEREAS, a 2004 Building Needs Assessment conducted by the Alaska State Library identified 22 communities that indicated a need for a new library building; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, eight more communities were added to the list; and

WHEREAS, a new public library construction grant program was proposed in Senate Bill 119 during the 25th session of the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 119 was passed into law on June 8, 2008; and

WHEREAS, AS 14.56.355 Library construction and major expansion matching grant program states:

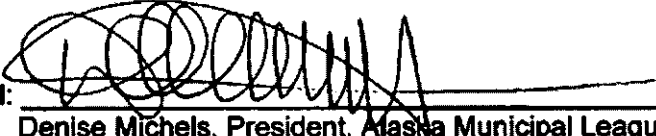
There is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, a matching grant program for library construction and major expansion.

- a) A person in charge of construction or major expansion of an eligible library may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by the department.

- b) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50% of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.
- c) The department shall establish regulations to implement this section and the eligibility standards under AS 14.56.356. The regulations must include consideration for and establishment of an eligibility priority for an application that is submitted by a community that does not have a public library described in AS 14.56.356(a)(2).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports the Public Library Construction and Major Expansion Grant program and urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to appropriate funds in the FY2010 budget to implement the grant program.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: 
Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 
Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League



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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-14**

A RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR AND THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE TO EXPAND THE POWER COST EQUALIZATION PROGRAM TO INCLUDE MUNICIPAL FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, HEALTH CLINICS, AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES NOT ELIGIBLE UNDER EXISTING LAW.

WHEREAS, energy costs throughout Alaska are creating significant financial burdens for many residents; and

WHEREAS, communities purchase fuel at a contract price that remains fixed even when prices fall; and

WHEREAS, rural municipalities, schools, health clinics and commercial enterprises are facing increasing difficulty meeting energy expenses; and

WHEREAS, the high cost of fuel for space heating and electricity generation threatens the stability of rural communities; and

WHEREAS, communities that pay in excess of the average kilowatt-hour cost of Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks should be eligible for funding; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Legislature amended the Power Cost Equalization Program during the 2008 Special Session by raising the eligibility ceiling to \$1.00 per kilowatt-hour for one year; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska administers the Power Cost Equalization Program to provide residents relief from burdensome fuel costs, thereby providing for community stability and economic relief.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Governor and the Alaska Legislature to expand the Power Cost Equalization Program to include municipal facilities, schools, health clinics, and commercial enterprises with an appropriate increase in the 70 kWh per capita credit used to calculate the subsidy, and provide comprehensive assistance to eligible communities.

AND, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League believes that the expanded PCE program should provide short-term relief from burdensome energy costs and be phased out as the cost of energy is reduced.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

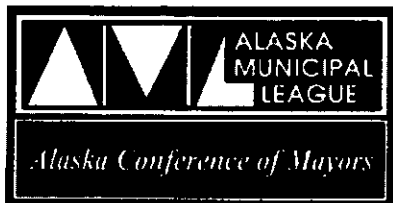
Signed: 

Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: 

Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

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**ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE
RESOLUTION #2009-15**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE URGING THE GOVERNOR AND
LEGISLATURE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE EPA GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS
REGULATORY EFFORTS**

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been obligated by the U.S. Supreme Court to regulate greenhouse gases in order to protect the public health and welfare; and

WHEREAS, Alaska, and the Arctic in particular, is the recipient of the global impact of greenhouse gas emissions; and

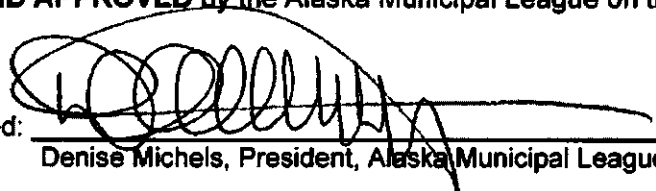
WHEREAS, it appears certain that the EPA will move forward with some form of regulation; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Conference of Mayors has adopted a letter which will be sent to the EPA prior to November 28, 2008.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alaska Municipal League urges the Legislature and the Governor to participate in the process of developing regulatory effort so the best interest of the people of Alaska can be represented and included in the future regulations.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Alaska Municipal League on this 14th day of November, 2008.

Signed: _____


Denise Michels, President, Alaska Municipal League

Attest: _____


Kathie Wasserman, Executive Director, Alaska Municipal League

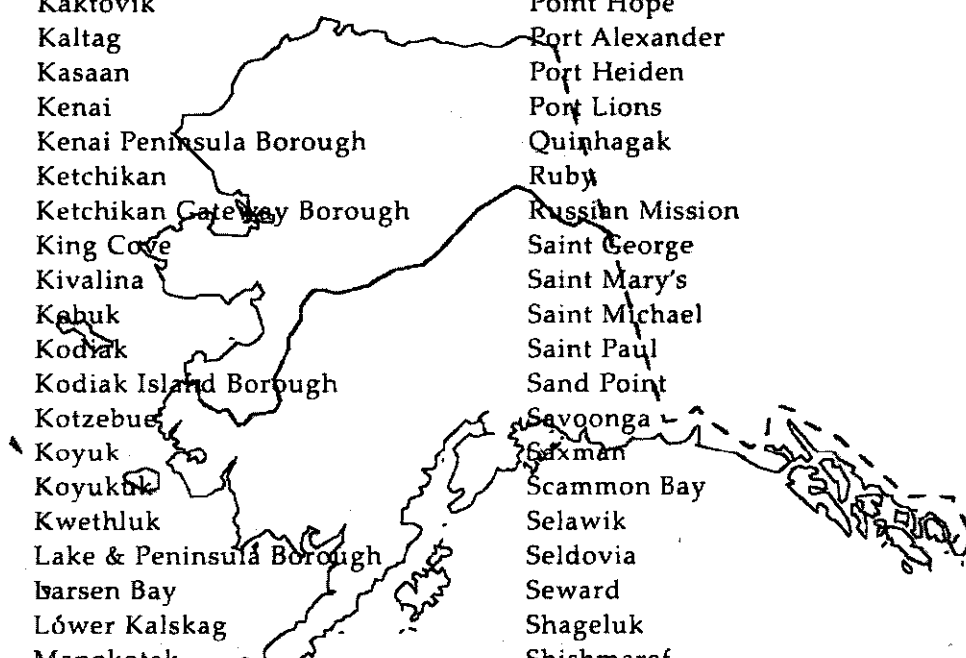
Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties

Alaska Municipal League Member Municipalities

Adak
Akhiok
Akutan
Alakanuk
Aleknagik
Aleutians East Borough
Allakaket
Ambler
Anchorage, Municipality of
Anderson
Angoon
Aniak
Anvik
Atka
Atkasuk
Barrow
Bethel
Bettles
Brevig Mission
Bristol Bay Borough
Buckland
Chefornak
Chevak
Chignik
Chuathbaluk
Clark's Point
Coffman Cove
Cold Bay
Cordova
Craig
Delta Junction
Denali Borough
Dillingham
Diomedes
Eagle
Eek
Egegik
Ekwok
Elim
Emmonak
Fairbanks
Fairbanks North Star Borough
False Pass
Fort Yukon
Galena
Gambell
Golovin
Goodnews Bay
Grayling
Gustavus
Haines Borough

Holy Cross
Homer
Hoonah
Houston
Hughes
Huslia
Juneau, City & Borough of
Kachemak
Kake
Kaktovik
Kaltag
Kasaan
Kenai
Kenai Peninsula Borough
Ketchikan
Ketchikan Gateway Borough
King Cove
Kivalina
Kobuk
Kodiak
Kodiak Island Borough
Kotzebue
Koyuk
Koyukuk
Kwethluk
Lake & Peninsula Borough
Iarsen Bay
Lower Kalskag
Manokotak
Marshall
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
McGrath
Mekoryuk
Metlakatla Indian Community
Mountain Village
Napakiak
Napaskiak
Nenana
New Stuyahok
Newhalen
Nightmute
Nikolai
Nome
Noorvik
North Slope Borough
North Pole
Northwest Arctic Borough
Nuiqsut
Nulato
Nunamitqua

Nunapituk
Old Harbor
Ouzinkie
Palmer
Pelican
Petersburg
Pilot Point
Pilot Station
Platinum
Point Hope
Port Alexander
Port Heiden
Port Lions
Quinhagak
Ruby
Russian Mission
Saint George
Saint Mary's
Saint Michael
Saint Paul
Sand Point
Savvonga
Saxman
Scammon Bay
Selawik
Seldovia
Seward
Shageluk
Shishmaref
Sitka, City & Borough of
Skagway, Municipality of
Soldotna
Stebbins
Tanana
Teller
Tenakee Springs
Thorne Bay
Togiak
Toksook Bay
Unalakleet
Unalaska
Upper Kalskag
Valdez
Wainwright
Wales
Wasilla
White Mountain
Whittier
Wrangell, City & Borough of
Yakutat, City & Borough of



Alaska State Chamber of Commerce 2009 Legislative Priorities

Ballot Initiative Reform

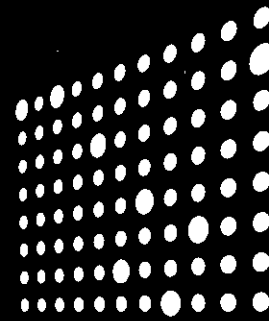
The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce should work with the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation that makes the drafting, signature gathering and financing of ballot initiatives more transparent to Alaska voters. The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce should work with the Alaska Legislature to pass legislation that, at a minimum, establishes:

1. A streamlined financial disclosure system including disclosure of the first dollar spent or collected – prior to an initiative being formally certified for the ballot – and online filing so that Alaskans can follow the money from the beginning and access important information prior to the election.
2. An opportunity for meaningful public involvement and vetting of proposed initiatives to increase awareness and ensure the public is well informed prior to signature gathering and voting, e.g. requiring petition sponsors to hold public hearings in a majority of election districts prior to petition certification.

Apply a permanent solution for workers' compensation Health care benefit costs

HB228 passed in 2007 to extend to the fee schedule to March 31, 2009. The Legislature needs to either extend the freeze or apply a permanent solution for workers' compensation health care benefit costs.

- The State of Alaska should purchase a program containing the new data at the 90th percentile of every procedure code billed in Alaska by zip code for the 2008 year. The fee schedule would go into affect on March 31, 2009. Every year the CPT codes would be updated by the program provider to reflect the correct coding initiatives and new procedure codes.
- New AMA and CMS procedure codes would be reimbursed at the 90th percent of the billed charges until the following year when the program provider can determine the 90th percentile.
- The State of Alaska fee schedule should adopt the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' national correct coding standard (CCI edits) and the AMA's published coding and billing practices. The majority of other state workers' compensation fee schedules have either adopted the CCI edits outright or have made modified versions of them integral to their rules and regulations.



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Support for Oil and Gas Exploration and Development in Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Waters

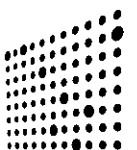
The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce strongly supports offshore oil and gas exploration and production in Alaska's Beaufort Sea, Chukchi Sea, Cook Inlet and the North Aleutian Basin in Bristol Bay. The Chamber asks the Alaska Congressional Delegation and Governor to support responsible development of these valuable resources and organize a concerted effort to encourage Congress and the Federal Administration to enact offshore revenue sharing for states and local communities.

Support for changes to the "point of discharge" standard Governing cruise ship wastewater permits

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce urges the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature to delete the "point of discharge" standard governing the cruise ship wastewater permits. The State Chamber Commerce asks the 2009 legislature to apply the best available data and technology when setting standards for cruise ship wastewater discharge permits.

Progress on a Natural Gas Pipeline Project and essential Infrastructure improvements

The Alaska State Chamber of Commerce encourages the Alaska Legislature and Administration to work in cooperation with the federal government and all stakeholders to accomplish measurable and real progress toward securing the construction of a natural gas pipeline in 2009.



Alaska State Chamber of Commerce 2009 Positions

Education

Invest in Alaska's Human Resources for a Sustainable Robust Future

Fiscal Issues

"Savings – the first step to a fiscal plan"

Fish and Game

Support for promoting Alaska Seafood and state funding for ASMI
Advocate the wise management of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources

Health Care

Establishment of Health Care Commission to Address Growing Health Care
Concerns in Alaska
Relief for Health Care Workforce Shortage: Health Care Professions Loan
Repayment & Incentive Program

Insurance

Support Workers' Compensation Exclusive Liability Statute

Resources and Economic Development

Advocate for progressive and responsible non-renewable, resource development
Positive, Objective, and Timely Permitting Process for Resource Development
Strategic Economic Development Plan for Alaska

State Conduct

Support for the current Alaska Coastal Management Program (ACMP)
Privatization, bringing the state government budget under control

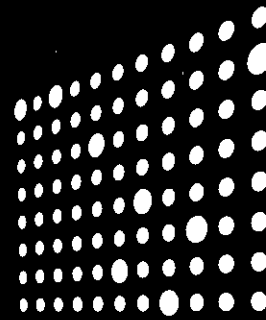
Transportation

Protecting Alaska's economy and cost of living against the imposition of marine
cargo container fees
Develop a State Funded Transportation Program
Knik Arm Crossing Support
Support for state funding for the completion of the
Port of Anchorage Expansion Project
State General Fund Support for Transportation

Miscellaneous

Opposing the Employee Free Choice Act/"Card Check" Legislation

The full position statements are available on our web site at
www.alaskachamber.com



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- The Alaska Municipal League is a non-profit, membership organization made up of 150 cities and boroughs within the state.
- The League's mission is to lobby on a state and federal level for those issues which strengthen Alaska's municipalities.
- We also are responsible for training and local government help to all municipalities.
- We are the "headquarters" or provide support for the Alaska Conference of Mayors, the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks, the Alaska Municipal Managers Association, the Alaska Municipal Attorney's Association, the Alaska Government Finance Officers Association and the Alaska Assessors Association. We have seats on the Board of the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities and the Western Interstate Region.
- We have a board of 26 elected officials from each of 11 districts plus past AML Presidents and representatives from the previously mentioned associations.
- Our office is here in Juneau.
- We are attempting to improve our relationship with industry throughout Alaska, as municipalities understand that a community cannot be healthy without good jobs.
- We attempt to give our members the information and ability to participate in meetings throughout the state, by either helping to provide their travel or simply encouraging those closest to meeting locations to attend on behalf of AML.
- We do NOT operate a barge line.
- We provide the opportunity for members to join our insurance pool and our investment pool.
- We publish a quarterly magazine with information on legislation, congressional information, issues, classified job section and other information. We provide opportunity for state agencies to send us articles

Member of the National League of Cities and the National Association of Counties