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Prepared by: Municipal Clerk's  
Office  
Reviewed by: Assembly  
Counsel  
For reading: December 8, 2020

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AO No. 2020-131(S)**

1 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING**  
2 **ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE TITLE 28, ELECTIONS, TO UPDATE AND**  
3 **CLARIFY PROVISIONS OF THE CODE [CONSISTENT WITH THE**  
4 **MUNICIPALITY'S VOTE BY MAIL SYSTEM AND RELATED MATTERS].**

5  
6 **WHEREAS, the Municipal Clerk's Office Election Team, with the assistance of**  
7 **Assembly Counsel, the Municipal Attorney, the Anchorage Election**  
8 **Commission, and the Assembly Ethics and Elections Committee, conducts a**  
9 **regular review of the election code, Title 28, each year; [MUNICIPALITY HELD**  
10 **ITS FIRST REGULAR ELECTION CONDUCTED PRIMARILY BY MAIL VOTING**  
11 **IN 2018;] and**

12  
13 **WHEREAS, following the 2020 Regular Municipal Election, [THE EXPERIENCE**  
14 **OF SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTING THREE REGULAR ELECTIONS AND ONE**  
15 **SPECIAL ELECTION BY MAIL HAS ILLUMINATED] provisions of the Anchorage**  
16 **Municipal Code [THAT] could be updated to streamline administration of municipal**  
17 **elections and improve efficiency and voter accessibility; and**

18  
19 **WHEREAS, it is wise and desirable to review and update Code governing our local**  
20 **electoral system periodically to maintain integrity and build public confidence; now,**  
21 **therefore,**

22  
23 **THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

24  
25 **Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 21.10.020 is hereby amended to  
26 read as follows:

27  
28 **28.10.020 – Powers and duties of municipal clerk.**

29  
30 **A.** The municipal clerk shall prepare for, conduct, and supervise all  
31 municipal elections, and shall determine whether candidates for  
32 municipal office are qualified, in accordance with this title.

33  
34 **B.** The municipal clerk may gather information which may be reported to  
35 law enforcement about suspected or alleged election offenses.

36  
37 (CAC 2.68.020; AO No. 85-75)  
38

1 **Section 2.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.10.040 is hereby amended to read  
 2 as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):  
 3

4 **28.10.040 – Definitions.**

5  
 6 The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this title, shall have  
 7 the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context  
 8 clearly indicates a different meaning:

9 \*\*\* \*\*

10 [ACCESSIBLE VOTE CENTER MEANS ANY LOCATION DESIGNATED BY  
 11 THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING VOTER  
 12 ASSISTANCE THAT IS NOT SOLELY FOR CASTING VOTES FOR A  
 13 SPECIFIC PRECINCT (A POLLING LOCATION).]  
 14

15 *Ballot* means any document provided by the municipal clerk or designee on  
 16 which votes may be cast for candidates or propositions. The clerk shall  
 17 prepare and distribute only official ballots and sample ballots in accordance  
 18 with chapter 28.40. When the term "ballot" is used in this title it shall mean  
 19 the official ballot, except where the context clearly indicates it means the  
 20 sample ballot or both types of ballots.

21 \*\*\* \*\*

22 *Municipal office* means an elective office under the Charter or ordinances of  
 23 the municipality.  
 24

25 **MUOCAVa [MUOCAVA voter]** means a **Municipal Uniformed and**  
 26 **Overseas Citizens Absentee Voter [municipal uniformed and overseas**  
 27 **citizens absentee voting act voter]** and is[:] (1) members of the uniformed  
 28 services on active duty and the merchant marine who, because of their  
 29 membership in the service, are absent from their place of residence, and are  
 30 otherwise qualified to vote; (2) the spouses and dependents of these  
 31 uniformed services voters who are absent due to the member's active duty  
 32 or service and (3) qualified voters who reside outside of the United States.  
 33

34 *Oath* includes affirmation on penalty of perjury.

35 \*\*\* \*\*

36 *Proposition or ballot proposition* means **an item presented to voters on**  
 37 **a ballot, consisting of: a ballot title; either a summary description of a**  
 38 **measure to be enacted or repealed, together with a reference to the**  
 39 **measure to be enacted or repealed, or the verbatim text of the act to be**  
 40 **enacted or repealed; and a ballot question. [A PROPOSAL OFFERED**  
 41 **FOR ACCEPTANCE OR REJECTION AND IS STATED AS A QUESTION**  
 42 **ON A BALLOT.]**  
 43

44 *Qualified voter* means a person who meets the legal requirements  
 45 [QUALIFIED] to vote in a municipal election.  
 46

47 *Signature* includes any mark intended as a signature or subscription and  
 48 authorized by state law, including controlling court decisions.  
 49

50 **Valid signature** means a signature that has been compared with one or  
 51 **more signatures in the voter's voter registration file or on the voter's**

**government-issued identification and determined to be by the same writer, through evaluation by an election official trained to perform this function using the standards set forth in this title.**

Vote center means any location designated by the municipal clerk or assembly for the purpose of providing voter assistance and that is not solely for casting votes for a specific precinct (a polling location), formerly called accessible vote center.

Voter declaration means a statement of the voter qualifications listed below, **declared as true by the voter, and includes a notice that false statements made in it are punishable as unsworn falsification [to which a voter swears or affirms under penalty of unsworn falsification by their signature or mark]** [THE SIGNATURE OR MARK OF THE VOTER CERTIFYING THE VOTER, UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY]:

1. Is a citizen of the United States;
2. Is a resident of the State of Alaska;
3. Is a resident of the Municipality of Anchorage for 30 days preceding the election;
4. Is 18 years of age on the date of the election;
5. Is not disqualified from voting due to a felony conviction or court order;
6. Has not already voted in the election; and
7. Is voting the ballot provided to the voter by the municipality.

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*  
 (GAAB 7.05.010; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 90-81; AO No. 91-166; AO No. 2002-179(S), § 1, 1-7-03; AO No. 2004-176, § 1, 6-1-05; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 2, 1-14-14; AO No. 2016-10(S), § 1, 2-9-16 ; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 1, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 1, eff. retroactively 12-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**Section 3.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.10.060 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**28.10.060 – Voter use of power of attorney.**

- A. An individual with a general power of attorney in accordance with AS 13.26.645 [13.26.332] or a special power of attorney in accordance with this section may:
  1. Register a voter to vote;
  2. Apply for a ballot [AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL OR BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION] on behalf of the voter;

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- 3. Request a change to the mailing address of the voter's absentee by-mail ballot;
- 4. Request a change to the fax [ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION TELEPHONE] number or email address to which the voter's ballot will be transmitted if voting by fax or email [ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION]; or
- 5. Request a replacement ballot for the voter if the voter's ballot [AN ABSENTEE BY-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION BALLOT HAS BEEN PROPERLY APPLIED FOR AND] has not been received[; OR
- 6. REQUEST A CHANGE TO OR CLARIFY ON AN APPLICATION WHICH BALLOT THE VOTER WILL RECEIVE IN A PRIMARY ELECTION].

B. A special power of attorney must include:

- \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*
- 4. A specific notation that allows the individual to perform the actions set forth in subsection A. [REGISTER THE VOTER OR REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BY-MAIL BALLOT];
- \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

C. The individual acting on behalf of the voter under A. of this section must provide all information required by law on the registration application, absentee by-mail ballot application, or fax or email [FACSIMILE] ballot application in addition to:

- 1. The name of the individual acting on behalf of the voter;
- 2. Proof of identification of the individual acting on behalf of the voter as set out in 6 AAC 25.027(a)(1)—(7); and
- 3. A copy of the general power of attorney or special power of attorney.

D. Unless authorized by federal or state law, no power of attorney may be used to vote a ballot, sign a voter declaration, or sign a petition for initiative, referendum, or recall.

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14)

**Section 4.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.20.010 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**28.20.010 - Time and method for elections.**

- \*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*
- B. The assembly may call a special election only by adoption of a resolution establishing the special election date.[UPON AT LEAST 30

DAYS' NOTICE, UNLESS] If the election is for the purpose of electing candidates to fill offices, the resolution shall establish dates for publishing notice of vacancies and the time for filing declarations of candidacy [IN WHICH CASE THE ASSEMBLY SHALL CALL THE ELECTION UPON AT LEAST 45 DAYS' NOTICE]. Special elections shall be called in accordance with applicable charter, code, and law, including:

1. The Charter:

- a. Section 3.02, Initiative and referendum;
- b. Section 3.03, Recall;
- c. Section 7.02, Filling vacancies in elective office;

2. Anchorage Municipal Code:

- a. Chapter 2.50, Initiatives, Referenda and Recall;
- b. Chapter 2.70, Vacancies in Elective Office;
- c. Chapter 28.20, Time for Elections; Notices;
- d. Section 28.40.020, Preparation and distribution.

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(GAAB 7.05.040.A; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 88-129(S-1); AO No. 91-50; AO No. 99-113, § 1, 8-10-99; AO No. 2000-167, § 1, 1-9-01; AO No. 2014-28, § 1, 2-25-14 - repealed by AO No. 2015-63, § 2, 7-14-15 ; AO No. 2016-33, § 1, 3-22-16 ; AO No. 2017-29(S) , § 2, 6-1-17; AO No. 2019-104 , § 4, 9-10-19)

**Section 5.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.20.040 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**28.20.040 - Notice of election, including notice of polling locations or [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, and notice of bonded indebtedness.**

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B. A notice of election shall state:

- 1. Whether the election is a regular, special, or runoff election;
- 2. The date of the election and whether the election will be conducted at polling locations or by mail;
- 3. The location of polling locations or [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers and the hours between which the polling locations or [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers will be open;

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- 7. Instructions regarding options for voting [FOR EARLY

VOTING, VOTING BY MAIL, AND APPLYING FOR  
ABSENTEE VOTING]; and

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(GAAB 7.05.050.A, B; CAC 2.68.080; AO No. 83-84(S); AO No. 85-75; AO No. 91-50; AO No. 96-159(S), § 2, 1-14-97; AO No. 97-135, § 1, 12-16-97; AO No. 2000-167, § 1, 1-9-01; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 5, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 2, eff. retroactively 12-1-17; AO No. 2019-104, § 6, 9-10-19)

**Section 6.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.40 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**Chapter 28.40 – BALLOTS**

**28.40.010 – Form.**

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**B. Number of ballots.**

1. Official ballots. For each regular and special election, the municipal clerk shall ensure that official ballots are prepared to present all candidates and propositions to the voters.
  - a. Voting by polling location. The municipal clerk shall print [DELIVER TO EACH POLLING LOCATION] ballots for at least 70 percent of the registered voters within each precinct. Calculations to determine the 70 percent for a regular or special election shall be based on a list prepared by the state at least 21 [60] days but no more than 90 days before a regular or special election.
    1. For each runoff election the municipal clerk shall ensure that the number of ballots prepared equals at least the number of voters who cast ballots in the election requiring the runoff election.
  - b. Voting by mail. [THE MUNICIPAL CLERK SHALL ENSURE THAT A BALLOT IS AVAILABLE FOR EACH REGISTERED VOTER WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY] The determination of registered voters who shall receive mailed ballots in accordance with section 28.40.020C. shall be based on the state's [LISTED BY THE STATE IN ITS] voter registration database as provided to the municipality at least 21 days but no more than 90 days before a regular, runoff, or special election.[.] The municipal clerk shall ensure that [AND] additional ballots are available on demand at [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers.
2. Sample ballots. The municipal clerk shall provide sample ballots to the polling locations and [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers.

1 C. Candidate order. [THE NAMES OF ALL CANDIDATES FOR THE  
 2 SAME OFFICE SHALL BE ON ONE BALLOT WITH SPACES FOR  
 3 WRITE-INS EQUAL TO THE NUMBER OF OFFICES TO BE  
 4 FILLED.] For each election, the clerk shall determine the random  
 5 alphabetical order in which the candidates' last names are placed on  
 6 the ballot, regardless of the office sought, by conducting a chance  
 7 selection of each letter of the alphabet. The sequence in which letters  
 8 of the alphabet are drawn shall be the sequence of letters utilized in  
 9 establishing the order in which the candidates' last names appear on  
 10 the ballot. [THE TITLE OF THE OFFICE AND "VOTE FOR NO MORE  
 11 THAN (THE NUMBER OF OFFICES TO BE FILLED)" SHALL  
 12 APPEAR BEFORE THE NAMES.]

13  
 14 D. Contents of official and sample ballots.

15  
 16 1. The official and sample ballots may consist of one or more  
 17 pages, printed on one or both sides. The official and sample  
 18 ballots shall contain:

19  
 20 a. The names of all candidates for each office with spaces  
 21 for write-ins equal to the number of offices to be filled,  
 22 with the title of the office and "Vote for not more than (the  
 23 number of offices to be filled)" appearing before the  
 24 names;

25  
 26 b. The title, including the number or letter, and a summary  
 27 description, including the question, of each proposition  
 28 to be voted on, and any additional information  
 29 concerning a proposition that is required by law to  
 30 appear on the ballot. This information shall be prepared  
 31 in a fair, true and impartial manner by the municipal  
 32 attorney, in consultation with the municipal clerk;

33 \*\*\* \*\*

34 f. The facsimile signature of the municipal clerk, the date  
 35 of the election, and the word "official" before the word  
 36 "ballot".

37  
 38 2. The sample ballot shall contain the information that appears on  
 39 the official ballot. The sample ballot shall be printed on non-  
 40 white paper, and shall have a watermark that states  
 41 "SAMPLE" on all sides on which voting information appears.  
 42 After voting, the voter may retain the sample ballot, or return  
 43 the ballot to an election official.

44  
 45 [3. EACH OFFICIAL AND SAMPLE BALLOT SHALL BEAR THE  
 46 WORD "OFFICIAL" BEFORE THE WORD "BALLOT" AND  
 47 "SAMPLE BALLOT", THE DATE OF THE ELECTION, AND A  
 48 FACSIMILE SIGNATURE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK.]

1 43, § 1, 2-27-01; AO No. 2001-166, § 1, 1-2-02; AO No. 2001-181(S), § 1, 1-  
 2 8-02; AO No. 2002-179(S), § 2, 1-7-03; AO No. 2004-176, § 3, 6-1-05; AO  
 3 No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2016-10(S), § 3, 2-9-16; AO No.  
 4 2017-29(S), § 8, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 4, eff. retroactively 12-1-17)  
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#### 6 **28.40.020 - Preparation and distribution.**

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 8 A. The municipal clerk shall obtain the printing of all ballots for municipal  
 9 elections. The municipal clerk shall possess the printed ballots at least  
 10 21 days before each regular and special election and at least ten days  
 11 before each [SPECIAL AND] runoff election. For purposes of this  
 12 section, "possess" means, when applicable, delivery of an electronic  
 13 file of ballot styles to the vendor(s) responsible for printing and mailing  
 14 ballots for voting by mail.

15  
 16 B. Voting by polling location. The municipal clerk shall have delivered to  
 17 each polling location ballots for at least 70 percent of the registered  
 18 voters within each precinct served by the polling location. The  
 19 municipal clerk shall deliver the ballots to the election officials in each  
 20 precinct before the polls open on election day. The official ballots shall  
 21 be delivered in a package separate from other election materials. The  
 22 election official receiving the ballots shall give the municipal clerk a  
 23 receipt for the ballots.

24  
 25 C. Voting by mail. The municipal clerk shall cause an official ballot to be  
 26 mailed to voters at least 21 days before the regular or special election  
 27 day and seven days before a runoff election day. The municipal clerk  
 28 is not required to mail ballots to any voter that does not have a valid  
 29 residence address, or is in the condition of purge notice (PN),  
 30 undeliverable (UN), or list maintenance undeliverable (LU), as  
 31 described in AS 15.07.130.

32  
 33 D. Any qualified voter not mailed a ballot will not later be refused a ballot  
 34 when requested, but may be required to vote a questioned ballot. The  
 35 mailing shall include:

- 36 1. The official ballot applicable to the voter;
- 37 2. Instructions for voting and returning the ballot;
- 38 3. A secrecy sleeve[ENVELOPE];
- 39 4. A return envelope; and
- 40 5. Voter education information, if required.

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 47 E.[D.] The return envelope may be supplied by the municipal clerk with  
 48 postage pre-paid, if so directed by the assembly for the specific  
 49 election.

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 51 E.[E.] The full text of any ordinance or resolution mentioned in a measure or



1 proposition shall be available for viewing at each [ACCESSIBLE] vote  
2 center.

3  
4 (GAAB 7.05.090; CAC 2.68.200; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3,  
5 1-14-14; AO No. 2016-10(S), § 4, 2-9-16; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 9, 6-1-17;  
6 AO No. 2018-4(S), § 5, eff. retroactively 12-1-17)  
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8 **Section 7.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.50 is hereby amended to read  
9 as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):  
10

11 **Chapter 28.50 - OPERATION OF POLLS AND [ACCESSIBLE] VOTE**  
12 **CENTERS**

13  
14 **28.50.010 - Election officials.**

15  
16 A. Appointment.

17  
18 1. Voting by polling location. The municipal clerk shall appoint at  
19 least two election officials in each precinct. The municipal clerk  
20 shall designate one election official from each precinct as the  
21 precinct chair, who shall be primarily responsible for  
22 administering the election in that precinct.  
23

24 2. Vote centers [VOTING EARLY, ABSENTEE OR BY MAIL]. The  
25 municipal clerk shall appoint at least two election officials for  
26 each [ACCESSIBLE] vote center. The municipal clerk shall  
27 designate one election official as the chair, who shall be  
28 primarily responsible for administering the election in that  
29 center.  
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31 \*\*\* \*\*  
32 (GAAB 7.05.070; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2001-43, § 2, 2-27-01; AO  
33 No. 2004-176, § 4, 6-1-05; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO  
34 No. 2017-29(S), § 10, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 6, eff. retroactively  
35 12-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)  
36 \*\*\* \*\*

37 **28.50.030 - Hours when places to cast your vote are open.**

38 A. Voting by polling location. On election day, the polling locations shall  
39 be open for voting from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
40

41 B. Voting by mail.

42  
43 1. Ballot drop boxes shall be open no later than the day after ballot  
44 packages are mailed to voters and shall close at 8:00 p.m. on  
45 election day.  
46

47 [C.] 2. Vote [ACCESSIBLE VOTE] centers shall be open during  
48 weekdays at least seven days prior to a regular and special  
49 election day, and at least five days prior to a runoff election day.  
50 Vote centers shall close at 8:00 p.m. on election day. Hours of  
51 operation shall be posted by the municipal clerk.

(CAC 2.68.180; AO No. 84-139; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 13, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 8, eff. retroactively 12-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**28.50.040 - Political discussion by election officials.**

A. While on duty at polling locations and [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, no election official may discuss any political party, candidate, measure, or proposition, except as necessary to perform the duties of the position.

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(AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 14, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 9, eff. retroactively 12-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**28.50.050 - Political persuasion near polling locations, [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, or drop boxes.**

A. During the hours the polling locations or [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers are open for voting, a person who is in the polling location or vote center or within 200 feet of any entrance to the polling location or vote center may not

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(AO No. 85-75; AO No. 89-136; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 15, 6-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

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**28.50.090 - Questioning of voter qualifications.**

A. Every election official shall question, and every observer [POLL WATCHER] and any other person qualified to vote in the polling location [PRECINCT] or at a [AN ACCESSIBLE] vote center may question[,] a person attempting to vote if the questioner has good reason to suspect that the questioned person is not qualified to vote. All questions regarding a person's qualifications to vote shall be made in writing setting out the reason the person has been questioned.

B. The following persons may only vote a questioned ballot:

1. A person requesting a ballot at a polling place or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center without proper identification compliant with section 28.50.110;
2. A person whose address has changed or whose address is different from the voter registration database, unless the person votes an areawide ballot;
3. A person whose name, in whole or part, is different than the name in the voter registration database;
4. A person whose qualifications to vote are questioned under

subsection A.; or

5. A person whose [PERSON'S] name does not appear in the voter registration database as eligible to vote within the municipality.

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(GAAB 7.05.130; CAC 2.68.240.B; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 19, 6-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

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**28.50.110 - Voter identification at polling locations and [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers.**

- A. Before being allowed to vote at a polling location or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, each voter shall exhibit to an election official at least one form of valid identification, including but not limited to:

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(GAAB 7.05.130; CAC 2.68.150, 2.68.240.B; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 20, 6-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**28.50.120 - Providing ballot to voter; marking, returning, and delivering the ballot.**

- A. Voting at a polling location. When a voter has qualified to vote, the election official shall give the voter an official ballot and secrecy sleeve. The voter shall use a booth or other designated private place to mark the ballot. After the voter has marked the ballot, the voter shall deliver the ballot to the scanner. Voters voting a questioned ballot shall place the ballot into the provided secrecy sleeve [ENVELOPE] and then into a questioned envelope, and deliver the questioned envelope to the secure questioned envelope container.

- B. Voting at a [AN ACCESSIBLE] vote center. When a voter has qualified to vote, the election official shall give the voter an official ballot, a secrecy sleeve [SECURITY ENVELOPE], and a return envelope. The voter shall use a booth or other designated private place to mark the ballot. After the voter has marked the ballot, the voter shall place the ballot into the provided secrecy sleeve [SECURITY ENVELOPE] and then into a return envelope, and deliver the return envelope to the ballot box or other secure container. Voters voting a questioned ballot shall place the ballot into the provided secrecy sleeve [SECURITY ENVELOPE] and then into a questioned envelope, and deliver the questioned envelope to the secure questioned envelope container.

- C. Voting by mail. When a voter has qualified to vote, the municipal clerk shall have an official ballot, a secrecy sleeve [SECURITY ENVELOPE], and a return envelope delivered to the voter by mail pursuant to section 28.40.020. The instructions for returning the ballot after the voter has marked the ballot shall direct the voter to place the ballot into the provided secrecy sleeve [SECURITY ENVELOPE] and then into a return envelope, and then do one of the following:

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1. Place the ballot return envelope in the mail **with sufficient first-class postage**, **POSTAGE PAID**. The municipality shall not accept **return envelopes as described in section 28.50.210B**. **[BALLOTS COLLECT ON DELIVERY OR IN ANY OTHER FASHION THAT REQUIRES PAYMENT BY THE MUNICIPALITY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE ENVELOPE]**~~[, unless required by law.]~~ **[THE MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT ACCEPT] [return envelopes] [BALLOTS] [DELIVERED RESTRICTED DELIVERY OR OTHERWISE REQUIRING THE SIGNATURE OF A NAMED INDIVIDUAL;]**
2. Deliver the ballot return envelope to a drop box;
3. Deliver the ballot return envelope to a a **[AN ACCESSIBLE]** vote center; or
4. Deliver the ballot return envelope to the Municipal Clerk's Office at City Hall, or at the Election Center, or at any designated return location.

(GAAB 7.05.130; CAC 2.68.240.B; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**28.50.130 - Assisting voter at a polling location or **[ACCESSIBLE]** vote center.**

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(GAAB 7.05.130; CAC 2.68.240.B; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**28.50.140 - Replacement ballots.**

- A. Voting at a polling location or **[ACCESSIBLE]** vote center. When provided a ballot at a polling location or **[ACCESSIBLE]** vote center, if a voter improperly marks or otherwise damages the ballot<sup>1</sup>, the voter may request, and an election official shall provide, another ballot. In order to receive a new ballot, the voter must surrender the improperly marked ballot to the election official. The official shall record the serial number, if provided, and the ballot style of the ballot reissued<sup>1</sup>, and the voter or election official shall tear up the improperly marked or damaged ballot. The election official shall place the torn up ballot in a special envelope immediately without examining it.
- B. Voting by mail or as special needs. A voter may obtain a replacement ballot if the original ballot is destroyed, spoiled, lost, or not received by the voter. Requests may be made in person, in writing, by telephone, or electronically, by the voter, the voter's designated representative under section 28.60.040, or by a person exercising the right under a

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<sup>1</sup> The word "ballot" was inadvertently omitted from the original draft of the ordinance.

valid power of attorney. A voter requesting a replacement ballot must provide sufficient information to confirm their identity. Sufficient information is at least three of the following: residence address, name, last four digits of the social security number, and birthdate.

1. The municipal clerk shall keep a record of each request for a replacement ballot. Unless the first ballot received has been voided, it shall be the only ballot tabulated.
2. If the municipal clerk receives additional ballots from a voter, as indicated by the fact that the voter is already credited with voting, the additional ballots shall not be counted and shall be forwarded to the election commission for adjudication. The municipal clerk may provide the voter’s information to law enforcement under section 28.200.120.

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

(AO No. 2017-29(S), § 21, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 11, eff. retroactively 12-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

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**28.50.160 - Leaving polling location or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center with ballot prohibited.**

- A. No person may leave a polling location or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center with an official ballot given to the person at the location by an election official.
- B. A violation of this section is subject to enforcement and a fine under Title 14.

(AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 23, 6-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**28.50.170 - Exhibiting marked ballots prohibited at a polling location or [AN ACCESSIBLE] vote center.**

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

(AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

**28.50.190 - Closing of the election.**

Approximately fifteen minutes before the closing of the election, and at the time of closing the election, an election official shall announce the time and the time of closing the election. Every qualified voter present and in line at a polling location, [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, or drop box at the time prescribed for closing the election may vote or drop off their completed return ballot envelope.

(GAAB 7.05.140; CAC 2.68.180; AO No. 84-139; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2001-43, § 2, 2-27-01; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 24, 6-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

**28.50.200 - Election closure procedures.**

A. When the election is closed and the last vote has been cast, the election officials shall, in accordance with election procedures, immediately proceed to:

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

2. Vote [ACCESSIBLE VOTE] centers.

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

c. Collect the ballot accountability report, the voter register, the questioned ballot register, and all other election supplies. All materials shall clearly indicate the [ACCESSIBLE] vote center location from which they came; and

d. Two election officials shall transport the materials and sealed containers from the [ACCESSIBLE] vote center to the election official at the designated return location.

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

(GAAB 7.05.160—7.05.170; CAC 2.68.260; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2001-43, § 2, 2-27-01; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 3, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 25, 6-1-17; AO 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

**28.50.210 - Receipt of ballots at designated return location.**

A. The election officials inside the designated return location shall:

1. If applicable, receive the voting machine from election officials working at the polling location and examine the card seal. If the seal is damaged or otherwise not intact, the election official shall notify the municipal clerk immediately and proceed as instructed by the municipal clerk. If the seal is intact, the official shall cut the seal and deliver the card to the municipal clerk or designee;

2. Receive the sealed containers from the election workers working at the polling location, [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, and drop boxes and examine the seals; if a seal is compromised the election official shall notify the municipal clerk immediately and proceed as instructed by the municipal clerk;

3. Check the polling location, [ACCESSIBLE] vote center [LOCATION], and drop box off on a log sheet, enter the time, have the delivering election official initial the entry, and sign or initial the log sheet; and

4. Give the containers containing questioned ballots and ballots that did not scan to the municipal clerk or designee.

B. The municipality shall not accept return envelopes [BALLOTS]:

1. collect on delivery;

1  
2 **2. delivered restricted delivery or otherwise requiring the**  
3 **signature of a named individual; or**

4  
5 **3. that requires payment by the municipality of an amount**  
6 **more than USPS first-class mail letter postage for a**  
7 **properly assembled return envelope for the election. [IN**  
8 **ANY OTHER FASHION THAT REQUIRES PAYMENT BY**  
9 **THE MUNICIPALITY IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE**  
10 **ENVELOPE][, unless required by law]. [THE**  
11 **MUNICIPALITY SHALL NOT ACCEPT] [return envelopes]**  
12 **[BALLOTS] [DELIVERED RESTRICTED DELIVERY OR**  
13 **OTHERWISE REQUIRING THE SIGNATURE OF A NAMED**  
14 **INDIVIDUAL.]**

15 \*\*\* \*\*

16 (AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 4, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 26, 6-1-17; AO  
17 2020-005(S), 2-11-20)

18 **28.50.300 - Appointment and privileges of observers.**

19 A. After first registering observers with the municipal clerk:

- 20  
21  
22  
23 1. Each candidate may have one observer at each polling location  
24 within the boundary area designated for the seat for which the  
25 candidate is running and one observer at each [ACCESSIBLE]  
26 vote center;  
27  
28 2. Any organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes  
29 an initiative, referendum, or recall measure may have one  
30 observer at each polling location within the boundary area  
31 subject to the measure and one observer at each  
32 [ACCESSIBLE] vote center; and

33 \*\*\* \*\*

34 C. Observers. Once registered, the observer may be present at a position  
35 inside the polling location, [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, or designated  
36 return location that affords a full view of all action of the election  
37 officials. Observers may be present during set up and tear down, from  
38 the time the polls are opened until the polls are closed, through the  
39 final tabulation of the ballots and certification of the election by the  
40 assembly.

- 41  
42 1. Election officials may require observers to sign in and out of the  
43 polling location, [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, or designated  
44 return location. Election officials may also require an observer  
45 to present identification and proof of registration prior to  
46 allowing the observer a full view of all action of the election  
47 officials. Failure to show identification or proof of registration is  
48 grounds for removal. The election officials or the municipal  
49 clerk may request the assistance of law enforcement for this  
50 purpose.  
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2. Observers may be required to wear identifying badges at all times while in the polling location, [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, or designated return location. Coats and large bags are only allowed in places designated by the municipal clerk, chair of the polling location or accessible vote center, or other designee. Failure to wear **a required [AN]** identifying badge at all times is grounds for removal. Election officials or the municipal clerk may request the assistance of law enforcement for this purpose.

3. Observers at a polling location or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center may not sit in the area behind the table where election officials are working or in between election officials handling voter registers, and shall remain a distance away from voting machines, if any, and voting booths to ensure the privacy of the ballots. The observer may be in close enough proximity to hear and record the name of a person who is voting.

4. While in the polling location, [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, or designated return location, observers:

\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

f. May not campaign at a polling location, vote center, or designated return location. Any type of campaigning by the observer should be reported immediately to the election officials or the municipal clerk and is grounds for immediate removal;

g. May remain at the polling location, [THE ACCESSIBLE] vote center, or [THE] designated return location until all procedures are completed; and

h. May ask brief questions of election officials regarding processes used by the election officials or on the ballot envelopes. Other questions shall be directed to the municipal clerk.

\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 4, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 27, 6-1-17; AO No. 2020-005(S))

**Section 8.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.60 is hereby amended to read as follows *(the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out)*:

**Chapter 28.60 - ALTERNATIVE VOTING IN POLL BASED ELECTIONS AND SPECIAL NEEDS VOTING**

\*\*\* \*\*\* \*\*\*

**28.60.040 - Special needs voting.**

A. Who may vote a special needs ballot. Persons who are admitted as hospital patients on the day of the election, or persons who because of a disability are unable to vote at the voter’s designated polling location or a [AN ACCESSIBLE] vote center on election day, or



persons who cannot have their vote by mail ballot package delivered to them may request delivery and return of a special needs ballot during the times specified in this section.

B. Procedures for special needs voting.

1. A request for a special needs ballot may be made either by the voter or a representative of the voter.

a. A request for a special needs ballot by the representative of the voter shall be made in person at a polling location or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center at least one hour before the polls close to allow for the special needs ballot to be delivered and returned before the closing of the polls;

b. A request by telephone shall be made with sufficient time for a special needs ballot to be delivered and returned before the closing of the election. If the municipal clerk determines sufficient time and resources allow, an election official shall take the special needs ballot, along with other necessary materials or forms, to the voter.

2. If the special needs representative selected by voter requests the ballot at a polling location or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, the representative shall provide government issued identification and sign a register provided by an election official. The register shall include the following information:

\*\*\* \*\*  
4. The representative shall return the ballot in the special needs envelope with the completed representative and voter certificates to an election official at a polling location, [AN ACCESSIBLE] vote center, or designated return location, or at a drop box, before the closing of the election.

\*\*\* \*\*  
(GAAB 7.05.120, 7.05.180.B; CAC 2.68.300—2.68.330, 2.68.370, 2.68.390; AO No. 80-101; AO No. 84-139; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2006-155(S-1), § 1, 3-13-07; AO No. 2007-173, § 1, 4-14-08; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 29, 6-1-17; AO No. 2017-93, § 3, 3-21-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 15, eff. retroactively 12-1-17)

**28.60.050 - Voting by mail in poll based elections.**

\*\*\* \*\*  
D. Voter declaration.

[1.] Upon receipt of a ballot by mail, the voter shall mark the ballot in secret, place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve [ENVELOPE], if provided, place the ballot in the return ballot envelope, and sign the voter's declaration on the envelope.

\*\*\* \*\*

(GAAB 7.05.120, 7.05.180.B; CAC 2.68.300—2.68.330, 2.68.370, 2.68.390; AO No. 80-101; AO No. 84-139; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 86-105; AO No. 91-50; AO No. 96-13, § 1, 1-23-96; AO No. 97-135, § 3, 12-16-97; AO No. 99-113, § 3, 8-10-99; AO No. 2001-43, § 3, 2-27-01; AO No. 2004-176, § 8, 6-1-05; AO No. 2006-155(S-1), § 2, 3-13-07; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 5, 1-14-14; AO No. 2014-38, § 1, 5-9-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 30, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 16, eff. retroactively 12-1-17)

**28.60.060 - Voting by fax [FACSIMILE] or email [(ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION)].**

A. A qualified voter may apply for a ballot to be sent by fax [FACSIMILE] or email [(ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION)].

\*\*\* \*\*

B. In order to receive a ballot, the request **by the qualified voter** must include:

\*\*\* \*\*

8. Acknowledgement that a marked or unmarked ballot sent by fax [FACSIMILE] or email [ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION] is less secure than a ballot cast by mail or in person, and acceptance of this risk.

\*\*\* \*\*

D. The transmittal to the voter shall contain a copy of the ballot to be used at the election in a form suitable for return transmission. If by fax [FACSIMILE], a photocopy of the ballot to be used by persons voting in person at the polling locations or by mail is acceptable.

E. A ballot that is completed and returned by the voter by fax or email [ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION] must contain or be accompanied by the voter declaration and the following statement: "I understand that by using fax or email [ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION] to return my marked ballot, I am voluntarily waiving a portion of my right to a secret ballot to the extent necessary to process my ballot, but expect that my vote will be held as confidential as possible.", followed by the voter's signature and date of signature.

F. Deadlines for returning ballot.

1. Return by mail. The voter shall mark the ballot on or before the date of the election and shall use a mail service at least equal to first class and mail the ballot not later than the day of the election to the municipal clerk. The ballot may not be counted unless it is:

a. Postmarked on or before election day and received before the opening of the public session of canvass;[, OR]

b. Verified as received by the USPS or mail distributor (e.g. UPS, FedEx) on or before election day and received before the opening of the public session of canvass; or

[, AND]

c. Postmarked on or before election day and received from a MUOCAVA[A] voter no later than noon on the day of certification of the election. [RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE OPENING OF THE PUBLIC SESSION OF CANVASS.]

2. Return electronically. A voter who returns the ballot by fax or email [ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION] must comply with the same deadlines as for voting in person on or before the closing of the election.

a. Voted ballots received by fax or email [RETURNED ELECTRONICALLY] no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day are timely even if the hard copy subsequently returned contains a postmark after election day.

b. Voted ballots returned by email may be returned with multiple attachments or as multiple emails.

G. When a completed ballot is received by fax or email [ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION], the election official will note the date of receipt on the fax or [and] email [ABSENTEE] ballot application [LOG] and, if the ballot is received on election day, the time of receipt.

[1. RECEIVED BY FACSIMILE. IF THE BALLOT IS RECEIVED BY FAX, THE ELECTION OFFICIAL SHALL:

A. REMOVE THE BALLOT PORTION OF THE TRANSMISSION FROM THE PORTION THAT IDENTIFIES THE VOTER;

B. PLACE THE BALLOT PORTION IN AN ENVELOPE OF THE TYPE USED FOR BALLOTS RETURNED BY MAIL, AND SEAL THAT ENVELOPE;

C. ATTACH THE VOTER IDENTIFICATION PORTION TO THE ENVELOPE; AND

D. FORWARD THE SEALED ENVELOPE TO THE DESIGNATED ELECTION OFFICIALS FOR REVIEW.

2. RECEIVED BY EMAIL. IF RETURNED BY EMAIL, THE EMAIL AND ITS ATTACHMENT(S) SHALL BE PRINTED. THE PRINTED EMAIL AND ATTACHMENT(S), EXCLUDING THE BALLOT, SHALL BE PROCESSED AND RETAINED AS GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS TITLE. THE PRINTED BALLOT SHALL BE PROCESSED AND RETAINED LIKE OTHER BALLOTS.]

- 1 H. Ballots returned by fax or email [ELECTRONICALLY] with a missing  
 2 or mismatched signature are processed as established in section  
 3 28.70.020.
- 4
- 5 I. Election officials shall prepare facsimiles of all ballots transmitted  
 6 [received] by fax or email. A[AN ELECTRONICALLY  
 7 TRANSMITTED] ballot transmitted by fax or email shall be counted in  
 8 the same manner as other ballots, even though this procedure may  
 9 reveal to one or more election officials the manner in which a particular  
 10 voter cast his or her ballot. However, it shall be unlawful to display a  
 11 [AN ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED] ballot transmitted by fax or  
 12 email in a manner revealing the way in which a particular voter cast  
 13 his or her ballot to any person other than the municipal clerk, a  
 14 member of the clerk's staff, an election official, or an attorney advising  
 15 the clerk on legal questions concerning the ballot for the sole purpose  
 16 of allowing these individuals to perform their duties as necessary to  
 17 the administration of the election.

18  
 19 (AO No. 2004-21 § 1, 6-1-04; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 5, 1-14-14; AO No.  
 20 2017-29(S), § 31, 6-1-17)

21  
 22 **Section 9.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.70 is hereby amended to read  
 23 as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

24  
 25 **Chapter 28.70 - BALLOT RETURN ENVELOPE REVIEW**

26  
 27 **28.70.010 - Time for ballot return envelope review.**

28 \*\*\* \*\*

29 (GAAB 7.05.180; CAC 2.68.502; AO No. 80-101; AO No. 83-84(S); AO No.  
 30 85-75; AO No. 90-119; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 7, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-  
 31 29(S), § 33, 6-1-17)

32  
 33 **28.70.020 - Ballot return envelope review procedure.**

- 34  
 35 A. The review of return envelopes shall be open to viewing  
 36 [OBSERVATION] by the public in a manner consistent with the orderly  
 37 conduct of the review and the security of [THE] confidential voter  
 38 information [ON THE ENVELOPES].

39 \*\*\* \*\*

40 (GAAB 7.05.180; CAC 2.68.502; AO No. 80-101; AO No. 83-84(S); AO No.  
 41 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 7, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 34, 6-1-  
 42 17)

43  
 44 **28.70.030 - Ballot return envelope review standards: regular.**

- 45  
 46 A. Ballots that shall or shall not be counted based<sup>2</sup> on ballot return  
 47 envelope review.

- 48  
 49 1. A vote by mail ballot shall not be counted if:

<sup>2</sup> The letter “d” in the word “based” was inadvertently omitted from the original draft of the ordinance.

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- a. The voter failed to properly execute the declaration on the envelope with a valid signature;
  - b. If a witness is required, the witness authorized by law to attest the voter's declaration failed to properly execute the witness declaration on the envelope, except that a ballot cast in person and accepted by an election official may be counted despite failure of the election official to properly sign and date the witness's declaration;
  - c. The ballot return envelope, if mailed, is postmarked after the date of the election;
  - d. The ballot return envelope, if mailed, is received after election day, has no postmark, and the USPS or mail distributor (e.g. UPS, FedEx) cannot verify the ballot return envelope was mailed on or before election day; [OR]
  - e. The ballot return envelope, although postmarked on or before election day, is not received before the opening of the public session of [THE] canvass, or, if received from a MUOCAVA[A] voter, before noon on the day of certification of the election;
  - f. The voter is not qualified to vote for any of the propositions and for candidates in any of the races on the ballot; [OR]
  - g. The voter already voted in the election; or
  - h. The voter did not provide required identification before the opening of the public session of canvass.

36 2. A vote by mail ballot shall be counted if:

37 \*\*\*

- 38 c. The ballot is received in one of the following ways:

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- i. The ballot return envelope is postmarked no later than the day of the election or the USPS or mail distributor (e.g. UPS, FedEx) can verify receipt of the envelope on or before election day, and received not later than the opening of the public session of canvass.
  - ii. The ballot return envelope is deposited in a ballot drop box no later than 8:00 p.m. on election day, or the ballot return envelope was voted at a [AN ACCESSIBLE] vote center and was properly cast before the closing of the election.

1                   \*\*\*       \*\*\*       \*\*\*  
 2           E.       Multiple and replacement ballots. Consistent with section 28.50.140B.,  
 3                   the first valid ballot received is counted. Subsequently received ballots  
 4                   from the same voter are not counted. Subsequent ballot envelopes  
 5                   received from a voter who has already voted shall be marked  
 6                   "rejected," segregated from approved ballot envelopes, remain  
 7                   unopened, and forwarded to the election commission for adjudication.  
 8                   The voter shall be [IMMEDIATELY] notified in accordance with section  
 9                   28.85.010D. by letter mailed to their mailing address and, if applicable,  
 10                   temporary mailing address. The municipal clerk may provide the  
 11                   voter's information and supporting information to law enforcement  
 12                   under section 28.200.120.

13  
 14           (GAAB 7.05.180; CAC 2.68.502; AO No. 80-101; AO No. 83-84(S); AO No.  
 15           85-75; AO No. 94-65, § 1, 4-12-94; AO No. 99-113, § 4, 8-10-99; AO No.  
 16           2001-43, § 5, 2-27-01; AO No. 2004-176, § 9, 6-1-05; AO No. 2013-130(S-  
 17           1), § 7, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 35, 6-1-17; AO No. 2018-4(S), § 17,  
 18           eff. retroactively 12-1-17)

19  
 20           **28.70.040 - Ballot return envelope review standards: questioned ballots.**

- 21  
 22           A.       A questioned ballot shall not be counted if:  
 23  
 24                   1.       [THE VOTER FAILED TO PROPERLY EXECUTE THE  
 25                   VOTER DECLARATION ON THE ENVELOPE WITH A VALID  
 26                   SIGNATURE, OR THE WITNESS TO THE VOTER'S MARK  
 27                   FAILED TO PROPERLY EXECUTE THE WITNESS  
 28                   DECLARATION ON THE ENVELOPE.  
 29  
 30                   2.       WHERE REQUIRED, AN ELECTION OFFICIAL FAILED TO  
 31                   EXECUTE THE CERTIFICATE ON THE ENVELOPE,  
 32                   UNLESS THE VOTER SIGNED THE QUESTIONED BALLOT  
 33                   REGISTER.  
 34  
 35                   3.]       The voter is not qualified to vote for any of the propositions and  
 36                   for candidates in any of the races on the ballot.  
 37  
 38                   2.[4.]   The voter already voted in the election.  
 39  
 40           B.       A questioned ballot envelope not rejected under subsection A. shall  
 41                   be reviewed further under the standards of section 28.70.030 to  
 42                   determine if the ballot shall be counted.

43  
 44           (AO No. 2020-005(S))

45  
 46           **Section 10.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.8.050 is hereby amended to  
 47           read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set*  
 48           *out*):

49  
 50           **28.80.050 - Preparation and rules for counting ballots.**

51                   \*\*\*       \*\*\*       \*\*\*

B. Ballot adjudication shall use the following rules:

1. A vote shall be counted if the oval preceding the name of the candidate or answer to a proposition question is wholly or partially filled-in.
2. A failure to properly mark a ballot as to one or more candidates or proposition questions does not itself invalidate the entire ballot.
3. If a voter marks fewer names than there are persons to be elected to the office, a vote shall be counted for each candidate properly marked.
4. If a voter marks more names than there are persons to be elected to the office, the votes for candidates to that office shall not be counted. Marks for both a write-in and a candidate named on the ballot shall not be counted, unless challenged.
5. Candidates and answers to proposition questions marked with a strikethrough across the oval and name or answer shall be treated as indicating the voter's intent to not vote for the candidate or answer so stricken:

Race

- Doe, John
- Smith, Mary

Valid vote for Mary Smith.

Proposition 1

- Yes
- No

Valid vote "yes" on Prop 1.

- ~~Doe, John~~
- ~~Smith, Mary~~

Valid vote for Mary Smith.

Proposition 1

- ~~Yes~~
- ~~No~~

Valid vote "yes" on Prop 1.

6. To invalidate a vote without making an alternate choice, the voter must vote and strike through more than one oval and name or answer.

Race

- ~~Doe, John~~
- ~~Smith, Mary~~

No vote counted

Proposition

- ~~Yes~~
- ~~No~~

No vote counted

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1 [A. VOTERS: DO NOT SIGN OR INITIAL YOUR BALLOT.]

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3 [B. ALL OTHER OVERVOTES SHALL NOT BE COUNTED  
4 AS A VOTE FOR ANY CANDIDATE OR FOR AN  
5 ANSWER TO A PROPOSITION QUESTION,  
6 REGARDLESS OF MARKINGS OR HANDWRITTEN  
7 NOTES.]

8  
9 7. All other overvotes shall not be counted as a vote for any  
10 candidate or for an answer to a proposition question,  
11 regardless of markings or handwritten notes.

12  
13 8.[6.] The mark specified in 1. of this subsection shall be counted only  
14 if it is substantially inside the oval provided, or touching the oval  
15 so as to indicate clearly that the voter intended the particular  
16 oval to be designated.

17  
18 9.[7.] Improper marks on the ballots shall not be counted and shall  
19 not invalidate marks for candidates or propositions properly  
20 made.

21  
22 10.[8.] Except as provided in subsection 5., an erasure or correction  
23 invalidates that section of the ballot in which it appears.

24  
25 11.[9.] In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must:

26  
27 a. Write in the candidate's first and last name in the space  
28 provided;

29  
30 b. Mark the oval preceding the candidate's name in  
31 accordance with subsection A.1. of this section; and

32  
33 c. Not mark ovals for additional candidates for the same  
34 office in excess of the number of offices available,  
35 except as otherwise provided in this code.

36  
37 11.[10.] A write-in vote shall not be counted:

38  
39 a. In a runoff election, or

40  
41 b. For a service area supervisory board candidate if the  
42 candidate does not meet the requirements of section  
43 28.30.020.

44  
45 12.[11.] A sticker bearing a candidate's name may not be used on the  
46 ballot and the vote shall not be counted for that office.

47  
48 C. The rules set out in this section are mandatory and there shall be no  
49 exceptions to them. A ballot or vote shall not be counted unless  
50 marked in compliance with these rules. The rejection of a ballot or vote  
51 for counting under these rules is a final determination and only



1 reviewed in an election recount or election contest.

2  
3 (GAAB 7.05.160—7.05.170; CAC 2.68.260; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2001-43,  
4 § 4, 2-27-01; AO No. 2002-180, §§ 3—5, 3-24-03; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), §  
5 6, 1-14-14; AO No. 2016-12, § 3, 1-26-16; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 40, 6-1-17;  
6 AO No. 2018-4(S), § 18, eff. retroactively 12-1-17)

7  
8 **Section 11.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.85 is hereby amended to read  
9 as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

10  
11 **Chapter 28.85 - PUBLIC SESSION OF CANVASS; CERTIFICATION**

12  
13 **28.85.010 - Public session of canvass.**

14 \*\*\* \*\*

15 D. The vote of the election commission is final. [IF A BALLOT  
16 ENVELOPE IS REJECTED, THE MUNICIPAL CLERK SHALL MAIL  
17 A NOTICE OF BALLOT REJECTION TO THE VOTER. THE NOTICE  
18 SHALL STATE THE REASON FOR REJECTION. THE MUNICIPAL  
19 CLERK SHALL PLACE ALL REJECTED BALLOT ENVELOPES,  
20 UNOPENED, IN A SEPARATE CONTAINER WITH STATEMENTS  
21 OF CHALLENGE. THE CONTAINER SHALL BE LABELED  
22 "REJECTED BALLOTS ENVELOPES" AND SHALL BE RETAINED  
23 FOR A PERIOD OF 30 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF  
24 CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION.]

25  
26 E. Preliminarily rejected [REJECTED] or challenged envelopes that the  
27 commission decides to accept shall be opened and the ballots  
28 counted under the procedures of chapter 28.80.

29  
30 F. The municipal clerk shall place all ballot return envelopes rejected by  
31 the election commission, unopened, in a separate container with **any**  
32 statements of challenge. The container shall be labeled "rejected  
33 ballot return envelopes" and shall be retained for a period of 30 days  
34 after the date of certification of the election.

35  
36 G. Within 30 days of certification of the election, the municipal clerk shall  
37 mail a notice of ballot rejection to each voter whose ballot return  
38 envelope was rejected. The notice shall state the reason for rejection.

39  
40 (GAAB 7.05.180; CAC 2.68.502; AO No. 80-101; AO No. 83-84(S); AO No.  
41 85-75; AO No. 91-50; AO No. 2001-43, § 5, 2-27-01; AO No. 2002-181, §§  
42 1, 2, 3-24-03; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 7, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 42,  
43 6-1-17)

44 \*\*\* \*\*

45 **28.85.040 - Certification of election.**

46  
47 A.

48  
49 [1.] The election commission and the municipal clerk shall report  
50 the results of the commission's ballot review and election  
51 results at an assembly meeting as soon as practicable.

1  
2 B.[2.] If, after considering the information, the assembly determines that the  
3 election was validly held, the assembly shall certify the results of the  
4 election in accordance with the reports of the election commission and  
5 municipal clerk.  
6

7 C. The certification shall be subject to the outcome of any recount under  
8 chapter 28.90 and any election contest under chapter 28.100.  
9 Certification of the election is not subject to an assembly motion to  
10 reconsider.  
11

12 D.[B.] If the election commission or municipal clerk reports a failure to comply  
13 with the provisions of law or illegal election practices, and that such  
14 failure is sufficient to change the outcome of the election, the assembly  
15 may exclude the votes cast where such failure or illegal practices  
16 occurred from the total return or may declare the entire election invalid  
17 and order a new election.  
18

19 E.[C.] If the election commission or municipal clerk reports an apparent  
20 discrepancy in the returns, the assembly may order a recount of the  
21 votes in a specific race or contest, or for the entire election. The  
22 recount shall be conducted immediately by election officials.  
23

24 F.[D.] After the certification of the results of the election, and after any  
25 additional process for the results of the election for a particular office  
26 to become final, the municipal clerk shall prepare an oath of office for  
27 the elected candidate and schedule the swearing in ceremony.  
28

29 G.[E.] A runoff election for the office of mayor shall be held as required in the  
30 Charter.  
31

32 (GAAB 7.05.190; CAC 2.68.580; AO No. 252-76; AO No. 77-330; AO No. 85-  
33 75; AO No. 2001-43, § 5, 2-27-01; AO No. 2004-176, § 10, 6-1-05; AO No.  
34 2017-29(S), § 45, 6-1-17)  
35

36 **Section 12.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.90 is hereby amended to read  
37 as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):  
38

### 39 **Chapter 28.90 – ELECTION RECOUNT**

#### 40 **28.90.010 - Recount application.**

41  
42  
43 Within seven days after the certification of the election, [ELECTION  
44 COMMISSION HAS ADOPTED ITS REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE  
45 ELECTION,] a defeated candidate or ten qualified voters may file an  
46 application with the municipal clerk for a recount of the votes from any  
47 particular precinct, or for any particular office, proposition, or measure. The  
48 date on which the municipal clerk receives an application rather than the date  
49 of mailing or transmission determines whether the application is filed within  
50 the time allowed under this subsection.  
51

(GAAB 7.05.205, 7.05.220; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 8, 1-14-14; AO No. 2020-5(S), § 7, 2-11-20)

\*\*\* \*\*

**28.90.025 - Recount by order of the assembly or municipal clerk; automatic recount.**

A. The assembly, by resolution, may order the municipal clerk to conduct a recount of the votes from any particular precinct, or for any particular office, proposition, or measure, within seven days after the certification of the election [COMMISSION HAS ADOPTED ITS REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION].

B. The municipal clerk, within seven days after the certification of the election [COMMISSION HAS ADOPTED ITS REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION], may, on the clerk's own initiative, conduct a recount of the votes from any particular precinct, or for any particular office, proposition, or measure when, in the judgment of the clerk, conducting a recount may increase voter confidence in the election process.

C. The municipal clerk shall initiate a recount within seven days of the certification of the election [ADOPTION OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION'S REPORT] if the results show that [IT CONCLUDES]:

1. a candidate[, PROPOSITION, OR MEASURE] wins [OR PASSES] by less than a 0.5% margin.

2. ~~a candidate receives less than 0.5% over the required margin;~~

~~3.] when a runoff election is required between the top two candidates and [no candidate has achieved the required margin,] the second and third place candidates are separated by less than 0.5%; or~~

3.[4.] a proposition or measure passes or fails by less than a 0.5% margin.

( AO No. 2016-68, § 1, 6-21-16; AO No. 2020-5(S), § 7, 2-11-20)

**28.90.040 - Procedure.**

A. The municipal clerk shall appoint election officials for the recount. The recount shall continue daily until completed. The municipal clerk may designate the hours each day during which the election officials are [BOARD IS] to conduct the recount. To obtain the most expeditious election results, the municipal clerk may combine two or more recounts.

\*\*\* \*\*

(GAAB 7.05.205, 7.05.220; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2001-43, § 6, 2-27-01; AO No. 2002-182, § 1, 3-24-03; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 8, 1-14-14; AO No.

2017-29(S), § 46, 6-1-17)

**Section 13.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.100.020 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**28.100.020 - Contest procedure.**

A. Notice of contest of an election shall be submitted in writing to the municipal clerk within nine days after the certification of the election [COMMISSION HAS ADOPTED ITS REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION].

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

C. The assembly shall vote whether to hear the contest or to certify the results of the contested election at a meeting held pursuant to AMC 28.85.040B. [28.85.040A.] in accordance with the reports of the election commission and municipal clerk. If the assembly decides to hear the contest, it may appoint one or more persons to take evidence concerning the grounds for the contest and report to the assembly.

(GAAB 7.05.200; CAC 2.68.550; AO No. 85-75; AO No. 2004-176, § 12, 6-1-05; AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 9, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 47, 6-1-17)

**Section 14.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.150 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**Chapter 28.150 - EMERGENCY PLAN**

\*\*\*      \*\*\*      \*\*\*

**28.150.030 - Powers of the municipal clerk.**

A. In an emergency, the municipal clerk is authorized to take action to preserve the integrity of the election, while at the same time allowing eligible voters to vote who might otherwise not get an opportunity.

B. Actions authorized under this chapter may include, but are not limited to:

1. Requesting expedited relief from a court of competent jurisdiction;[,]

2. Keeping all or some polling locations, [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, and ballot drop boxes open longer than allowed by code;[,]

3. Closing all or some polling locations, [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, and ballot drop boxes permanently or for a limited time regardless of the requirements in this title, while providing eligible voters other opportunities to vote;[,]

4. Accepting applications to vote at temporary addresses, to vote by fax or email [ELECTRONICALLY], or for special needs

voting after the deadlines in this title but before the close of an election;[,]

5. Moving polling locations, [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, and ballot drop boxes;[,] and
6. Accepting votes not cast on official ballots.

- C. The municipal clerk shall take steps to maintain a record of the action taken and, if possible, adequately segregate votes cast, so that a court may rule on the action taken and accurately add or subtract votes as may be necessary. The municipal clerk shall provide public notice of changes to matters required by other sections of this title. This includes the notice of election, polling locations, [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, and ballot drop boxes, if the changes substantially differ from a previous published notice. A notice of changes may, but is not required to, be published in a newspaper of general circulation.

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 12, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 55, 6-1-17; AO 2020-033, 3-20-20)

**28.150.050 - Unofficial ballots.**

- A. Unofficial ballots. If there are insufficient official ballots available at a polling location or vote center, election officials shall use the available sample ballots and may create photocopies of the same, if needed. If sample ballots are not available and the election officials determine it is unlikely additional ballots will be received prior to the closing of the polls, election officials may provide any available paper to voters. If possible, election officials should receive direction from the municipal clerk prior to using unofficial ballots.
- B. Unofficial ballots cast shall be treated as unscanned or paper ballots, not questioned ballots, and shall be secured with all other unscanned or paper ballots.

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 12, 1-14-14)

**28.150.060 - Assistance of peace officers.**

- [A.] If weather, road conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances prevent election officials from delivering election materials or ballots to or from the polling locations, [ACCESSIBLE] vote centers, ballot drop boxes, or the designated return location, the municipal clerk may cause the delivery to be made by a peace officer or other municipal official.

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 12, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 56, 6-1-17; AO 2020-033, 3-20-20)

**Section 15.** Anchorage Municipal Code chapter 28.200 is hereby amended to read

1 as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

2  
3 **Chapter 28.200 - ELECTION OFFENSES**

4 \*\*\* \*\*

5 **28.200.100 - Campaign misconduct in the third degree.**

6  
7 A. A person commits the offense of campaign misconduct in the third  
8 degree if:

9  
10 1. During the hours the election is open and after election officials  
11 have posted warning notices at the required distance in the  
12 form and manner prescribed by this Title, the person is in the  
13 polling location or within 200 feet of an entrance to a polling  
14 location or [ACCESSIBLE] vote center, and:

15  
16 a. Attempts to persuade a person to vote for or against a  
17 candidate, measure, or proposition[, OR QUESTION];

18  
19 b. Circulates cards, handbills, or marked ballots, or posts  
20 political signs or posters relating to a candidate,  
21 measure, or proposition [AT AN ELECTION OR  
22 ELECTION PROPOSITION OR QUESTION]; or

23  
24 c. Conducts other political activities that may pertain to any  
25 future election or potential ballot proposition.

26  
27 2. During the hours the election is open the person is within 50  
28 feet of a ballot drop box and engages in any of the activities  
29 described in subsections A.1.a.—c.

30  
31 B. For the purposes of this section, the entrance to a polling location or  
32 vote center that is in a school is the entrance to the school building.  
33 The election official or precinct chair responsible shall post warning  
34 notices in the form and manner prescribed by the municipal clerk.

35  
36 C. Campaign misconduct in the third degree is subject to enforcement  
37 and a fine under Title 14.

38  
39 (AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 13, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 58, 6-1-17)

40  
41 AS 15.56.016

42  
43 **28.200.110 - Unlawful interference with voting in the second degree.**

44  
45 A. A person commits the crime of unlawful interference with voting in the  
46 second degree if the person:

47  
48 1. Has an official ballot issued from a polling location or vote  
49 center in possession outside of the polling location or vote  
50 center [VOTING ROOM DURING A POLL BASED ELECTION  
51 OR OUTSIDE AN ACCESSIBLE VOTE CENTER] unless the

- 1 person is an election official or other person authorized by law;  
 2  
 3 2. Makes, or knowingly has in possession, a counterfeit of an  
 4 official election ballot;  
 5  
 6 3. Knowingly solicits or encourages, directly or indirectly, a  
 7 registered voter who is no longer qualified to vote under section  
 8 28.30.010, to vote in an election;  
 9  
 10 4. As a registration official:  
 11  
 12 a. Knowingly refuses to register a person who is entitled to  
 13 register; or  
 14  
 15 b. Accepts a fee from an applicant applying for registration;  
 16  
 17 5. Knowingly submits or encourages or assists another person to  
 18 submit an absentee ballot application to an intermediary who  
 19 could control or delay the submission of the application to the  
 20 municipality or who could gather data from the application form  
 21 as prohibited by law;  
 22  
 23 6. Violates the oath of confidentiality in section 28.50.130;  
 24  
 25 7. Obstructs the doors or entries to a building in which a [AN  
 26 ACCESSIBLE] vote center or ballot drop box is located, or  
 27 prevents free access to and from any [ACCESSIBLE] vote  
 28 center or ballot drop box;  
 29  
 30 8. Removes an official ballot from a ballot drop box without lawful  
 31 authority; or  
 32  
 33 9. Moves, tampers with, or damages a ballot box or ballot drop  
 34 box, or inserts into a ballot box or ballot drop box anything other  
 35 than an official ballot return envelope [PACKAGE], without  
 36 lawful authority.

37  
 38 B. Unlawful interference with voting in the second degree is a class A  
 39 misdemeanor.

40  
 41 (AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 13, 1-14-14; AO No. 2017-29(S), § 59, 6-1-17)

42  
 43 AS 15.56.035

44  
 45 **28.200.120 - Voter misconduct in the second degree.**

- 46  
 47 A. A person commits the crime of voter misconduct in the second degree  
 48 if the person  
 49  
 50 1. registers to vote without being entitled to register under section  
 51 28.30.010; [OR]

2. votes or attempts to vote in an election after being disqualified under AS 15.05.030;
3. votes or attempts to vote more than once in the same election with the intent that the person's vote be counted more than once;
4. votes or attempts to vote in the name of another person or in a name other than the person's own; or
5. intentionally makes a false affidavit, swears falsely, or falsely affirms under an oath required by this title.

B. Voter misconduct in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 13, 1-14-14)

AS 15.56.040; AS 15.56.050

**28.200.130 - Election official misconduct in the second degree.**

A. A person commits the crime of election official misconduct in the second degree if while an election official, and between the date that ballots are provided to voters and the certification of the election, [WHILE THE POLLS ARE OPEN,] the person

1. Opens a ballot received from a voter at an election, unless permitted by code or regulation;
2. Marks a ballot by folding or otherwise so as to be able to recognize it;
3. Otherwise attempts to learn how a voter marked a ballot; or
4. Allows a person to do one of the acts prescribed by subsections 1., 2., or 3.
5. Violates the oath of confidentiality in section 28.50.130.

B. Election official misconduct in the second degree is a class A misdemeanor.

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 13, 1-14-14)

AS 15.56.080

**28.200.140. - Improper subscription to petition.**

A. A person commits the crime of improper subscription to petition if the person



- 1
- 2 1. Signs a name other than the person's own to a petition
- 3 proposing an initiative, referendum, recall, or nomination of a
- 4 candidate for municipal office;
- 5
- 6 2. Knowingly signs more than once for the same proposition,
- 7 question, or candidate at one election;
- 8
- 9 3. Signs a petition proposing an initiative, referendum, recall, or
- 10 nomination of a candidate for municipal office, while knowingly
- 11 not being a qualified voter; or
- 12
- 13 4. Solicits, accepts, or agrees to accept money or other valuable
- 14 thing in exchange for signing or refraining from signing a
- 15 petition proposing an initiative, referendum, or recall; in this
- 16 paragraph, "other valuable thing" has the meaning given in AS
- 17 15.56.030(d).
- 18

19 B. Improper subscription to petition is a class B misdemeanor.

20 (AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 13, 1-14-14)

21 AS 15.56.090

22 **28.200.150 - Refusal to allow employees time off.**

- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27 A. An employer commits the offense of refusal to allow employees time
- 28 off if the employer refuses to allow an employee time off for the
- 29 purpose of voting, or if, after allowing the time off, the employer
- 30 deducts the time from the wages of the employee, except as provided
- 31 in subsection B. of this section.
- 32
- 33 B. An employee who has two consecutive hours in which to vote, either
- 34 between the opening of the polls or vote centers and the beginning of
- 35 the employee's regular working shift, or between the end of that
- 36 regular working shift and the close of the polls or vote centers, is
- 37 considered to have sufficient time outside of working hours within
- 38 which to vote.
- 39

40 C. Refusal to allow employees time off to vote is a violation.

41 (AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 13, 1-14-14)

42 AS 15.56.100

43 **Section 16.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.300.010 is hereby amended to

44 read as follows (the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set

45 out):

46 **28.300.010 - Appeals.**

47

48

49

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51

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- A. A person may not appeal or seek judicial review of an election or recount unless the person
  - 1. is qualified to vote in the municipality;
  - 2. has exhausted the administrative remedies before the assembly; and
  - 3. has commenced, within ten days after the assembly has finally certified [DECLARED] the election results applicable to the appeal, an action in the superior court.
- B. If an action under this section is not commenced within the ten-day period, the election and election results shall be conclusive, final and valid in all respects.

\*\*\* \*\*

(AO No. 2013-130(S-1), § 13, 1-14-14)

**Section 17.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Municipal Clerk