

**A Resolution Of The Haines Borough Assembly joining the Alaska Municipal League in expressing concern in the consideration of a Constitutional Convention, and taking an active role in educating the public and policy makers about its potential impact.**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Municipal League's mission is to strengthen local governments, and AML's principles include to support the Alaska Constitution's mandate "to provide for maximum local self-government;" and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska's Constitution contains numerous provisions that provide for and enhance maximum local self-governments; and

**WHEREAS**, Art. XIII, sec. 3 of the Alaska Constitution provides that "if during any ten-year period a constitutional convention has not been held, the lieutenant governor shall place on the ballot for the next general election the question: "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?...""; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska voters overwhelmingly rejected the call for a constitutional convention in 1972 and in successive elections held in 1982, 1992, 2002, and 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska voters will be asked to vote on whether to convene a constitutional convention at the next general election on November 2, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Constitution's system has been flexible, allowing cities and boroughs to merge when appropriate, and allowing for classes of municipalities, including home rule municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Constitution commits the State to support public education, public health, public welfare, and for the University system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Constitution provides a statewide court system that relieves local governments of the responsibility for operating county courts, and allows for local prosecutions and defenses when and if a local government chooses to support them; and

**WHEREAS**, during the more than 60 years since Statehood the Alaska Municipal League has supported Alaska local governments in thoughtfully choosing among the options that the Alaska Constitution has offered them, and in making sure that there is revenue sharing from the State that will support the local governments that people choose to have; and

**WHEREAS**, where local government is concerned, the Alaska Constitution as written provides a necessary and empowering legal framework within which to exert local control and respond to resident priorities; and

**WHEREAS**, if voters were to authorize a convention, convention delegates elected at a subsequent election, would have plenary power to change any and all aspects of the constitution for submission to the voters; and

**WHEREAS**, there have been numerous proposals advanced over the years to shift public funding for education from the state to local governments, to alter public retirement programs, modify the selection of judges, alter the taxing power of government and other similar proposals that could fundamentally harm Alaska's local governments.

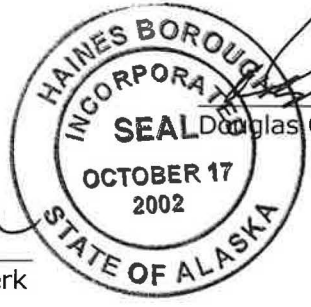
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Haines Borough Assembly and the Alaska Municipal League believe that a Constitutional Convention is unnecessary at this point in time and may negatively impact local governments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Haines Borough Assembly and Alaska Municipal League express concern about any campaign for calling a Constitutional Convention, to which municipalities would educate voters of the value of the Constitution as currently written and the numerous options available to address perceived or real needs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Haines Borough Assembly and the Alaska Municipal League encourage all local governments to work toward correcting any misinformation or misperception as may exist or that develops as part of the election cycle ahead.

Adopted by a duly-constituted quorum of the Haines Borough Assembly on this 13th day of September, 2022.

ATTEST:  
  
Alekka Fullerton, CMC, Borough Clerk



  
Douglas Olerud, Mayor