

Resolution #2025-01

A resolution supporting an analysis of the demand for and impact of charter schools on the public education system and opposing changes to the charter school creation process that bypass local school district approval.

WHEREAS, public charter schools and Tribal compact schools meet the diverse needs of students and their parents and guardians across the state; and

WHEREAS, charter schools are required to comply with district policies and regulations and charter schools create a financial obligation for local tax payers; and

WHEREAS, pupil enrollment in charter schools and Tribal compact schools does not change the overall amount of state funding available for public education but does reduce local school districts' ability to take advantage of economies of scale.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls on DEED to perform an assessment of the demand for charter schools and an assessment of the financial impacts to the public education system of opening new charter schools and Tribal compact schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League opposes changes to the charter school creation process that eliminate the control of local school districts to approve new charter schools.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution #2025-02

A resolution calling for State funding to subsidize water and wastewater operations costs in high rate burden communities.

WHEREAS, Alaska's rural communities experience the highest levels of water insecurity in the United States due to the absence or deterioration of infrastructure and high operating costs, of which a significant portion is the cost of staffing,

WHEREAS, reduced utility revenues combined with increasing inflation make it difficult for communities to properly operate and maintain their water and wastewater systems;

WHEREAS, the Village Safe Water Act, in AS 46.07.020, instructs the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to assure that there is at least one facility for safe water and hygienic sewage disposal in each village and;

WHEREAS, the Village Safe Water Act, in AS 46.07.050(b), gives the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation the authority to make grants to the governing bodies of water and wastewater facilities that do not have sufficient financial resources to operate and maintain the facility; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has developed an Affordability Framework to assess the ability of households in Village Safe Water program communities to afford residential water and sewer rates, and which classifies communities as Low, Medium, or High Burden.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League calls on the legislature to appropriate \$10 million for grants for the operations of village water and wastewater facilities in High Burden communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports legislation that will increase the size of villages that qualify for programs under the Village Safe Water Act from a population of 1,000 to 1,500.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution #2025-03

A resolution supporting a Statewide Electronics Product Stewardship Program.

WHEREAS, waste management is an essential government service provided by local governments to protect public health, control blight, and provide quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Alaskans generate over 15 million pounds annually of spent electronics that require expensive and specialized waste management resources and incur a significant future municipal cost through hastened need for capital funding of landfill closure and new site planning; and

WHEREAS, electronics contain toxic chemicals harmful to human health and subsistence resources, such as lead, cadmium, mercury, flame retardants, and PFAS, and these chemicals leach out as the landfilled electronics age, potentially flowing to nearby land, creeks, ponds, rivers, and bays that provide drinking water and important subsistence resources; and

WHEREAS, Class II and III rural landfills serve a third of all Alaskans, are unique to Alaska due to engineering and economy of scale considerations and are not designed to contain this leachate; and

WHEREAS, at least 150 communities are within one mile of their Class III landfill, where burning waste in passive steel containers called burnboxes is a common least-cost waste management strategy through which residents can be exposed to product chemicals; and

WHEREAS, electronics are proposed to be listed as a hazardous waste under the pending State of Alaska Hazardous Waste Program, potentially increasing the cost of electronics disposal; and

WHEREAS, 27 states have Product Stewardship laws that result in electronics manufacturers paying for all or part of their state's electronics recycling with residents in those states experiencing no associated increase in the cost for their electronics; and

WHEREAS, a Statewide Electronics Product Stewardship Program can be implemented without the levy of fees, taxes, or Alaska retail business burden; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska can develop a Product Stewardship program without administrative cost to the State, and municipalities are not beholden to participate in, or administer, the Program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League supports a comprehensive statewide Product Stewardship Program for electronic recycling to substantially reduce local and regional government waste management costs as well as public health risks to their constituency.

SUBMITTED BY: ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution #2025-04

A resolution supporting an amendment to Alaska Statute 29.71.800 to allow for web based public notice.

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities take many actions that require public notice, including public meetings, public hearings, elections, assessment districts, property taxes, land and surplus sales, among others; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute (AS) Title 29 mandates that public notices be published and section 29.71.800 (18) state that “published” means appearing at least once in a newspaper of general circulation distributed to the municipality or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation distributed in the municipality, posting in three public places for at least five days; and

WHEREAS, newspapers throughout Alaska are reducing their physical paper publication dates or fail to publish public notices due to staff shortages, inhibiting municipalities’ governing bodies’ ability to take action at their regularly scheduled meetings; and

WHEREAS, many newspapers now publish online and municipalities publish public notices on their websites, a format that is becoming a common method for the public to access information; and

WHEREAS, it would be a great service to Alaska municipalities for section 29.71.800 (18) to amend “published” to include allowance for online public notice to achieve public notice requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests that the Alaska State Legislature amend the definition of “published” in AS 29.71.800 (18) to include allowance for web based public notice to achieve municipal public notice requirements.

SUBMITTED BY: CITY OF HOMER
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution #2025-05

A resolution urging the Alaska Legislature to maintain funding for Public Libraries Assistance Grant and the Statewide Library Electronic Doorway at FY 2024 levels.

WHEREAS, for decades Public Libraries Assistance (PLA) grants have supported libraries across Alaska with \$6,000 to \$7,000 in annual funding; and

WHEREAS, The Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED) has provided Alaskans with access to online resources and databases for learning that would otherwise be unaffordable to their local libraries; and

WHEREAS, the budget for the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums reduced all PLA grants to \$1,829 in August 2024 before reversing those cuts, while SLED funding has been reduced from \$500,000 to \$369,514 in FY 2025; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of PLA funding cuts to libraries statewide varies from reductions in purchases of new materials to full closure, depending on the size and funding sources of individual libraries; and

WHEREAS, loss of SLED funding means that all public libraries in the state will have to eliminate significant online resources available to Alaska residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML urges the Alaska State Legislature to maintain funding for PLA grants and SLED at FY 2024 levels.

SUBMITTED BY: CITY OF HOMER
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE ACTION:
BUSINESS COMMITTEE ACTION: