

PREAMBLE

We, the people of Anchorage, in order to eliminate waste and duplication in government, to achieve common goals, to support individual rights, to form a more responsive government, and to secure maximum local control of local affairs, hereby establish this Charter.

ARTICLE I. NAME AND BOUNDARIES*

Section 1.01. Name.

The municipality shall be known as Anchorage.

Section 1.02. Boundaries.

The boundaries of Anchorage shall include all areas within the Greater Anchorage Area Borough on the date of ratification of this Charter. The boundaries may be altered in the manner provided by law.

State law reference—Boundary, AS 44.47.565.

ARTICLE II. BILL OF RIGHTS

This Charter guarantees rights to the people of Anchorage that are in addition to rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America and the Constitution of the State of Alaska. Among rights guaranteed by this Charter are:

- (1) The right of initiative; the right of referendum; and the right to recall public officers, as herein provided.
- (2) The right of immunity from the creation or alteration of a service area, except upon a vote within the area affected.
- (3) The right to establish local community councils to assure maximum community self-determination, exercised in conjunction with others and without infringement upon the rights of other persons.

***Editor's note**—The charter commission's commentary article is printed following the Charter as article II of such commentary.

- (4) The right of immunity from sales taxes, except upon approval by three-fifths ($\frac{3}{5}$) of the qualified voters voting on the question.
- (5) The right of immunity from official actions of the assembly taken after 12:00 midnight and before 7:00 a.m., actual time.
- (6) The right to the assistance of a municipal ombudsman in dealing with grievances and abuses.
- (7) The right to opportunities in housing, public accommodations, employment, and education without regard to race, religion, sex, color, national origin, marital status, or physical disability; and the right to an equal rights commission at the municipal level in aid thereof.
- (8) The right to a locally directed, ongoing planning process that is based upon the community's goals, objectives and policies for the future.
- (9) The right—whether as a taxpayer, as a municipal employee, or both—to a comprehensive personnel classification and procedures system created by ordinance and based upon merit.
- (10) The right to be heard at public hearings prior to adoption of proposed six-year plans of the school system and the municipality, or approval of the annual budget or any ordinance (except an emergency ordinance as defined herein).
- (11) The right—whether as a contractor, as a taxpayer, or both—to competitive bidding for goods and services furnished to the municipality, subject only to exceptions established by ordinance.
- (12) The right of immunity from emergency ordinances, unless adopted by affirmative votes of all assemblymen present and voting, or three-fourths of the total membership.
- (13) The right to have a public record of the actions of the assembly.

(AO No. 93-51, prop. 2, 4-20-93; Prop. 1 of 5-30-97)

Editor's note—The charter commission's commentary subsection (9) of this article is printed following the Charter as article II(9) of such commentary.

tion, at which time a successor shall be elected to serve the balance of the term. If less than 30 days remain in a term when a vacancy occurs, the vacancy shall not be filled. However, if at any time, the membership is reduced to fewer than a quorum, the remaining members, within seven days, shall appoint a number of qualified persons sufficient to constitute a quorum.

(b) If a vacancy occurs on the assembly, the remaining members may appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy within 30 days. The person appointed shall serve until the next regular or special election, at which time a successor shall be elected to serve the balance of the term. If the vacancy occurs more than six months before the next regular election, the assembly shall provide for a special election to fill the vacancy not more than 60 days after the occurrence of the vacancy. If less than 30 days remain in a term when a vacancy occurs, the vacancy shall not be filled. However, if at any time, the membership is reduced to fewer than a quorum, the remaining members, within seven days, shall appoint a number of qualified persons sufficient to constitute a quorum.

(c) A vacancy in the office of mayor shall be filled at a regular or special election held not less than 90 days from the time the vacancy occurs. If less than 90 days remain in the term when the vacancy occurs, the vacancy shall not be filled. When a vacancy occurs in the office of mayor, the chairman of the assembly shall serve as acting mayor until a successor is elected and takes office. The acting mayor has the veto power, but may not vote on assembly action. The assembly by ordinance shall provide for further succession to the office of acting mayor.

(AO No. 84-171, prop. 3, 10-2-84)

Editor's note—The charter commission's commentary on subsection (b) of this section is printed following the Charter as section 7.02(b) of such commentary.

ARTICLE VIII. COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Section 8.01. Establishment and procedures.

The assembly by ordinance shall provide for establishment of community councils to afford citizens an opportunity for maximum community

involvement and self-determination. The ordinance shall include procedures for negotiation between the local government and each community council with respect to the duties and responsibilities of the community council.

ARTICLE IX. SERVICE AREAS AND ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS

Section 9.01. Service areas.

(a) A service area may be created, altered, or abolished only with the approval of a majority of those voting on the question within the area affected, or, if no qualified voter resides within the area, with the written consent of the owners of all real property within the area affected. However, the assembly, by ordinance may consolidate service areas in which services are provided by the municipality at the same level in each of the areas to be consolidated.

(b) The assembly by ordinance shall adopt procedures for creating, altering, abolishing and operating service areas. Services provided in a service area shall be financed by a uniform tax levy within the area.

(c) The assembly may provide for appointed or elected boards to supervise the furnishing of special services in service areas.

Editor's note—The charter commission's commentary on this section is printed following the Charter as section 9.01 of such commentary.

Section 9.02. Assessment districts.

(a) The assembly by ordinance may establish districts to provide and finance capital improvements by means of an assessment, or services by means of a tax levy. The assessment or levy shall be proportionate to the benefit received from and the burden imposed upon the improvement or service. The assembly by ordinance shall prescribe uniform criteria for allocating the cost of the improvement or service within an assessment district.

(b) An assessment district may be created or extended only with the approval of the property owners who would bear more than 50 percent of the estimated cost of the improvement or service.