

Submitted by: ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHNSTON
Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel
& Dept. of Law
For reading: May 25, 2010

CLERK'S OFFICE

APPROVED

Date:

5-25-10

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AR NO. 2010-155(S)

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY OPPOSING THE**
2 **AUGUST 24, 2010 ALASKA PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT INITIATIVE ENTITLED "AN**
3 **INITIATIVE CREATING AN ALASKA ANTI-CORRUPTION ACT" BECAUSE IT IS**
4 **OVERBROAD IN APPLICATION AND NOT HELPFUL TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

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6 WHEREAS, on August 24, 2010, an initiative will be on the Alaska primary ballot
7 that will ask voters to decide whether public funds can be used to pay dues to
8 organizations such as the Alaska Municipal League, or to lobby the legislature on public
9 issues important to local government; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Anchorage Municipal Assembly believes passage of this initiative is
12 not in the best interest of the Municipality of Anchorage, and would adversely affect local
13 and state governments in the following ways:

- 14
- 15 • Municipalities will not be able to hire lobbyists for capital projects or for help
16 with legislation.
 - 17
 - 18 • Except for its elected officials, municipalities will not be able to have any
19 person advocate in favor of a municipal interest unless they are specifically
20 invited by a legislator, or their work fits into the undefined concept of
21 "constitutional duties".
 - 22
 - 23 • Municipalities will not be able to undertake, promote or distribute studies,
24 surveys, analyses, descriptions or other communications which are direct
25 evidence as to why a piece of legislation is "bad" or "good" for residents, no
26 matter how factual. For example, advocating for tougher criminal or DUI
27 laws through statistical evidence would be prohibited if the distribution of that
28 evidence to the Legislature was "specifically calculated to induce support of,
29 or opposition to, proposed legislation".
 - 30
 - 31 • Unless the Alaska Municipal League ceases to "directly or indirectly influence
32 legislative activity", the Municipality would no longer be able to be a member
33 of the Alaska Municipal League, an organization of cities, boroughs and
34 municipalities that provides training of elected officials, continuing education
35 for local government employees, investment and insurance pools to
36 maximize local resources, and acts as a center of ideas utilized by local
37 governments to provide better, more efficient governance for their residents.
 - 38

39 WHEREAS, passage of this initiative would significantly hamper the orderly and
40 efficient operation of public service and government statewide; and

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2 WHEREAS, to the detriment of all Alaskans, passage of this initiative would
3 seriously disrupt the close working relationship between local governments and the Alaska
4 State Legislature; and

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6 WHEREAS, this initiative would unduly infringe upon the right of residents to
7 communicate with their elected officials; and

8
9 WHEREAS, non-profit organizations that receive local funds, state funds or grants
10 would find that board members and their immediate family members could no longer take
11 part in government issues; and

12
13 WHEREAS, the Alaska Municipal League (AML) has taken a strong position against
14 this initiative in passage of AML Resolution No. 2010-8, copy attached; and

15
16 WHEREAS, the initiative goes too far and cripples the legitimate need of local
17 governments to represent their residents' requests for capital improvements, new or
18 modified laws, or participation in the operating budget decisions made by the state that
19 impact the residents directly or indirectly; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the sponsors state that this initiative will "put an end to the sweetheart
22 deals that the government contractors and special interest lobbyists love so much", but the
23 initiative also includes the unnecessary gagging of local governments from fully and
24 effectively representing the needs of their residents;

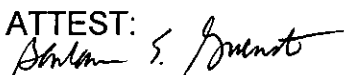
25
26 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Anchorage Assembly, for the
27 reasons enumerated herein, opposes the ballot initiative entitled: "An Initiative Creating an
28 Alaska Anti-Corruption Act".

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that passage and approval of this resolution is not
31 intended as an authorization for the expenditure of municipal funds which must be
32 specifically appropriated by ordinance.

33
34 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 25th day of
35 May, 2010.

36
37 
Chair

38 ATTEST:

39 
40 Municipal Clerk