

September 1, 2022
Regular Council Meeting

**Discussion - A Resolution of the City Council Opposing
the “Constitutional Convention” – Councilmember Gage**

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League

Resolution #2022-03

A Resolution 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 Alaska Municipal League believes that a Constitutional Convention is unnecessary at this point in time and may negatively impact local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Alaska Municipal League expresses concern about any campaign for calling a Constitutional Convention, to which the League would enjoin in opposition by educating 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 AML encourages all local governments to work toward correcting any misinformation or misperception as may exist or that develops as part of the election cycle ahead.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ON THE 17TH DAY
OF NOVEMBER 2021

PRINCE OF WALES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION No. 22-02

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING A STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, The Lt. Governor is required to put before voters the ballot question: “Shall there be a constitutional convention?” if a convention hasn’t been called within the last 10 years. This question will appear on the November 8, 2022, ballot;

WHEREAS, Alaska’s Constitution was ratified in 1956 and has served the people of Alaska well, often referenced as a model constitution which has been a stabilizing guide through turbulent times;

WHEREAS, holding a constitutional convention will provide just another space for partisan politics making it even more difficult to work together for the future of Alaska ;

WHEREAS, Alaskans have consistently voted against a constitutional convention and, instead, have opted for the more targeted, transparent constitutional amendment process for change;

WHEREAS, Alaska’s economic future would be thrown into disarray, with economic, legal, and regulatory uncertainty stymieing future investment. Taxes, environmental regulations, education, and more will all be up for revision, and final approval of any changes made would come at the end of a multi-year process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council opposes a constitutional convention.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 28th day of June, 2022 by the Prince of Wales Community Advisory Council.

POWCAC Chair

Member Approvals:

**Resolution of the Board of Directors of
The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce
JCC 03-22**

“Opposition to an Alaska State Constitutional Convention”

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WHEREAS, Alaska’s Constitution was ratified in 1956 and has served the people of Alaska well, often referenced as a model constitution which has been a stabilizing guide through turbulent times;

WHEREAS, holding a constitutional convention will provide just another space for partisan politics making it even more difficult to work together for the future of Alaska ;

WHEREAS, Alaskans have consistently voted against a constitutional convention and, instead, have opted for the more targeted, transparent constitutional amendment process for change;

WHEREAS, Alaska’s economic future would be thrown into disarray, with economic, legal, and regulatory uncertainty stymieing future investment. Taxes, environmental regulations, education, and more will all be up for revision, and final approval of any changes made would come at the end of a multi-year process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce opposes a constitutional convention.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Membership of the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

Wayne Jensen, President
Board of Director
Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce

Date