

CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-10

AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING EXHIBIT A, AMENDING CHAPTER 3.50 OF THE DILLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE TO MODERNIZE MUNICIPAL ELECTION PROCEDURES, REMOVE OBSOLETE REQUIREMENTS, UPDATE TERMINOLOGY, IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY, AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTION FORMS, AND MAKE RELATED NONSUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS.

WHEREAS, AS 29.26.010(a) provides that the governing body shall prescribe the rules for conducting municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 3.50 of the Dillingham Municipal Code contain municipal election procedures originally adopted in 1986, and certain provisions no longer reflect current election administration practices, terminology, or accessibility standards; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes that municipal election administration practices have evolved since the adoption of Ordinance No. 86-9 and that this ordinance is intended to preserve existing election safeguards while providing flexibility to adapt administrative forms and procedures to future changes in election administration and applicable law; and

WHEREAS, the City currently administers absentee voting through written applications, representative certifications, receipt registers, voter certifications, witness certifications, and other administrative procedures that provide a documented chain of custody for absentee ballots and promote election integrity; and

WHEREAS, certain provisions of Chapter 3.50, including requirements for physician certifications and statements from two qualified voters, are obsolete, create barriers for voters, and are not consistent with current Alaska election administration practices; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that authorizing the City Clerk to prescribe administrative election forms and procedures will improve the administration of municipal elections while preserving the City Council's authority to establish election policy pursuant to AS 29.26.010; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that updating outdated terminology, including gender-specific language and references to "handicapped," is intended solely to improve clarity, consistency, accessibility, and readability and is not intended to change the legal effect of any provision of the Dillingham Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that these amendments preserve ballot security, voter privacy, election integrity, and reasonable accessibility for voters with disabilities while modernizing the City's absentee voting procedures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DILLINGHAM, ALASKA:

Section 1. Classification. This is a code ordinance.

Section 2. Adoption of Exhibit A.

The document entitled "**Exhibit A – Legislative Redline Amending Chapters 3.50 of the Dillingham Municipal Code,**" attached to this ordinance, is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. The amendments contained in Exhibit A amend Chapter 3.50 of the Dillingham Municipal Code.

Section 3. Nature of Amendments.

Except as specifically identified in Section 4 of this ordinance, the amendments contained in Exhibit A are intended only to modernize terminology, improve readability, improve accessibility, update obsolete references, conform the Code to current legislative drafting practices, and make other non-substantive editorial revisions without changing the legal effect of the Dillingham Municipal Code.

Section 4. Substantive Amendments.

The following provisions contain substantive amendments:

- D. DMC 3.50.040, Absentee Ballot Forms and Materials;
- E. DMC 3.50.060, Absentee Voting Through a Personal Representative;
- F. DMC 3.50.070, Absentee Voting by Mail

Section 5. Editorial Authority.

In codifying this ordinance, the City Clerk is authorized to make non-substantive editorial revisions necessary to implement the amendments adopted by this ordinance, including corrections to grammar, punctuation, capitalization, numbering, cross-references, formatting, terminology, and internal references to election equipment, forms, and procedures, provided such revisions do not alter the substantive meaning or legal effect of any provision.

Section 6. Codification

The amendments adopted by this ordinance shall be codified in Chapter 3.50 of the Dillingham Municipal Code. The City Clerk is authorized to assign section numbers, revise internal references, and make other non-substantive editorial revisions necessary to incorporate the amendments into the Code, provided such revisions do not alter the substantive meaning of any provision.

Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

Section 8. Effective Date. This ordinance is effective upon adoption.

PASSED and ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Dillingham City Council on _____, 2026.

Alice Ruby, Mayor

ATTEST:

[SEAL]

Abigail Flynn, City Clerk