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2 **CLERK'S OFFICE RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS 29.07.155(c)**

3 Presented by: The Manager
4 Presented: 02/03/2025
5 Drafted by: Law Department

6 **ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

7 **Serial No. 2025-13**

8 **An Ordinance Amending the Election Procedures Code to Include**
9 **General Procedures for Ballot Count, Relating to Ranked Choice Voting.**

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

11 **Section 1. Classification.** This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and
12 shall become a part of the City and Borough of Juneau Municipal Code.

13 **Section 2. Amendment of Chapter.** Chapter 29.07, Election Procedures, is
14 amended by adding a new section to read:

15 **Chapter 29.07 ELECTION PROCEDURES**

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17 **29.07.155 General procedures for ballot count, ranked choice voting.**

18 (a) All regular or special elections shall be conducted by ranked-choice voting.

19 (b) When counting ballots, for single member races, the Election Official or designees shall
20 initially tabulate each validly cast ballot as one vote for the highest-ranked continuing
21 candidate on that ballot or as an inactive ballot. If a candidate is highest-ranked on more than
22 one-half of the active ballots, that candidate is elected and the tabulation is complete.

23 Otherwise, tabulation proceeds in sequential rounds as follows:
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2 (1) If two or fewer continuing candidates remain, the candidate with the greatest
3 number of votes is elected and the tabulation is complete; otherwise, the
4 tabulation continues under (2) of this subsection;

5 (2) Votes cast for the defeated candidate shall cease counting for the defeated
6 candidate and shall be added to the totals of each ballot's next-highest-ranked
7 continuing candidate or considered an inactive ballot under (g)(2) of this section,
8 and a new round begins under (1) of this subsection.

9
10 (c) For multi-member races, when counting ballots, the Election Official or designees shall
11 initially tabulate each validly cast ballot as one vote for the highest-ranked continuing
12 candidate on that ballot or as an inactive ballot, tabulating until a candidate receives more
13 than one-half of the active ballots. That candidate is elected to the first seat. The highest-
14 ranked candidate is then removed from the results and tabulation is repeated to find the
15 highest-ranked candidate, who is placed in the next seat. This process continues until all seats
16 are full. Seniority under CBJ 11.15.015, for multi-member races, will be designated in the same
17 order that the seats were awarded.

18
19 (d) When counting ballots,

20 (1) A ballot containing an overvote shall be considered an inactive ballot once the
21 overvote is encountered at the highest ranking for a continuing candidate;

22 (2) If a ballot skips a ranking, then the next ranking shall be counted. If the next
23 ranking is another skipped ranking, the ballot shall be considered an inactive
24 ballot once the second skipped ranking is encountered; and

25 (3) In the event of a tie between the final two continuing candidates, the procedures
 prescribed in Charter Section 6.6 shall apply to determine the winner of the

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2 election; in the event of a tie between two candidates with the fewest votes, the
3 tie shall be resolved by lot to determine which candidate is defeated.

4 (e) The Election Official or designees may not count an inactive ballot for any candidate.

5 (f) In this section,

6 (1) “Continuing candidate” means a candidate who has not been defeated;

7 (2) “Inactive ballot” means a ballot that is no longer tabulated, either in whole or in
8 part, because it does not rank any continuing candidate, contains an overvote at
9 the highest continuing ranking, or contains two or more sequential skipped
10 rankings before its highest continuing ranking;

11 (3) “Overvote” means an instance where a voter has assigned the same ranking to
12 more than one candidate;

13 (4) “Ranking” or “ranked” means the number assigned by a voter to a candidate to
14 express the voter's choice for that candidate; a ranking of “1” is the highest
15 ranking, followed by “2,” and then “3,” and so on;

16 (5) “Round” means an instance of the sequence of voting tabulation in an election;

17 (6) “Skipped ranking” means a blank ranking on a ballot on which a voter has
18 ranked another candidate at a subsequent ranking.

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22 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall be effective January 1, 2026.

23 Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

24 _____
25 Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk