



**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK/
ELECTION OFFICIAL**

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TO: Mayor Weldon and Assemblymembers
DATE: May 9, 2024
FROM: Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk/Election Official
RE: 2024 Municipal Elections Update

The Clerk's office has been busy this spring with citizen petitions. This memo is to give an update to the Assembly on the various types and timelines for each petition currently in process. All dates listed are 2024, unless specified otherwise. Full details and copies of the petition documents are available on the Clerk/Election webpage at <https://juneau.org/clerk/elections>. The following timing was established for items to appear on the October 1, 2024 ballot.

*Initiative Petition Filing Period March 26 – April 9
Referendum Petition Filing Period April 9 – April 24
Charter Amendment Petition Filing Period March 29-May 13*

Petitions submitted outside these timelines are still processed but may be placed on the October 7, 2025 Regular Municipal Election ballot, unless a special election is called. Anytime a special election is required by charter or code the Assembly's role is to make a motion to call for a special election. Below is a brief explanation of the types of petitions and the role that the Assembly does or does not have in the petition process:

Recall Petitions (Governed by AS [29.26.310-320](#))

Recall petitions were filed on 4/3/24 for School Board President Deedie Sorensen and Vice President Emil Mackey. The petitioner's committee has 60 days (due by 6/10/24) to collect 2,359 signatures and turn them into the Clerk's office for review. If one or both recall petitions are successful, we will probably have to hold a special election, anticipated sometime between late July and September. **The Assembly's only involvement in this process is to pass a motion calling for a special election once the Clerk certifies the petition.**

Initiative Petitions (Governed by CBJ [Charter § 7](#) and CBJ [Code § 29.10](#))

An initiative petition is how citizens enact a new law. If an initiative petition is successful, the Clerk will forward the initiative to the Assembly. **The Assembly then has 45 days to enact substantially similar legislation or take no action.** If no action is taken by the Assembly, the initiative question is placed on the next regular election ballot, if possible. Alternatively, the Assembly may choose to call a special election. The Clerk's office has received the following Initiative Petition applications and below is a brief status of each of those:

Initiative Petition Short Title: Ship Free Saturdays

The petition application, received 4/9/24, was approved in part and the petitioner

committee was issued books for which they are currently gathering signatures. The petition is due back to the Clerk's office by 5/30 and if certified will go to the Assembly for action or be placed on the 10/1/24 ballot.

Initiative Petition Short Title: Method of Elections

The petition application, received 4/9/24, was denied during the legal review process. The denial letter is available on the Clerk's election website.

Initiative Petition Short Title: Preserve Precinct Voting & Hand-Counting

The petition application, received 5/2/24, is currently undergoing legal review. Clerk staff has 15 business days, until 5/23/24, for legal review. If this is approved, depending on the timing, it may be on the 10/1/24 election or the 10/7/25 election.

Referendum Petition (Governed by CBJ [Charter § 7](#) and CBJ [Code § 29.10](#))

A referendum petition is how citizens repeal an existing law. If a referendum petition is successful, the Clerk will forward the referendum to the Assembly. **The Assembly then has 30 days in which to repeal the legislation which is the subject of the petition or take no action.** If no action is taken by the Assembly, the referendum question is placed on the next regular election ballot.

Referendum Petition Short Title: Repeal Ordinance 2023-24

The petition application, received 4/9/24, was approved and the petitioner committee was issued books for which they are currently gathering signatures. The petition is due back to the Clerk's office by 5/30/24 and if certified will go to the Assembly for action or be placed on the 10/1/24 ballot.

Charter Amendment (Governed by CBJ [Charter § 14](#) and [Charter § 7.2-7.9](#))

A Charter Amendment petition is how citizens amend the CBJ Charter, either by enacting a new section or repealing a Charter provision. If a Charter amendment petition is approved and certified by the Clerk it is placed before the voters. The Clerk's set the charter amendment timeframes on page one of the memo so that any petitions can appear on the regular municipal election ballot. Any petitions certified outside that timeframe require the Assembly to call a special election.

Charter Amendment Short Title: Ship-Free Saturdays

The petition application was received 4/29/24 and withdrawn on 4/30/24.

The attached Quick Reference Dates document is a handy tool when trying to determine the timing necessary for Assembly action in advance of the 10/1/24 Regular Election.

Attachment:

Quick Reference Dates for October 1, 2024 CBJ Regular Election