



**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK/
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TO: Mayor Weldon and Assemblymembers
DATE: January 27, 2023
FROM: Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk/Election Official
RE: 2023 Municipal Election Status

Now that the Thane Ballot Processing Center (BPC) has been inaugurated and the October 2022 election is over, Clerk staff will be working with the Law Department to review and provide Election Code updates to the Assembly for consideration this spring. In addition to those Election Code changes, there will likely be a companion resolution to propose new Assembly District lines that reflect changes made by the State Division of Elections in July 2022 to the State House District 3 and 4 district/precinct lines within in the City and Borough of Juneau.

Current CBJ Election Code calls for one of two things to happen in January of each year:

- 1) If it is the Assembly's intent for CBJ to conduct the October 3, 2023, Regular Municipal Election as a By Mail Election, a motion by the Assembly is required to direct the Election Official to conduct that election by mail¹.
- 2) If the Assembly does not wish to conduct the October 3, 2023 Regular Municipal Election as a By Mail Election, Clerk staff will need to mail absentee ballot applications by the end of January to all the permanent absentee voters in accordance with CBJ Code 29.07.090².

If a motion is adopted to conduct a By Mail election, it would supersede the CBJ 29.07.090 requirement to mail out the absentee ballot application forms in January.

Recommendation:

Staff is recommending the Assembly pass a motion to conduct the October 3, 2023 Regular Municipal Election as a By Mail Election.

Staff will then work on election code changes (mostly housekeeping) and redistricting legislation bringing them first to the Assembly Committee of the Whole for consideration this spring.

¹ **CBJ Code 29.07.360**

(a) At the direction of the assembly by motion, the election official may conduct an election by mail. ...

² **CBJ Code 29.07.090**

(a) At any election, a qualified voter may vote an absentee ballot for any reason.

(b) The election official may designate a person as a permanent absentee voter if the person is a qualified voter, and if the voter is registered with the State of Alaska Division

of Elections as a permanent absentee voter within the City and Borough.

(c) A person designated as a permanent absentee voter under subsection (b) of this section will be sent an application for an absentee, by mail ballot, at the permanent mailing address state on the voter's current registration record on the following schedule:

(1) In January each year;

(2) At least 45 days before a special election;

(3) At a time specified by the election official before any election, to voters defined in subsection (a) of this section who registered to vote after the last mailing of absentee by mail ballot applications.

(d) The voter may submit the application and vote by mail. However, nothing in this section limits the voter's eligibility to vote in person at a precinct polling place or vote center, in person before an election official, or absentee through a personal representative.