

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

ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2025-13(b)

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

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

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

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

Chapter 29.07 ELECTION PROCEDURES

29.07.155 General procedures for ballot count, ranked choice voting.

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

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

Otherwise, tabulation proceeds in sequential rounds as follows:

- (1) If two or fewer continuing candidates remain, the candidate with the greatest number of votes is elected and the tabulation is complete; otherwise, the tabulation continues under (2) of this subsection;

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

6
7 (c) For multi-member races, when counting ballots, the Election Official or designees shall
8 initially tabulate each validly cast ballot as one vote for the highest-ranked continuing
9 candidate on that ballot or as an inactive ballot, tabulating until a candidate receives more
10 than one-half of the active ballots. That candidate is elected to the first seat. The highest-
11 ranked candidate is then removed from the results and tabulation is repeated to find the
12 highest-ranked candidate, who is placed in the next seat. This process continues until all seats
13 are full. Seniority under CBJ 11.15.015, for multi-member races, will be designated in the same
14 order that the seats were awarded.

15 (d) When counting ballots,

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

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

21 (3) In the event of a tie between the final two continuing candidates, the procedures
22 prescribed in Charter Section 6.6 shall apply to determine the winner of the
23 election; in the event of a tie between two candidates with the fewest votes, the
24 tie shall be resolved by lot to determine which candidate is defeated.
25

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

(f) In this section,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2025.

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:

Breckan L. Hendricks, Municipal Clerk