

CITY OF SAXMAN

Resolution #04.2022.01

A RESOLUTION of the City Council of Saxman, Alaska expressing concern over the consideration of a Constitutional Convention and supporting the Alaska Municipal League in educating the public and policy makers about its potential impacts.

WHEREAS, the Saxman City Council believes in the strength and autonomy of local self-government; and

WHEREAS, the current Alaska Constitution's mandate is "to provide for maximum local self-government"; and

WHEREAS, Art.XIII, sec. 3 of the Alaska Constitution provides that "if during any ten-year period a constitutional convention has not been held, the lieutenant governor shall place on the ballot for the next general election the question: "Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?" and

WHEREAS, Alaska voters overwhelmingly rejected the call for a constitutional convention in 1972 and in successive elections held in 1982, 1992, 2002, and 2012; and

WHEREAS, Alaska voters will be asked to vote on whether to convene a constitutional convention at the next general election on November 2, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution's system has been flexible, allowing cities and boroughs to merge when appropriate, and allowing for classes of municipalities, including home rule municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution commits the State to support public education, public health, public welfare, and for the University system; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution provides a statewide court system that relieves local governments of the responsibility for operating county courts, and allows for local prosecutions and defenses when and if a local government chooses to support them; and

WHEREAS, during the more than 60 years since Statehood the Alaska Municipal League has supported Alaska local governments in thoughtfully choosing among the options that the Alaska Constitution has offered them, and in making sure that there is revenue sharing from the State that will support the local governments that people choose to have; and

WHEREAS, where local government is concerned, the Alaska Constitution as written provides a necessary and empowering legal framework within which to exert local control and respond to resident priorities; and

WHEREAS, if voters were to authorize a convention, convention delegates elected at a subsequent election, would have plenary power to change any and all aspects of the constitution for submission to the voters; and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous proposals advanced over the years to shift public funding for education from the state to local governments, to alter public retirement programs,

modify the selection of judges, alter the taxing power of government and other similar proposals that could fundamentally harm Alaska's local governments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Saxman Alaska believes that a Constitutional Convention is unnecessary at this point in time and may negatively impact local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Saxman Alaska expresses concern about any campaign for calling a Constitutional Convention, to which the City of Saxman would enjoin in opposition by supporting the actions of the Alaska Municipal League and educate voters of the value of the constitution as currently written and the numerous option available to address perceived or real needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of Saxman Alaska will work toward correcting any misinformation or misconception as may exist or that develops as part of the election cycle ahead.

PASSED and APPROVED by the City Council of Saxman Alaska this 20th day of 2022.

Frank Seludo, Mayor

ATTEST: Lori Richmond, City Clerk