



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ANCHORAGE**

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To the Members of the Anchorage Assembly:

RE: AO No. 2022-13 – Election of the Municipal Clerk

The League of Women Voters of Anchorage is strongly opposed to changing the Municipal Clerk position from an appointed position to an elected one as proposed in AO No. 2022-13.

Elected officials are by definition “political.” Elected officials make policy. Anchorage Assembly Members and the Mayor are elected and make policy. The Municipal Clerk does not make policy decisions and therefore, the position resembles other Municipal appointed positions. Additionally, one of the Municipal Clerk’s core responsibilities is to conduct the elections of the Municipality. An elected Municipal Clerk would most definitely have a conflict of interest in preparing for and conducting an election of which he/she is actually listed on the ballot and most likely would be campaigning during the height of the election process.

The ordinance qualifications for the Municipal Clerk position focuses on residency only and fails to address any job qualifications which are so very important to hiring a well-qualified person with specialized skills who can carry out the multi-faceted duties of the Municipal Clerk position. Further the position must maintain neutrality and impartiality with respect to all government matters and to place service to the public as a first priority. The Municipal Clerk is the link between residents, the Assembly, other city departments, city staff and agencies of government at all levels. The Municipal Clerk must remain non-political to provide services factually and objectively.

Additionally, some of the job responsibilities of the Municipal Clerk are cyclical in nature and consistency year after year is paramount in maintaining an efficient and ethical office. Therefore, learning the full range of duties of the position would be a multi-year process.

Again, the League of Women Voters of Anchorage is strongly opposed to changing the Municipal Clerk to an elected position for the reasons stated above. We also agree with the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks Resolution No. 2022-01 supporting the appointment of Municipal Clerks in Alaska and opposing efforts to alter the position to an elected official.

Sincerely,

Shirley Pittz, President
LWV of Anchorage