

Resolution of the Alaska Municipal League, Resolution #2025-xx

A resolution supporting an amendment to Alaska Statute 29.71.800 to allow for web based public notice

WHEREAS, Alaska municipalities take many actions that require public notice, including public meetings, public hearings, elections, assessment districts, property taxes, land and surplus sales, among others; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Statute (AS) Title 29 mandates that public notices be published and section 29.71.800 (18) state that “published” means appearing at least once in a newspaper of general circulation distributed to the municipality or, if there is no newspaper of general circulation distributed in the municipality, posting in three public places for at least five days; and

WHEREAS, Newspapers throughout Alaska are reducing their physical paper publication dates or fail to publish public notices due to staff shortages, inhibiting municipalities’ governing bodies’ ability to take action at their regularly scheduled meetings; and

WHEREAS, Many newspapers now publish online and municipalities publish public notices on their websites, a format that is becoming a common method for the public to access information; and

WHEREAS, It would be a great service to Alaska municipalities for section 29.71.800 (18) to amend “published” to include allowance for online public notice to achieve public notice requirements.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that AML requests that the Alaska State Legislature amend the definition of “published” in AS 29.71.800 (18) to include allowance for web based public notice to achieve municipal public notice requirements.

City of Homer, September 25, 2024