



CC-26-045

MEMORANDUM

Resolution 26-012(S), A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Stating the City's 2026 Legislative Priorities and Positions

Item Type: Backup Memorandum

Prepared For: Mayor Lord and City Council

Date: February 3, 2026

From: Jenny Carroll, Special Projects and Communications Coordinator

Through: Melissa Jacobsen, City Manager

This substitute resolution states Council priorities and positions ahead of our trip to Juneau for the Alaska Municipal League meeting and to meet with State legislators the week of February 16. It was developed in coordination with Councilmember Aderhold and reflects recommendations from J&H Consulting, our state lobbyists, per request of City Council after Council consideration and postponement of Resolution 26-012.

Our consultants recommended that the City's legislative advocacy be strategically focused on underlying guiding principles and overarching priorities. They also advised concentrating on bills and issues that are likely to reach the floor for debate or come to a vote during the session, rather than taking detailed stances on the specifics of bills recently introduced in committee or still under committee review. This approach recognizes that bills often undergo substantial amendments as they move through the committee process, which means the City's position on specific provisions may need to evolve as the legislation changes. By focusing on broader principles and priorities, the City can maintain consistency in our advocacy while preserving the flexibility to respond to amendments and modifications that occur throughout the legislative session by letter or public comment.

Substitute Resolution 26-012(S) follows this guidance and attempts to capture the City's general positions and priorities on issues J&H Consulting identified as the top issues law makers will be largely focused on this session. The main topics they expect to be addressed include the budget, PERS/TRS, education, the Alaska LNG gasline, and election reform. It further urges legislators to consider these principles when evaluating bills and to support legislation that advances these goals for our community and the State of Alaska.

Some minor adjustments have been made to the Capital Requests list.

The Homer Airport Terminal fire panel and air handling system replacement project (components of the Homer Airport Terminal Improvement project) was removed from the list. While a relatively small request, we did not have any budgeted or identified City match funds.

Homer Spit Erosion, the CIP's #2 Legislative Priority, was added per request of the City Council and to continue to advocate for funds for comprehensive Homer Spit Erosion mitigation measures in partnership with the US Army Corps of Engineers, either capital budget or through a General Obligation Bond effort.

The Homer Harbor Infrastructure project scope was refined to streamline our legislative request. The amended project now focuses specifically on securing match funds needed if the Homer Harbor Expansion advances to the Preconstruction Engineering and Design phase. However, should the expansion project not move forward, these funds can typically be reallocated, which we would request be directed toward the critical float system replacement project. This refinement from the original dual-purpose infrastructure request will make the project easier to present and advocate for with legislators.

Please be prepared to propose amendments during discussion of the resolution. I look forward to your discussion as we prepare to visit Juneau and meet with state legislators.

Recommendation:

Discuss the resolution, propose amendments, and vote.