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**CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold

**RESOLUTION 26-012(S)(A)**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA  
STATING OUR 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND POSITIONS

WHEREAS, The City of Homer is a First Class City within the Kenai Peninsula Borough;  
and

WHEREAS, Article 10 of Alaska’s constitution states that “The purpose of this article is to provide for maximum local self-government with a minimum of local government units, and to prevent duplication of tax-levying jurisdictions. A liberal construction shall be given to the powers of local government units.”; and

WHEREAS, Homer city staff and elected officials work closely with Alaska’s governor, legislature, and agencies to provide essential services to city and borough residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, Each year the City of Homer updates its five-year Capital Improvement Plan that includes a list of legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, During each session, legislators introduce legislation that affect municipalities, sometimes positively and sometimes negatively; and

WHEREAS, We recognize that the State of Alaska confronts a critical fiscal situation in 2026, with anticipated revenues falling short of what is needed to meet statutory requirements and maintain basic state services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following policy positions and legislative requests for the FY2026 Capital budget reflect the City of Homer priorities for the 2026 legislative session. We urge legislators to consider these principles when evaluating bills and to support legislation that advances these goals for our community and the State of Alaska.

**FISCAL POLICY**

- We support a thoughtful, comprehensive State fiscal plan that includes implementation of a broad-based tax to sustainably fund state government. However, any state tax structure should preserve municipal revenue authority, avoiding statewide sales taxes that would impinge on local governments' ability to fund essential services through their own sales tax collections.

- 42           ○ We request that legislators confer with municipalities before implementing tax  
43           exemptions or assessment restrictions that affect municipalities' ability to collect  
44           sales or property taxes important for funding local governments.  
45

46           BUDGET

- 47           ○ We support passage of a balanced budget and urge the Governor and Legislature  
48           to maintain operational funding allocations that municipalities rely upon to deliver  
49           essential services, and to prioritize capital funding for critical infrastructure that  
50           keeps essential services running, ensures public safety and supports economic  
51           development.  
52           ○ We recognize that effective governance requires strong state-municipal  
53           partnerships supported by adequate funding. Specifically:  
54           • We urge the Governor and Legislature to fully fund community revenue  
55           sharing, as this offsets unfunded legislative mandates such as property tax  
56           exemption requirements.  
57           • We urge the Governor and Legislature to fully fund community jails,  
58           including reimbursement rates that reflect the actual costs municipalities  
59           incur when housing state prisoners and individuals arrested on state  
60           charges.  
61           • We urge the governor and legislature to fully fund the Alaska Municipal  
62           Harbor Facility grant program to ensure resilient supply chains statewide  
63           and enhanced safety and economic prosperity among Alaskan coastal  
64           communities. We further support raising the maximum available Municipal  
65           Harbor Facility grant to \$7.5 million for eligible projects on an annual basis.  
66

67           LEGISLATIVE CAPITAL REQUESTS

- 68           ○ The City's legislative priority requests for the FY2026 capital budget:  
69           • Homer Harbor Expansion Preconstruction Engineering and Design  
70           • Homer Harbor Expansion Local Service Facilities Design & Fiscal Plan  
71           • Homer Harbor Security Cameras  
72           • Homer Spit Erosion Mitigation  
73

74           PERS/TRS

- 75           ○ We ask the legislature to leave the PERS funding liability formula in place, with  
76           municipalities continuing to contribute 22%, which is fair and reasonable.  
77           ○ We request a reduction in the requirement for onerous municipal termination  
78           studies which reduce flexibility in staffing.  
79           ○ We support legislation to bring back a public employee retirement defined benefits  
80           program that is affordable to the state and municipalities as it helps recruit and  
81           retain qualified individuals for a variety of government positions, particularly law  
82           enforcement and teachers.  
83

84 EDUCATION

- 85 ○ We support adequate, inflation-proofed and equitable education formula funding,  
86 as well as funding for school construction and maintenance as these are essential  
87 to fulfilling the State's constitutional duty and ensuring Alaska's children receive  
88 the quality education necessary for individual success and our state's economic  
89 vitality.

90  
91 ENERGY

- 92 ○ Alaska's Railbelt communities, including those throughout Southcentral Alaska,  
93 are understandably concerned about the looming Cook Inlet natural gas supply  
94 shortfall and generally support state efforts to secure a long-term supply of  
95 affordable and reliable energy, including exploration of the feasibility of a North  
96 Slope natural gas pipeline or liquefied natural gas (LNG) project.
- 97 ○ The City supports the development of renewable and other energy sources that are  
98 fiscally prudent, environmentally responsible, and economically feasible to ensure  
99 that Alaskans have access to clean, affordable, and reliable energy.
- 100 ○ The City further recognizes that Homer's geographic proximity, skilled workforce,  
101 and existing infrastructure — including its Port and Harbor transportation assets —  
102 position the community as a potential contributor to a North Slope natural gas  
103 pipeline or LNG project, and encourages the State to continue soliciting input from  
104 the City and local community as it evaluates the project's technical, commercial,  
105 and economic feasibility.

106  
107 ELECTION REFORM

- 108 ○ We support election reform that strengthens local control of elections and expands  
109 Alaskans' ability to participate in the process.
- 110 ○ We request all election reform policies be presented to the Alaska Association of  
111 Municipal Clerks for their review and input.
- 112 ○ Given the interest in the 2026 election cycle, we urge the Legislature to enact any  
113 reforms with sufficient lead time to allow election offices and municipal partners  
114 to properly implement changes to ensure smooth election administration.

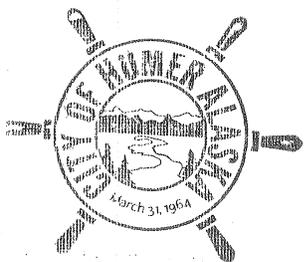
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116 STATEWIDE ISSUES

- 117 ○ We ask the legislature to consider how bills that would apply statewide yet are  
118 written specifically to benefit one region of the state may affect other parts of the  
119 state negatively.
- 120 ○ We ask the legislature to evaluate bills for how they may affect municipalities,  
121 particularly related to placing unfunded mandates or financial obligations to  
122 municipalities.
- 123 ○ We support legislative efforts that improve the timeliness of payments from the  
124 state to municipalities related to grants, contracts, community assistance, and  
125 other financial transactions.

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- **We recognize the complexities of the issues surrounding factory trawling in waters off the coast of Alaska, yet we are concerned about the potential negative impacts to multiple fisheries, local fishermen, and Homer's economy from the bycatch and habitat degradation associated with factory trawling. We ask that the legislature research and understand the full cultural, social, and economic impacts of the trawl fishery and how it affects coastal and Interior communities in Alaska, and take action to address needed changes to state statutes.**

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA, THIS 9<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.



CITY OF HOMER  
*Shelly Erickson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SHELLY ERICKSON, MAYOR PRO TEM

ATTEST:

*Amy Woodruff*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AMY WOODRUFF, CITY CLERK

Fiscal Note: N/A