Notice of Proposed Charter Amendment
City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska

Notice is given that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Juneau will place a charter amendment proposition on the October 4, 2005 Regular Municipal Election Ballot related to the scheduling of special elections.

The CBJ charter currently mandates that a special election shall be held within 60 days of the Assembly failing to enact a measure substantially similar to an initiated measure or repealing a referred measure.

Ordinance 2005-18 places a proposition on the October 4, 2005 regular election municipal ballot, which asks voters whether or not they support a change to the charter, which would allow local elected officials the opportunity to debate the merits of placing an initiative or referendum on a special election schedule or adding it to a regularly scheduled election ballot. It would not prevent an initiative or referendum from going to a vote. Such a change would affect the timing of such a vote. The ordinance was adopted as a potential cost saving measure. The cost to the local taxpayer to hold a special election is approximately $35,000.

The Legislature of the State of Alaska adopted a similar state statute during its 2005 session, which allowed municipalities the authority to adopt such a law.

The ballot proposition shall read substantially as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. _____
CHARTER AMENDMENT

Shall Section 7.10(b) of the Charter of the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska, be amended, as set forth in Ordinance 2005-18am?

BE IT ENACTED by the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska, subsection 7.10(b) reading as follows is adopted as a part of the Charter of the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska:

7.10(b) The election on a proposed initiative or referred measure shall be held at the next regular election, or, if already scheduled, a special election occurring not sooner than 90 days from the last day on which the assembly action may be completed on the proposed initiative or referred measure. If no regular election is scheduled to occur within 75 days after the certification of a petition and the Assembly determines it is in the best interest of the municipality, the Assembly may, by ordinance, order a special election to be held on the matter before the next scheduled election. The notice of election shall contain at least a summary of the proposed initiative or referred measure.

FOR THE AMENDMENT [  ]
AGAINST THE AMENDMENT [  ]

Any change in the election procedures of the City and Borough of Juneau requires "Pre-Clearance" by the U.S. Department of Justice, in Compliance with Section V of the Voting Rights Act.

If you have any comments or concerns about this measure, please contact the following persons:

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