January 12, 2007

Dear Fellow Election Workers:

Enclosed is a copy of a Notice of Proposed Election Code Change and Public Hearing regarding Ordinance 2007-02, which would provide the legal authority to the City and Borough of Juneau Election Official to conduct an election by-mail.

We are working to get this information out to the public in order to hear comments, questions, and find answers to any questions people may have about this type of voting procedure.

I am contacting you as a selected election worker who has served with the clerk’s office on several elections and has significant experience with election work. I ask you to pass this information on to others who may be interested or have input regarding this issue.

Ordinance 2007-02 will provide CBJ with the OPTION to use this form of voting. This ordinance will not require CBJ to conduct an election by mail. I would like to use the by-mail process for a special election, one which involves ballot propositions, rather than candidate races, for the first time through. I do not intend to conduct a regular October municipal election by mail, but am open to doing so in the future, if there is general support.

CBJ held a special election in 2003 and 2004. Both of these elections were held in the spring and had a lower turnout than at regular elections. Since they fell at an odd time, it was more difficult to find workers to serve on the election boards. By trying the by-mail process for a special election, we may be able to make voters more aware that the election is happening, and increase turnout.

One thing you can be assured of is that I will not urge the conduct of a by-mail election unless we feel confident in the process. I would appreciate any input you can give to the city on this subject, or any aspect of the election process.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Laurie Sica, CMC
Municipal Clerk