**Proposition 1**

**Temporary 3% Sales Tax Renewal**

**Q:** Why have a sales tax to provide revenues?

**A:** A sales tax helps to spread the cost of municipal services and capital projects to all users, in addition to property owners. Juneau is a city that relies heavily on tourism in the summer months and government business year around. With sales tax, visitors and temporary residents help pay for services while they are in the City and Borough of Juneau. The sales tax eases the tax burden on local residents.

The Assembly has consistently supported using the temporary sales tax revenues to fund operations and capital improvements, as it allows an opportunity for the voters to broadly reaffirm how the revenue is spent. Specific spending decisions are made during extensive budget hearings held annually by the Assembly.

**Q:** What is the 3% temporary sales tax? How long will it be in effect?

**A:** The current sales tax consists of a 1% permanent tax, a 3% temporary tax for a five-year term, and a 1% temporary tax for a two year term. Proposition No. 1 renews the 3% temporary tax. This sales tax has been in place and supported by Juneau voters since 1983. Each temporary sales tax has been for a period of four or five years. The current sales tax expires on June 30, 2002, so if voters approve this proposition, the tax will be renewed until June 30, 2007. The issue is on the ballot in 2000, in order to provide sufficient planning time for the CBJ budget.

**Q:** How much money does the sales tax generate?

**A:** In 2000, the 3% temporary sales tax will contribute about $16.8 million to the CBJ budget. While user fees, such as those for sewer, water, hospital, airport, and harbor services, provide nearly all the funding for those operations, most general government services depend equally on property tax and sales tax for funding.

In the past a significant portion of local government operating costs were funded by the State of Alaska. While financial support from the State is still significant in the area of education and some capital projects, state funds available for general government support have declined 87% in the past 15 years. In the current year, state support provides only $1.3 million for general government operations. The 3% sales tax has been used to offset these revenue losses in order to maintain local government services.

**Q:** What services will citizens receive from the revenue generated by Proposition No. 1?

**A:** If approved, revenue from Proposition No. 1 will be available beginning July 1, 2002. The funds will be used for the same purposes as the current sales tax. As with the current tax, the goal of the Assembly is to divide the total 3% tax among the following three categories:

- **1% for General Government Operations**
  1% temporary sales tax revenue to be combined with 1% permanent sales tax revenue and used to support...
general government operations. These include schools, police, street maintenance and snow removal, EMT/ambulance services, parks and recreation, libraries, planning and building inspection, as well as internal government services such as finance, personnel, law, and administration.

1% for Capital Improvements to Streets and Roads
1% of the temporary sales tax revenue to be used each year to pave and repair streets, construct and repair sidewalks, retaining walls and stairways, and provide drainage improvements.

1% for General Capital Improvements, an Emergency Budget Reserve, and Youth Activities

General Capital Improvements: In the past the City has received a substantial amount of State funds for local capital projects such as sewer and water extensions, major repair and maintenance of city buildings and facilities, communication improvements for police and fire, and safety and accessibility improvements. Since state funding for most projects has declined significantly and now requires a local match, the sales tax is a source for the local funding share for basic capital improvements.

Emergency Budget Reserve: Also known as the “Rainy Day Fund,” the Emergency Budget Reserve was created by the Assembly in 1992, at the recommendation of the Mayor’s Task Force on Fiscal Policy. The purpose of the reserve is to stabilize future government operations by providing a cushion against sudden reductions in state or federal revenue, or other unanticipated changes to city finances that could cause sharp cutbacks in services, increases to the property tax levy, or unacceptable impacts to the local economy.

The Assembly deposits funds as needed to the Reserve, and has spent funds from the Reserve on only two occasions -- in both instances to preserve the economic stability of the community. The first was to defend Juneau from the capital move effort; the second was to participate in an inter-government land trade and purchase to retain more than 100 federal jobs for Juneau. The Emergency Budget Reserve currently has a balance of $6.8 million.

Youth Activities: The youth activities fund is intended to help provide stable financial support for youth activities of all types (athletic, artistic, cultural, and academic) and reduce the amount of fund raising local youth groups must perform. The Assembly’s goal has been to provide about $450,000 in funding every year, which they have done since the fund’s inception in 1997. $200,000 is provided directly to the school district for extra-curricular activities. The remaining $250,000 is allocated among various youth groups who apply for grant funds. The grant allocations are made initially by a citizen board appointed by the Assembly, and adopted annually by the Assembly as part of the city’s budget.
Proposition 2

Temporary 1% sales tax.

**Q:** What is the purpose of this tax, and how would it affect the total sales tax I will pay?

**A:** The current 5% sales tax consists of a 1% permanent tax, a 3% temporary tax (the subject of Proposition No. 1) and a 1% temporary sales tax that expires December 31, 2000. The expiring 1% temporary sales tax was approved by voters in 1998 for the purpose of funding a variety of recreation and harbor projects.

The proposed 1% sales tax is also intended to fund a variety of new projects, including school, hospital, and recreation capital improvements. The tax would be in effect for five years, from January 1, 2001, until December 31, 2005. Thus, if both Proposition No. 1 and Proposition No. 2 are approved, the total sales tax will continue to be 5% until December 31, 2005.

**Q:** How much money will this 1% tax generate?

**A:** Over the 5 year term of the tax, the estimated revenue is $29 million.

**Q:** What projects would be funded by Proposition No. 2?

**A:** The intent of the Assembly is to use this tax for the following projects:

- **Bartlett Regional Hospital “Project 2005”: $20 million**
  - $20 million, or half, of the project’s $40 million budget would be funded by the 1% sales tax, and the other half would be funded by a one-time 5% increase to hospital fees. The project plans to add 12 hospital beds, convert semi-private rooms to private rooms with private shower and toilet facilities, add 5 birthing/postpartum rooms to the Obstetrics unit, double the size of the Critical Care unit from 4 to 8 beds and expand nurses stations, expand waiting areas for Emergency, Radiology and Pediatrics, add 6 beds to the Mental Health Unit, add a Hemodialysis Unit, improve the pharmacy and complete asbestos abatement throughout the hospital.

- **Ice Arena and Recreational Facility at Savikko Park: $1.1 million**
  - $1.1 million of the 1% sales tax is intended to support construction of a seasonal ice arena at Savikko Park in Douglas. The arena would be built over the existing tennis and basketball courts and provide ice for 7 months of the year, and covered tennis, basketball and other community activities 5 months of the year.

  The Douglas 4th of July Committee has raised some funds for the facility, called the “Treadwell Arena,” and is working on obtaining contributions of labor and materials to offset project costs. Preliminary cost estimates put total project cost at $3 million before any volunteer contributions are factored in. If approved, the $1.1 million of sales tax funds would supplement donated funds (currently $50,000) and $250,000 approved previously by voters. All the funds could then be used to match requests for further funding as needed to complete the project.
School Repairs and Improvements: $7.9 million
The school projects intended to be funded with this tax fall into two categories:

Improvements to Juneau Douglas High School. In 1999, voters approved a bond issue that included $12 million for upgrading the high school. Those funds provide improvements to the building structure, interior finishes, and mechanical and electrical systems. $4.1 million of the sales tax revenue is intended to be used for additional renovations that include the commons area, entry way and parking area, relocating high school administration and counseling offices, and renovating the auditorium, science labs and auxiliary gym. In addition, $600,000 is intended to be used to purchase off campus storage space to meet city and school district needs. Under state funding formulas, the conversion of onsite storage to parking uses will allow the new valley high school, approved by voters in 1999, to receive a higher percentage of state reimbursement.

School repairs and improvements approved for 70% state reimbursement. These repair and maintenance projects have already been approved by the State Department of Education and the Legislature for reimbursement of 70% of the cost. The projects are: Auke Bay Elementary Roof Replacement; Marie Drake and Harborview Elementary Gym Roof Replacement; High School and Gastineau Elementary Heating and Ventilation; High School Auxiliary Gym and Floyd Dryden Gym Floor Replacement; and Floyd Dryden Middle School Renovations.

Under state law, Juneau voters must approve a bond issue to qualify for 70% reimbursement. The bond issue in on the ballot as Proposition 3. Bonded debt is usually paid for with increases to the property tax levy, but it can be paid for with other revenues. If Proposition 2 and 3 are approved, the local share of the debt will be paid with about $3.2 million of the 1% sales tax. If only Proposition 3 is approved, the local share of the projects would be paid for with increases to property tax, as described under Proposition 3.

Q: When would each of these projects begin?
A: All projects take time to design and construct. By managing cash flow and varying project schedules, each of the projects can receive funds as they are needed.
Proposition 3

General obligation bonds for school repairs and improvements.

Q: What is the purpose of this bond issue?
A: This bond issue for $7.7 million funds the following school repair and improvement projects:

- Auke Bay Elementary Roof Replacement
- Marie Drake and Harborview Elementary Gym Roof Replacement
- High School and Gastineau Elementary Heating/Ventilation
- High School Auxiliary Gym and Floyd Dryden Middle School Gym Floor Replacement
- Floyd Dryden Middle School Renovations

Q: How does the State of Alaska reimburse cities for school projects and what is the local share going to be?
A: All of these projects have been approved for reimbursement of 70% of the cost by the State of Alaska.

Under state law, these school projects must be approved by the Department of Education and funded by the State Legislature to qualify for reimbursement. In addition, a community must approve a bond issue for the full amount of the project cost, in this case $7.7 million in principal. General obligation bonds pledge the full faith and credit of the city to pay off the debt. The state does not assume the debt from the city, it only reimburses the city for a portion of its debt payments. The bond issue, if approved, will be issued for 10 years. During those years, the reimbursement must be funded annually by the Legislature. Both principal and interest payments, which total $10,485,000, qualify for reimbursement.

Q: How would the local share of the cost of these projects be paid for?
A: There are two ways to pay for the school repairs and improvements presented on the ballot. The Assembly wants to provide citizens the opportunity to choose the financing method to fund these projects. If Proposition 2, the 1% temporary sales tax, is approved, and Proposition 3 is approved, the local share will be paid for with sales tax revenues. Property taxes will not be affected. If only Proposition 3 is approved, the local share will be paid for with property taxes. The property tax increase on a property with an assessed value of $100,000 will be $14.

Q: How will these projects affect school district operating costs?
A: Annual operation and maintenance costs of the school district will decrease by approximately $45,000 as a result of the proposed projects.
Proposition 4

**Q:** What is the purpose of this proposition?

**A:** The City Charter was ratified by voters in 1970 after three years of work sessions and public hearings by the Charter Commission. The Charter, Juneau’s “constitution,” is the document that establishes the name and the boundaries of the City and Borough of Juneau, sets out the powers and duties of the Assembly and officers of the city, and lays out the general organization of the city. Only the voters can amend the Charter, and they have approved several amendments since 1970. However, the Charter also requires that the question “Shall there be a Charter Commission to review or amend the Charter?” be asked every 10 years.

**Q:** What is the difference between charter amendments on the regular election ballot and the creation of a Charter Commission?

**A:** An amendment is a specific change to an identified section of the Charter. For example, one recent amendment approved by voters changed the date the Assembly receives the city budget. A Charter Commission is like a constitutional convention, it is an unrestricted review of the Charter by a nine-member Charter Commission.

If Proposition 4 is approved, the Charter Commission would be chosen at the next regular election on the same basis of representation as assembly members. Costs, fees, and other expenses of the Charter Commission would be paid by the city. The Charter also requires that the Assembly provide compensation for commission members. Amendments proposed by a majority of commission members must be submitted to the voters for approval.
**Proposition 5**

**Q:** How do citizen initiatives place questions on the ballot?

**A:** Proposition 5 is a citizen’s initiative on the subject of flightseeing noise. The City Charter and election code provide the initiative process as a means for citizens to propose legislation for enactment directly by the voters, rather than through the Assembly. A petitioners committee of at least five citizens must collect signatures of 25% of qualified voters in order to put a question on the ballot.

**Q:** What does the citizens’ initiative on tourist flights propose?

**A:** This initiative proposes an ordinance to limit tourist flights in Juneau. The initiative says that the right to peace and quiet is a part of the right of privacy under the Alaska Constitution. The provisions of the initiative include:

- The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) requests that the U.S. Forest Service over a three year period reduce the number of Juneau Icefield helicopter landing permits it issues until the number of permits issued each year is the same as the number issued in 1994.

- No business which holds Juneau Icefield helicopter landing permits or which regularly has tourist flights may conduct tourist flights or associated logistical flights between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m., Sunday through Friday, or anytime on Saturday. These restrictions apply between May 1 and September 30.

- No new heliport may be constructed unless it is demonstrated that the total noise impact on people and wildlife, which would result from its construction and use, would be reduced from that which existed in 1999.

- For a period of one year from the effective date of the initiative, CBJ shall not expand the zones in which heliports are a permitted conditional use.

- CBJ may not spend public money for studies or tests for new heliports. Existing contracts for such studies or tests will be cancelled.

- “Tourist flight” is defined as any flight which includes helicopter landings on the Juneau Icefield, or any helicopter or fixed-wing flight which originates in Juneau for the purpose of sightseeing or for transporting tourists where the passengers are returned to Juneau on the same day. “Tourist” is defined as a person visiting Juneau on a short-term basis.
Q: What is the purpose of Proposition No. 6?
A: Through Proposition 6, the Assembly is asking for citizens' advice on the best way to improve access to Juneau. This vote is non-binding. Currently, surface transportation to and from Juneau is provided by mainline ferries. Two alternatives exist:
- Enhanced ferry service,
- A road.
Proposition 6 asks which of the two alternatives citizens prefer.
### 2000 City and Borough of Juneau
### POLLING PLACES
### Municipal Election, October 3, 2000

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<tr>
<th>Precinct No.</th>
<th>Precinct Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04 320</td>
<td>Auke Bay</td>
<td>Auke Bay Fire Hall, 12 Mile Glacier Hwy</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 325</td>
<td>Brotherhood Bridge</td>
<td>Mendenhall Mall, 9105 Mendenhall Mall Road (West Side of Mall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 330</td>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>Douglas Library, 1016 Third, Douglas</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 340</td>
<td>Fritz Cove</td>
<td>Chapel by the Lake, Auke Lake Way, Smith Hall</td>
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<td>03 345</td>
<td>Juneau No. 1</td>
<td>CBJ Assembly Chambers, 155 South Seward St.</td>
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<td>03 350</td>
<td>Juneau No. 2</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church, 325 Gold Street</td>
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<td>03 370</td>
<td>Juneau No. 6</td>
<td>Northern Light United Church, 400 11th Street</td>
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<td>03 375</td>
<td>Juneau No. 7</td>
<td>Juneau Senior Center, 895 West 12th Street</td>
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<td>03 380</td>
<td>Juneau No. 9</td>
<td>Douglas Island Bible Church, 2770 David Street</td>
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<td>03 385</td>
<td>Juneau Airport</td>
<td>Nugget Mall, 8745 Glacier Hwy</td>
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<td>03 390</td>
<td>Lemon Creek</td>
<td>AEL&amp;P, 5601 Tonsgard Court</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 395</td>
<td>Lower Mendenhall No. 1</td>
<td>Mendenhall Mall, 9105 Mendenhall Mall Road (East Side of Mall)</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 400</td>
<td>Lower Mendenhall No. 2</td>
<td>Valley Senior Center, 9055 Atlin Drive</td>
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<td>04 405</td>
<td>Lynn Canal</td>
<td>Auke Bay Ferry Terminal, 13.8 Mile</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 410</td>
<td>North Douglas</td>
<td>Juneau Fire Station, 820 Glacier Avenue (Park in Back)</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 415</td>
<td>Salmon Creek</td>
<td>Bartlett Regional Hospital, 3260 Hospital Dr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 425</td>
<td>Switzer Creek</td>
<td>Bethel Assembly Church, 8001 Glacier Hwy</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 430</td>
<td>Upper Mendenhall No. 1</td>
<td>Glacier Valley Baptist Church, 3921 Mendenhall Loop Road</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 435</td>
<td>Upper Mendenhall No. 2</td>
<td>Floyd Dryden Middle School Library, 3800 Mendenhall Loop Road</td>
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</tbody>
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The polls are open 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.
Voter Information

Municipal Election
October 3, 2000