

## AML Policy Statements – 2022/2023

For member review – Resolutions requesting changes due by October 28

1

### 2 Principles

- 3 • Support the Alaska Constitution’s mandate “to provide for maximum local self-government”
- 4 • Support State policies that enable reduction of tax burdens and maintain local revenue authorities
- 5 • Support State revenue assistance as an investment in and support for municipal governance
- 6 • Support adequate State funding for basic public needs and State obligations, and leverage federal
- 7 infrastructure funding
- 8 • Support continued partnership with the State, whereby statutory mandates of the State are funded
- 9 fully and equitably, and in ways that preserve local government tax base and overall capacity

### 10 Policy Statements

#### 11 MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE (TITLE 29)

- 12 • Support increased capacity for State tax assessment and analysis to ensure appropriate value and
- 13 distribution of those taxes, including of fisheries, alcohol, minerals, cruise ships, and property.
- 14 • Support improvements to records retention, public records access, and public notice, while reducing
- 15 the administrative burden of information requests.
- 16 • Support reduction of the administrative burden of elections and municipal official reporting in small
- 17 communities.
- 18 • Support issuance of a municipal implementation impact and fiscal note in proposed legislation.
- 19 • Support reductions to State policy that limits or specifies municipal exemptions and other actions,
- 20 and support policy that expands municipal authorities and decision-making.
- 21 • Support efforts to increase the State’s ability, to directly support through DCRA or partner in ways
- 22 that increase local governance and financial management capacity, competency, and capabilities.
- 23 • Support reimbursement for all mandatory exemptions.
- 24 • Support efforts that appropriately account for the distribution of municipal lands and ensure the
- 25 availability of lands for future use by boroughs that emerge to fulfill Constitutional obligation
- 26 • Support policies and practices that grow tribal/city partnerships to collaboratively address Alaska’s
- 27 local challenges.

#### 28 COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE AND REVENUE SHARING

- 29 • Support a return to the baseline floor of \$60 million annual distribution.
- 30 • Support a method to waive debt, forgive loans, or otherwise bolster “financially stressed”
- 31 communities, and reduce the financial burden for all local governments.
- 32 • Support changes in statute to ensure that interest rate penalties found in AS 26.45.500(b) and other
- 33 statutes should be consistent with market rates, or reduced in the public interest.
- 34 • Support for the State to conduct an annual municipal rate review – fees charged to local
- 35 governments – and work to lower the costs to political subdivisions by State agencies.
- 36 • Community Assistance applications should have a biannual option, be streamlined for ease of
- 37 application, and/or DCRA should provide active assistance in completing it.

## AML Policy Statements – 2022/2023

*For member review – Resolutions requesting changes due by October 28*

### 1 PERS/TRS CHANGES

- 2 • Support the reduction of costs associated with termination studies and late payment.
- 3 • Support the development of a pathway to decrease overall unfunded liability.
- 4 • Oppose any cost shift of the State “on behalf” payment over 22%, or any other changes that haven’t
- 5 been negotiated and agreed to by municipalities.
- 6 • Support recognition of the value of a defined benefit plan as a significant tool for recruitment and
- 7 retention, and other options that might provide greater employee benefits.
- 8 • Support additional technical assistance to Tier 4 employees for long-term planning.
- 9 • Consider use of fiscal year windfalls to decrease debt obligation for long-term sustainability.

### 10 FISCAL POLICY

- 11 • Support agency and programmatic efficiency and right-sizing, but oppose cost-shifting to
- 12 municipalities and eliminating essential services utilized by municipalities and residents.
- 13 • Support the development of a broad-based tax to increase State revenue, consistent with a budget
- 14 that supports municipal and resident needs, and fulfills statutory and Constitutional obligations.
- 15 • Oppose State management of municipal sales tax, and preemption of local rates and exemptions.
- 16 • levels of capital spending.
- 17 • Support the exclusion of funding for local mandated obligations under any proposed spending cap.
- 18 • Support the sustainable use of earnings from the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- 19 • Support maintenance of PCE to ensure appropriate levels available for annual distribution.

### 20 PUBLIC SAFETY

- 21 • Support the return to cost-sharing or increased State contribution for attendance by municipal
- 22 police at the Trooper training academy.
- 23 • Support adding the 911 surcharge to cell service and VOIP billing.
- 24 • Support increased tools available for public safety recruitment and retention, including shared
- 25 State/municipal candidates and background checks.
- 26 • Support increasing the number of Village Public Safety Officers in communities without police
- 27 presence, and provide pathways for greater local governance.
- 28 • Support local input on determining what kind of law enforcement is needed/best for a community.
- 29 • Support state efforts to decrease access to and impacts from opioids and other substances, and
- 30 implement and strengthen local partnerships.
- 31 • Support increased state funding of community jails, training for correctional officers, and technical
- 32 support.
- 33 • Support funding of the administrative costs of municipal hosting of E911 systems or explore
- 34 statewide service and fee structure.
- 35 • Support elevating input from local governments in emergency/resilience planning and ensure policy
- 36 supports adequate and timely state resources to support local emergency response.
- 37 • Support and encourage partnerships between municipal and tribal governments to develop
- 38 effectively resourced public safety programs.

## AML Policy Statements – 2022/2023

*For member review – Resolutions requesting changes due by October 28*

- 1 • Support and prioritize increased funding and state capacity for key roles of our judicial system like  
2 prosecutors and public defenders relating to municipal and state offenses.
- 3 • Support efforts to decrease crime and reduce high rates of recidivism including education and  
4 substance abuse treatment.
- 5 • Support greater funding and development of Crisis Now programs.
- 6 • Support additional funding for the Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) system, include the funds  
7 needed to upgrade to the latest technology.

### 8 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 9 • Support increased investment in training and workforce development for residents.
- 10 • Support state responsiveness to local economic development planning, including local economic  
11 diversification and small business development strategies.
- 12 • Support efforts to sustain local economies, improve quality of life, and reduce regulatory burdens.
- 13 • Support investments into and policy that increases funding for, access to, and affordability of  
14 childcare and housing
- 15 • Support local control of licensing that contributes to economic activity, including that of alcohol, and  
16 reconsider State-level population limits that bypass local planning and zoning commission  
17 responsibilities.
- 18 • Support greater and more direct connections to EDA, or otherwise be represented by ARDOR-type  
19 organizations to prevent communities falling through the cracks.

### 20 INFRASTRUCTURE

- 21 • Support increased availability of and funding for teacher and public safety housing.
- 22 • Support State middle-mile investments that improve access to affordable, high-speed broadband,  
23 and foster the establishment of regional or local broadband planning committees.
- 24 • Recognize and identify ways to address aging transportation, energy, and water/sewer  
25 infrastructure.
- 26 • Support short-term and long-term strategies for the development of broadband and cellular  
27 coverage in Alaska, and planning efforts thereof.
- 28 • Support community relocation efforts, adaptation, and climate action plans.
- 29 • Support ways for municipalities to better access grant opportunities, including to remove barriers of  
30 cost, timing, match, and complexity.

### 31 EDUCATION

- 32 • Support early childhood education, career and technical education, and preparing, attracting and  
33 retaining local, qualified educators.
- 34 • Support for educational accountability and assessment that meets or exceeds federal requirements  
35 and maximizes local control.
- 36 • Oppose any reduction in school funding and support investment in school construction and deferred  
37 maintenance.
- 38 • Oppose forced consolidation of school districts and support negotiated efficiencies of operation.

## AML Policy Statements – 2022/2023

*For member review – Resolutions requesting changes due by October 28*

- 1 • Support the continuation of a well-funded school bond debt reimbursement program, including the
- 2 annual and full distribution of the State’s reimbursement.
- 3 • Support a sustainable university system capable of delivering educational opportunities, vocational
- 4 training, workforce development, and credible research.
- 5 • Support a sustainable increase to the BSA consistent with higher costs experienced by school
- 6 districts, including to consider and address inflationary pressures, health care costs, and fuel prices.
- 7 • Support culturally relevant curriculum development responsive to local decision-making.
- 8 • Support greater budget certainty sooner to school districts and local governments.

### 9 MARITIME

- 10 • Support for appropriately funded DF&G and increased investment in fisheries monitoring, research,
- 11 impact analysis, and outreach.
- 12 • Support continued investment in port and harbor infrastructure, and the development of an Alaska
- 13 Ports Strategy.
- 14 • Support full funding (equal to municipal match commitments) of the Harbor Matching Grant
- 15 program
- 16 • Support an active role in federal fisheries management, including bycatch, and clean water,
- 17 including through transboundary negotiations.

### 18 ENERGY

- 19 • Support for vetting of and investing in energy projects, processes and programs that decrease
- 20 energy costs and improve access to renewables.
- 21 • Support reimbursement of municipal debt or investments corresponding to and by utilizing PCE
- 22 savings.
- 23 • Support for energy corridors and regional energy projects, facilitating grid resilience.
- 24 • Support and encourage the use of and adequate funding of the Renewable Energy Fund and AIDEA
- 25 investments to promote renewable energy project developments.

### 26 TRANSPORTATION

- 27 • Support the use of State matching funds to ensure local projects are viable and competitive for
- 28 federal funding opportunities.
- 29 • Support increases to the State capital budget and to address deferred maintenance, including
- 30 through a mechanism such as general obligation bonds.
- 31 • Support a sustainable ferry system that continues basic, year-round, ferry service.
- 32 • Oppose the transfer of maintenance to municipalities as the requirement for road and airport
- 33 projects.
- 34 • Support locally delivered, federally funded project management by local governments.
- 35 • Support waiver of DOT&PF ICAP rates on passthrough funding to local governments.

### 36 RESOURCES

## AML Policy Statements – 2022/2023

*For member review – Resolutions requesting changes due by October 28*

- 1 • Support responsible resource development and the reduction of investment barriers alongside  
2 improved environmental risk management.
- 3 • Support the maintenance of the authority of local governments to tax the extraction or production  
4 of local resources.
- 5 • Support and encourage the consideration of PILT agreements to the extent that these promote  
6 resource development and meet local responsibilities to tax.
- 7 • Support the ability of local governments to exercise taxing authority within their jurisdiction, on the  
8 extraction, production, and exporting of non-renewable and renewable resources
- 9 • Support current structure of the Petroleum Property Tax, to the extent that local rates are not  
10 reduced in any way.
- 11 • Support greater regulation of bycatch from trawlers in the Gulf, recognizing the broader impacts on  
12 resident access.
- 13 • Support and work with DNR for certification program of local lumber so that it can occur in state.
- 14 • Support and revise the farm use statute to make less onerous to property owners

### 15 WATER, WASTEWATER AND SANITATION

- 16 • Support increased State investment in maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.
- 17 • Support reinstatement of the Municipal Matching Grant program to help municipalities match or  
18 supplement local and federal funding.
- 19 • Support and leverage federal funding to ensure that all communities with more than 25 residents  
20 have access to clean drinking water and sanitation.
- 21 • Support State funding for improvements to and maintenance of facilities to comply with the Clean  
22 Water Act, including those facilities that need 301h waivers for 401 certification.
- 23 • Support continued investment in Village Safe Water and the State Revolving Loan Fund, and  
24 expanded outreach and use as possible.
- 25 • Support state and federal efforts to bring clean water to PFAS-affected communities, and to help  
26 communities manage solid waste impacted by PFAS.
- 27 • Support state review of certification standards of wastewater employees to support a larger pool of  
28 qualified operators for rural communities.

### 29 Public Health

- 30 • Support sharing of State public health data and analytics to inform local decision-making.
- 31 • Support matching grants and other revenue sharing that increases the ability for local governments  
32 to support residents.
- 33 • Support the clarification of statutory language related to the powers of local governments to make  
34 public health related decisions.
- 35 • Support for funding for addiction treatment and reentry that is culturally appropriate.
- 36 • Support local governments' ability to address substance abuse issues by increasing the number of  
37 rehab facilities in the state, as well as mental health and wellness