



# Alaska State Legislature

Representative Matt Claman

## December 2017 Community Council Update

**End of Fourth Special Session** — On the 19th day of the 30-day special session, the Senate concurred with the House changes to Senate Bill 54 and adjourned *sine die* after learning the bill had constitutional issues. Even though Governor Walker called the fourth special session to address both new revenue to help solve Alaska's financial challenges and improving public safety, the legislature took no action on new revenue. While the House passed a new revenue measure in the first 90 days of the regular session in April, the Senate held only one hearing on the Governor's proposed wage tax during the fourth special session and adjourned with eleven days remaining.

Rather than address both issues on the special session call, the fourth special session focused on public safety. Over the course of over two weeks of hearings, the House adopted over 30 amendments to the Senate's version of SB 54. One amendment approved on the House floor—but never considered by the House Judiciary Committee or the House Finance Committee—made changes to the sentencing range for first-time class C felony offenders. According to testimony presented to the Senate Finance Committee, this amendment may be unconstitutional.

The comprehensive plan to improve criminal justice and public safety, which has already resulted in the legislature passing four bills (SB 64 in 2014, SB 91 in 2016, and SB 55 & SB 54 in 2017), recognizes that Alaska was spending more and more money on prisons at the same time crime was rising. Faced with doing the same thing over and over again, hoping for a better result, and building another prison; Alaskans chose to find innovative ways to control spending and improve public safety. Improvements to probation and parole supervision are already showing better results; adjustments to sentences for non-violent, first-time offenders have saved money and focused resources on violent, repeat offenders; and the new pre-trial supervision program starting January 2018 should further improve public safety.

During the special session, we learned that Alaskans are hurting from the budget cuts to prosecutors and State Troopers. I am committed to increasing support for both the Department of Law and the Department of Public Safety when we return to Juneau in January.

**Pre-Session Constituent Meeting** — Please join me for pizza, beverages, and an opportunity to discuss the upcoming legislative session before we return to Juneau.

**When:** Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 to 8:00 pm

**Where:** Spenard Recreation Center, 2020 W 48<sup>th</sup> Ave.

State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Phone: (907) 465-4919 Email: [Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov)

*Serving the Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain Communities*



Alaska International Airport System  
Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport  
Fairbanks International Airport

P.O. Box 196960  
Anchorage, AK 99519-6960  
Main: 907.266.2526  
Fax: 907.243.0663  
Website: anchorageairport.com

## Anchorage Airport Update December 2017

### 1. LHD Seaplane Base Tiedown Regulations:

- The aircraft tie-down and floatplane slip permit regulations advisory committee met November 1<sup>st</sup>. The meeting notes can be found at [dot.state.ak.us/anc/business/generalAviation/index.shtml](http://dot.state.ak.us/anc/business/generalAviation/index.shtml).
- Proposed changes to the regulations are now out for public notice and comment through January 19, 2018. The notice may be viewed along with the change proposals on the Online Public Notice System at [aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=187873](http://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=187873).
- A public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 12, 2017, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Susitna Room of the Coast International Inn, 3450 Aviation Avenue, Anchorage, AK, 99502.

2. **Lake Hood Seaplane Base Frozen Lakes:** Winter operations are in effect, and we are requesting everyone's help to spread the reminder to please stay off the ice. The frozen lakes remain restricted active runway surfaces all winter long for ski operations. For further information please contact the Lake Hood Office at 907-266-2410.

3. **Passenger Drop-off/Pick-up:** This holiday season we are reminding the public when you pick up/drop off passengers at the airport the driver of the vehicle must stay with the vehicle at all times. Vehicles on the ramp cannot be left unattended, and may be subject to a potential Police citation and a TSA fine. The Anchorage airport is one of the few places that offer free parking in the south terminal parking garage for up to 30 minutes. A cell phone lot is also available to those awaiting arrivals, and further information can be found here: [dot.alaska.gov/anc/travelerInfo/parkingSrvcs.shtml#CellLot](http://dot.alaska.gov/anc/travelerInfo/parkingSrvcs.shtml#CellLot)

4. **Terminal Music Performances:** Throughout the month various elementary schools and musical groups will be performing for the traveling public near the screening checkpoint. A schedule of performances will be posted to the airport website.

5. **ANC Runway 15/33 Rehabilitation Project:** The project will rehabilitate and widen RW 15/33 (the north/south runway), and update taxiway geometry to meet FAA standards through the summers of 2018 and 2019. The runway will be partially closed during the 2018 summer and fully closed during the 2019 summer, which will require heavier cargo aircraft to be shifted to the east-west runways during construction.

6. **Airport Recruitment:** The Airport is recruiting for equipment mechanics and operators, as well as facility maintenance positions and Police and Fire officers. Information on these opportunities can be found on Workplace Alaska or through Local 71 at the following web addresses: [local71.com/jobs](http://local71.com/jobs) and [governmentjobs.com/careers/Alaska](http://governmentjobs.com/careers/Alaska).

7. **Sign up for GovDelivery:** at [anchorageairport.com](http://anchorageairport.com) to receive emails on all sorts of DOT related things. Also visit us on Facebook and Twitter. [dot.state.ak.us/anc/business/generalAviation/index.shtml](http://dot.state.ak.us/anc/business/generalAviation/index.shtml)

*"To Keep Alaska Flying and Thriving."*

## Why Vote By Mail?

Vote by Mail elections are extremely popular among voters in Washington, Oregon, and Colorado, states that have implemented vote by mail elections. This year Anchorage is moving to Vote by Mail. We expect higher than average voter turnout.

Closer to home, voters in a few precincts on the Kenai Peninsula vote exclusively by mail. Here in Anchorage, growing numbers of voters are already choosing to vote Absentee by Mail. Between 2012 and 2015, Absentee by Mail requests almost tripled, increasing **276.4%**!



## Is Vote By Mail Secure? Yes!

- Vote by mail technology allows voters to track the status of their ballots at identified points throughout the verification process.
- State of the art handwriting analysis provides signature verification, which can compare voter signatures to an official voter signature on file.
- After voter information is verified, the returned envelope is accepted, opened in a way that protects the secrecy of the ballot, and the ballot is scanned for counting.
- Advances in election technology maintain confidentiality and voting integrity.



## Vote By Mail Elections:

- Keep regular voters engaged.
- Encourage new voter participation.
- Capture fraud attempts by verifying signatures.
- Use technology to inform voters about the status of their ballot.
- Confer no partisan advantage.
- Centralize and streamline election administration.
- Increase transparency in the election process.
- Protect voters' rights to secret ballots.
- Safeguard ballot accountability.

### Learn More Online:

**WEB:**

[www.muni.org/VotebyMail](http://www.muni.org/VotebyMail)

**Twitter:**

@MunicipalClerk

**Facebook:**

@Municipal Clerk's Office

# Anchorage VOTES

## Vote By Mail Anchorage 2018

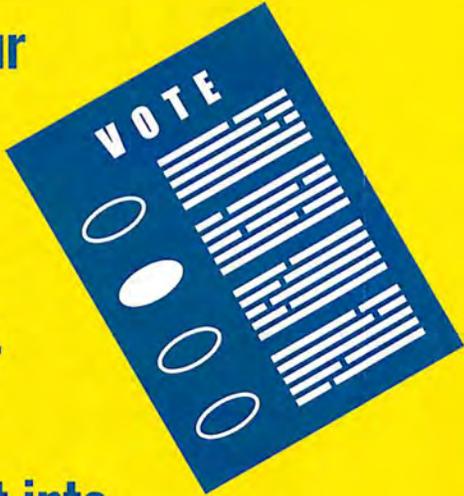
The Municipality of Anchorage conducts Vote by Mail elections, supplemented by accessible voting centers, to simplify and streamline the election process for Anchorage.

# April 3, 2018 will be a Vote by Mail Election

Vote by Mail is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3!



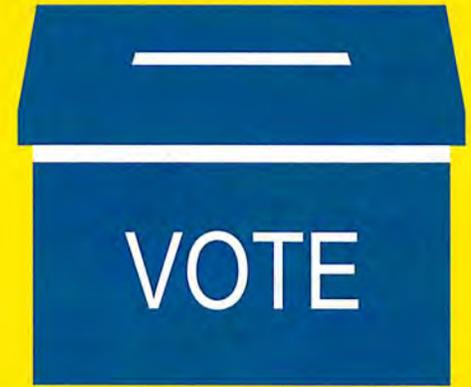
**1. Vote your ballot, filling in the ovals completely.**



**Place your voted ballot into the enclosed security envelope and place the security envelope into the ballot return envelope.**



**2. Sign the voter declaration on the back of the ballot return envelope.**



**3. Return your ballot with a first class stamp at the United States Postal Service. Or save postage and place your ballot in a Secure Drop Box or an Accessible Vote Center.**

## Call to Amend the Constitution on Corporate Personhood

1. The *Citizens United v. FEC* decision of the Supreme Court eliminated the legal limits on corporate spending to influence elections.
2. Already billions of dollars are being spent on negative ads, which often misinform voters rather than lead to productive discussion of the states' and nation's most important issues.
3. Unless the Supreme Court decides to reverse this decision, the only way to correct it is to amend the US Constitution.

4. While this is a national issue, it is at the heart of our democratic form of governance, right down to the community level.
5. This is not a partisan issue. In an independent poll, 60% of Republicans, 63% of Democrats, and 67% of Independents who have heard about *Citizens United* think the new rules have a negative effect on campaigns. (<http://www.people-press.org/2012/01/17/super-pacs-having-negative-impact-say-voters-aware-of-citizens-united-ruling/> )

### Partisans Agree on Negative Effects of New Rules

	All voters	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Heard about	54	51	54	56
<b>Among those who have heard</b>				
<i>Effect on campaign</i>				
Negative effect	65	60	63	67
Positive effect	16	17	21	12
No effect	10	16	6	11
Mixed/DK	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Jan. 11-16, 2012. Q39-Q61. Based on registered voters (N=1,207). Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

6. The majority of small businesses also see this as a concern. In an independent poll, 66% of small business owners view the *Citizens United* decision as bad for small business, and 88% held a negative view of money in politics overall. (<http://mainstreetalliance.org/5487/smallbusiness-v-citizensunited/#more-5487>)
7. Campaign finance reform is a conservative legacy.
  - In a recent Republican Primary Vote in Wisconsin, voters approved a resolution calling for an amendment to the US Constitution to establish that corporations are not people and money is not speech.
  - In the words of conservative icon Barry Goldwater, "Our nation faces a crisis of liberty if we do not control campaign expenditures."
  - The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 was introduced by Senator John McCain and signed into law by George W. Bush in 2003.
  - Republican Senator Warren Rudman of New Hampshire recently wrote in favor of limiting campaign contributions, stating that "free speech can hardly be called free when only the rich are heard."
8. Resolutions are being passed across the nation at the state, city and local levels. Many organizations and tens of thousands of persons across this nation, including several communities around Alaska, are joining in this move to amend the US constitution. See <http://united4thepeople.org/state-and-local-support-2/>
9. Website for more information: [www.movetoamend.org](http://www.movetoamend.org) (Move To Amend)

This information provided by the Move to Amend, Anchorage Affiliate Group. You can learn more about us at the Move to Amend website: [www.movetoamend.org/ak-anchorage](http://www.movetoamend.org/ak-anchorage)

(A Sample Resolution Form)

A Resolution Passed by the \_\_\_\_\_  
Community Council Regarding Local Support of an Amendment to the U.S.  
Constitution on Corporate Personhood and Free Speech

Be it resolved, the People of the \_\_\_\_\_ Community Council call for amending the  
United States Constitution to establish that:

1. Only human beings are entitled to constitutional rights, and
2. Money is not speech, and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not  
equivalent to limiting political speech.

Copies of this resolution will be shared with the Anchorage Assembly, and the delegations to  
the Alaska State Legislature and the U.S. Congress.

Passed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_ 201\_\_ by a vote of \_\_\_\_ as attested by the following:

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Are constitutional rights a local issue?

## HEIGHTS OBSERVER

March 4, 2016

by Carla Rautenberg and Deborah Van Kleef

[Heights Observer](#)

Is amending the U.S. Constitution a local issue, and, if so, how?

Ever since an initiative by Cleveland Heights citizens placed Issue 32 on the November 2013 ballot, some residents have asked that question. Two city council members expressed opposing views on it at a Jan. 21 public hearing, where residents testified about abuses of corporate power and the corrupting effect of money in politics.

Issue 32 stated: “Shall the proposed ordinance entitled ‘Political Influence by Corporate Entities,’ establishing annual public hearings before City Council on this subject, and sending a summary of the public hearing to Congressional and State representatives, and calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution declaring that only human beings, not corporations, are legal persons with Constitutional rights and that money is not the equivalent of speech, be adopted?” (Emphasis added.)

With a resounding 78 percent “yes” vote, Issue 32 became Title XV, Chapter 183 of the Cleveland Heights Codified Ordinances. Similar laws have been approved by voters in six other Ohio cities, and in hundreds of municipalities across the United States. Another will be on the Toledo ballot on March 15, and citizens are collecting signatures for ballot initiatives in Shaker Heights, South Euclid and Cleveland.

So, how is the proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution a concern of local city councils and mayors?

Corporate agenda-setting has led to much less effective regulation and to the slashing of funds for safe water, clean air, public education, roads and bridges, public health and decent jobs. Budget cuts at the state and federal levels return less of our tax money to municipalities, thereby impoverishing our cities and school districts.

With the passage of Issue 32, Cleveland Heights joined a grassroots nonpartisan national movement of citizens, Move to Amend, which arose in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United decision. That decision built upon long-standing (though obscure) precedents of treating corporations as legal “persons” and money as constitutionally protected free speech. After the 2008 presidential race, up to then the most expensive in history, Citizens United made an already terrible situation dramatically worse.

It makes sense to build support for a federal constitutional amendment from the local level up. Once approved by Congress, an amendment must be ratified by three-fourths of the states. Local

initiative campaigns educate citizens and prepare them to pressure state governments when the time comes for ratification.

The annual public hearing affords any citizen the opportunity to place into the public record evidence of how, in the guise of legal personhood, corporations usurp the sovereign rights of We the People.

On Jan. 21, 17 area residents cited dozens of ways that corporate lobbying and secret campaign contributions have degraded the ability of government to address our most pressing problems, including:

- damaging effects on public education of for-profit charter schools and the corporate-funded Common Core State Standards;
- Ohio's failure to regulate energy costs;
- lack of access to health care despite the Affordable Care Act;
- the squeeze on local government budgets when corporations and wealthy individuals win sweeping tax breaks as a result of their "investments" in the campaigns of state legislators and governors—the loss to Cleveland Heights, \$2.5 million per year;
- loss of jobs, tax revenue and national sovereignty to past and future international trade agreements.

They connected the dots: policies serving the needs of unaccountable, unelected corporate interests too often negatively affect our daily lives.

After listening to the public testimony, Mayor Cheryl Stephens thanked citizens for their contributions and asked council members if they had any remarks.

Council Member Mary Dunbar suggested that council's time would be better spent working on specific local problems. She cited as examples the lack of suitable housing for senior citizens who wish to remain in Cleveland Heights, and the priority set by the Ohio Department of Transportation on funding new roads rather than repairing existing ones. "I just don't feel this is the best use of my time, and I know that's not a popular message to this group," Dunbar stated.

Council Member Melissa Yasinow disagreed, and said, "[W]e are the most basic and important intersection between the people and their government. . . . If we can't have one night a year on this issue for people to come and say what matters to them and what matters to their democracy, then I think we've failed as a local government."

You can watch the third annual hearing on video, posted on the city's website.

Jan. 21 was the sixth anniversary of the Citizens United decision.

*Carla Rautenberg is an activist and a lifelong Cleveland Heights resident. Deborah Van Kleef is a musician and writer. She grew up in Cleveland Heights, and has lived here as an adult for 30 years.*

# 'We Will Only Get Louder': Dozens of Communities Vote to Boot Big Money from Politics



November 6, 2014  
Deirdre Fulton  
Common Dreams

## ***Huge margins back up claim that 'nearly all Americans share the sentiment that corporations should not have the same rights as people'***

Citizens in dozens of communities voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday for their legislators to pass a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* decision, which opened the door for the super-rich and corporations to trample democracy.

As they headed to the polls to vote in what turned out to be the most expensive midterm election in history — one in which outside money from undisclosed sources played an outsized role and the number of small individual donors shrank — voters across the country made clear their desire to end corporate personhood and get big money out of politics.

According to Wisconsin Move to Amend, the state chapter of the national coalition working to overturn *Citizens United*, residents of 12 Wisconsin communities voted in favor of amending the U.S. Constitution to reflect that:

1. Only human beings — not corporations, limited liability companies, unions, nonprofit organizations or similar associations — are endowed with Constitutional rights; and
2. Money is not speech and, therefore, regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limited political speech.

The local measures, which were all similarly worded, gained anywhere from 70 percent of the vote in Milwaukee County to 83 percent support in the village of Park Ridge. There are now 54 jurisdictions in Wisconsin that have called for such an amendment, in addition to 16 state legislatures and well over 500 municipalities nationwide.

Paradoxically, Wisconsin voters also re-elected Republican Governor Scott Walker on Tuesday, whose success can be credited at least in part to the post-*Citizens United* era of campaign finance.

In 2012, in the wake of the failed effort to recall Walker, journalist Amy Goodman wrote: “Central to Walker’s win was a massive infusion of campaign cash, saturating the Badger State with months of political advertising. His win signals less a loss for the unions than a loss for our democracy in this post-*Citizens United* era, when elections can be bought with the help of a few billionaires.”

Also on Tuesday, Move to Amend measures in Alachua County, Florida and the Ohio towns of Chagrin Falls and Mentor all passed with at least two-thirds of the vote.

“It’s pretty obvious that in each and every election that more and more money is coming from fewer sources,” Ohio’s Move to Amend coordinator Greg Coleridge told the *Plain Dealer*. “It’s toxic to democracy. Voters are saying that they’ve had enough.”

In Massachusetts, voters in 18 districts were asked: “Shall the state representative from this district be instructed to vote in favor of a resolution calling upon Congress to propose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution affirming that 1) rights protected under the Constitution are the rights of natural persons only and 2) both Congress and the states may place limits on political contributions and political spending?”

While there was no official tally of which cities and towns voted in favor of the non-binding ballot question, the measure appeared to have won solid support in communities all over the state, including Appleton, Fitchburg and Hopkinton.

The resounding victories should send a sharp message to Congress, said Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, national director of Move to Amend.

“Nearly all Americans share the sentiment that corporations should not have the same rights as people, and big money in politics should be removed,” she said. “It is time for Congress to pass the We the People Amendment and send it to the states for ratification. The leadership of both parties need to realize that their voters are clamoring for this amendment, and we are only going to get louder.”

# Road Maintenance & Safety

This public service message brought to you by Brooks & Associates in cooperation with Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities and Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

As State of Alaska revenue falls...



...and DOT budgets are cut,

we reduce labor

and equipment,

...and prioritize maintenance for roads, airports...



...and essential facilities.

## Alaskan drivers, are you ready for your next trip?

Leave early.



Check the weather forecast.

Prepare your vehicle.

Check tires. Check fluid levels - oil, gas and windshield washer

Watch for  
water, snow  
and ice on the  
road.



Drive  
defensively.



Drive without distractions  
or impairments.



Obey speed  
limits and  
adjust speed  
for hazardous  
road conditions.

SPEED  
LIMIT  
55

Watch for  
bicycles,  
work zones,  
motorcycles,  
and hazards.



Watch for pedestrians.

The most important factor  
involving your safety on  
the roads is **YOU!**

Sign up for road condition alerts.



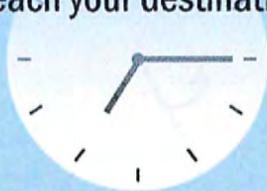
**DRIVE SAFELY**

# 4 TIPS

## FOR A SAFE COMMUTE IN WINTER WEATHER



**1** Give yourself extra time to reach your destination.



**2** Clear off all the snow and ice from the outside of your vehicle.

Don't forget mirrors, windows, lights and both windshields.

**3** Turn on your vehicle's headlights before getting out on the road.

While we're talking about lights, don't forget to use your turn signals, too.



**4** Allow more room between you and the vehicle in front of you.

