



**OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CLERK/
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City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)
155 S. Seward St., Room 202
Juneau, Alaska 99801
Phone: (907)586-0203 Fax: (907)586-4552
email: Beth.McEwen@juneau.org

Date: June 19, 2020
To: CBJ Assemblymembers & Staff
From: Beth McEwen, Municipal Clerk/Election Official
Subject: By Mail Election Changes for October 6, 2020 Regular Municipal Election

With the move to a By Mail Election this October in coordination with the Municipality of Anchorage, there is a need to make some code changes to facilitate that process. Attached is Ordinance 2020-24 and Emergency Ordinance 2020-30 which will be up for Public Hearing/Assembly action at the June 29 Regular Assembly meeting. Along with the ordinances, also attached is a revised quick reference date list showing the new dates in blue/bold font and the previous dates if it was still a polling place based election in red strike-through.

Some of the key changes required in order to conduct a By Mail election are summarized below:

- The timeframes involved have been stretched out to begin earlier and end later in order to facilitate the ballot production, mailing, receiving, and review processes. (See attached) .
- Since we will be using the Municipality of Anchorage Election Team to assist us in conducting this election, the election worker qualifications needed to change from being a Juneau registered voter to an Alaskan registered voter.
- The By Mail Election process provides for each registered voter within the CBJ boundaries to be mailed a ballot at the mailing address listed on their voter registration on file with the State of Alaska.
- Clerk/Election staff is currently preparing a postcard mailing to all registered voters encouraging them to verify and/or update their voter registration addresses to ensure they are accurate.
- Ballots will not be mailed to voters who have had their election mail returned as undeliverable.
- Voters can submit an application to have their ballot mailed to an alternative address and/or apply for an electronic transmission ballot similar to submitting a previous Absentee By Mail or Absentee By Fax ballot in our poll based elections. For those instances in which a voter did not receive a ballot or needs to obtain a replacement ballot, they can do so at a Vote Center.
- The Early/Absentee Voting Stations are being converted to Vote Center(s) and while we hope to have at least two Vote Centers available in Juneau, due to space availability and staffing resources, the main Vote Center will be located in the Assembly Chambers. This will require Election use of the Chambers 24/7 from September 15-October 7 and also October 19-20.
- A major change in using this process is that preliminary “unofficial results” will not be available on Election night. The first round of preliminary “unofficial results” are expected on Friday, October 9 with final certification scheduled to take place on Tuesday, October 20.

While this provides a small glimpse at some key changes involved with conducting a By Mail Election, I’d be happy to answer any questions members may have about the election process and/or bring answers back to the Assembly at the June 29 meeting.

For more details on the Municipality of Anchorage Election By Mail process you may want to check out this online article.

<https://www.sightline.org/2020/06/16/how-anchorage-ran-a-safe-smooth-pandemic-election/>