

September 16, 2022

A Resolution opposing a Constitutional Convention.

WHEREAS, the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce’s vision is to advance a successful business climate by attending to the civic, economic and cultural betterment of our community; and

WHEREAS, Alaska’s Constitution provides the foundation for economic and social stability, directly supporting activities that promote sustainable economies and healthy communities in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, A constitutional convention could open up the entire constitution for revision; and

WHEREAS, if voters were to authorize a convention, convention delegates elected at a subsequent election, would have plenary power to change any and all aspects of the constitution for submission to the voters; and

WHEREAS, Art. XIII, sec. 3 of the Alaska Constitution provides that “if during any ten-year period a constitutional convention has not been held, the lieutenant governor shall place on the ballot for the next general election the question: “Shall there be a Constitutional Convention?” and

WHEREAS, Alaska voters overwhelmingly rejected the call for a constitutional convention in 1972 and in successive elections held in 1982, 1992, 2002, and 2012; and

WHEREAS, Alaska voters will be asked to vote on whether to convene a constitutional convention at the next general election on November 8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution’s system has been flexible, allowing cities and boroughs to merge when appropriate, and allowing for classes of municipalities, including home rule municipalities; and

WHEREAS, where local government is concerned, the Alaska Constitution as written provides a necessary and empowering legal framework within which to exert local control and respond to resident priorities; and

WHEREAS, a constitutional convention would inject years of uncertainty into the statutory and regulatory frameworks that govern every aspect of Alaskans' lives; and

WHEREAS, the principles contained in our constitution, such as common use of our natural resources, sustained yield management, public domain, access to fisheries, mineral and water rights, and access to navigable waters, all of which are important to Alaska residents and businesses could be put in jeopardy; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors: Opposes a state constitutional convention, which is unnecessary at this time and which would negatively impact Alaska and its ability to secure investment and create jobs in the future.”

Bruce Bustamante



President & CEO

Nancy Johnson



Chair of the Board of Directors