



# The Cordova Conversation

## NEWS & NOTICES FROM CITY HALL

### Hello, public!

There has been some confusion regarding what, exactly, Ballot Proposition 2 is, and what it seeks to accomplish. For those interested, here is a portion of the resolution that describes the rationale behind it:

#### CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA RESOLUTION 11-20-39

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CORDOVA, ALASKA, PLACING A BALLOT PROPOSITION BEFORE THE VOTERS AT THE REGULAR ELECTION OF MARCH 2, 2021 AMENDING SECTION 5-19 ENTITLED "PERSONAL INTEREST" TO CLARIFY THE LANGUAGE AND EXPAND THE CITY'S ABILITY TO PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, SELL AND CONTRACT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THE CITY MANAGER WITHOUT COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT SO LONG AS COUNCIL APPROVES SALES, PURCHASES, EXCHANGES OR CONTRACTS OF SUBSTANTIAL VALUE VIA ORDINANCE AND THE CITY PUBLICLY DISCLOSES THE ESSENTIAL TERMS OF ALL SUCH TRANSACTIONS

WHEREAS, The City Council recognizes that the City of Cordova ("City") is a small community with limited resources for goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the City's inability to contract with elected officials for goods and services in response to an emergency or when terms were favorable to the City negatively impacted the City; and

WHEREAS, the prohibitions in City Charter 5-19 are necessary but unduly restrict Council's ability to utilize goods and services held or offered by elected officials or the City Manager even when doing so would financially benefit the City; and

WHEREAS, the prohibitions in Charter Section 5-19 and the consequences for violating them are unclear; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendments to City Charter 5-19 clarify the limitations on procurement between the City and its elected officials and City Manager and protect the City from improper dealings or favoritism towards elected officials or the City Manager while preserving the City's ability to conduct its business in a manner most advantageous to the City and its taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

Section 1. The City shall submit the following Proposition No. 1 amending City Charter Section 5-19 to the qualified City voters at the March 2, 2021 regular City election. The proposition must receive an affirmative vote from a majority of the qualified voters voting on the question to be approved.

#### Here is the relevant Charter section as it reads now

##### Section 5-19. — Personal interest.

Neither the mayor, any councilman, city manager, utility manager, any member of the utility board, nor any other board shall sell or barter anything to the city or to a contractor supplying the city; or make any contract with the city; or purchase anything from the city other than those things which the city offers generally to the public (as for example, utility services), and then only on the same terms as are offered to the public, unless an invitation to submit sealed bids is published, and the city accepts the sealed bid which is most advantageous to the city; provided that such sale, contract or purchase involving a consideration of not more than \$100 in value, may be made without bids; and provided further that every such sale, contract or purchase, regardless of consideration, must be reported to the council, utility board, or other such board involved, and entered in its respective journal before the city can pay out any money thereon or be bound thereby. Any such officer violating this section, upon conviction thereof, shall thereby forfeit his office. Any violation of this section, with the knowledge, express or implied, of the person or corporation contracting with the city shall render the contract voidable by the city manager, or the council, utility manager, utility board, or any other elected board.

#### And here is the proposed amendment: Section 5-19. — Personal interest.

Except when approved by City Council via ordinance, the City Manager and elected City officials may only sell, purchase, barter or contract with the City for property, goods or services with a value that constitutes a substantial financial interest if the sale, purchase or exchange of such property, goods or services is awarded via a competitive procurement method and in compliance with City law. This prohibition does not apply to sales, purchases, exchanges or contracts with the City that are offered to all members of the public under the same or substantially similar terms, including but not limited to utility agreements, waste management services, telephone services, heating services, and other public services. The City shall publicly disclose the essential terms of any sale, purchase, barter or contract with the City Manager or an elected official before entering into the transaction. An elected official who violates this provision shall forfeit his or her office upon determination by City Council that a violation has occurred. Any contract entered into in violation of this provision shall be voidable by City Council.

**Compare them side-by-side  
and see what you think!**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### CORDOVA REGULAR ELECTION MARCH 2, 2021 — Notice of Bonded Indebtedness

One proposition for the issuance of general obligation debt for the City of Cordova has been placed on the ballot for the Regular City Election of March 2, 2021. The City provides the following notice of indebtedness in accordance with AS 29.47.190(b):

The current total general obligation indebtedness of the City as of 12/31/20 is \$12,630,000 and in unsold bonds, \$0.

The cost of the debt service (principal

and interest) on the current general obligation indebtedness of the City will be \$1,773,475 during the 2021 fiscal year, and a total of \$14,294,525 to the final maturity of all outstanding general obligation bonds.

The total assessed value of taxable real and personal property in the City for the 2020 fiscal year was \$ 360,596,087.

### CITY ELECTION INFO

## Cordova Regular Election March 2, 2021 – general information

**Polling place:** Cordova Center Community Room A  
**Voting hours:** 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

To elect:		
Seat D	One (1) City Council Member	for One (1) Regular, Three (3) Year Term
Seat E	One (1) City Council Member	for One (1) Regular, Three (3) Year Term

To elect:		
Two (2) School Board Members		for Two (2) Regular, Three (3) Year Terms

To elect:		
Two (2) CCMC Authority Board Members		for Two (2) Regular, Three (3) Year Terms
One (1) CCMC Authority Board Member		for One (1), One (1) Year Term

**To vote on propositions 1 and 2:**

### Proposition No. 1

#### General obligation debt Landfill Equipment Upgrades

May the City of Cordova borrow up to \$1,210,000 (One Million Two Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars) from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), of which \$500,000 qualifies for forgiveness if the full amount is borrowed, in order to replace land fill heavy equipment necessary to comply with DEC requirements that protect Cordova's soil and water quality?

- Yes  
 No

### Proposition No. 2

#### Repeal and reenactment of City Charter Section 5-19 Personal Interest Should Cordova City Charter Section 5-19 be amended to read as follows:

Except when approved by City Council via ordinance, the City Manager and elected City officials may only sell, purchase, barter or contract with the City for property, goods or services with a value that constitutes a substantial financial interest if the sale, purchase or exchange of such property, goods or services is awarded via a competitive procurement method and in compliance with City law. This prohibition does not apply to sales, purchases, exchanges or contracts with the City that are offered to all members of the public under the same or substantially similar terms, including but not limited to utility agreements, waste management services, telephone services, heating services, and other public services. The City shall publicly disclose the essential terms of any sale, purchase, barter or contract with the City Manager or an elected official before entering into the transaction. An elected official who violates this provision shall forfeit his or her office upon determination by City Council that a violation has occurred. Any contract entered into in violation of this provision shall be voidable by City Council.

- Yes  
 No

- **Early in-person voting at Cordova Center:** Available February 9 – March 1, 2021, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Not including the President's Day Holiday, Monday February 15, 2021.
- **Application for absentee voting:** Submit a request for an absentee ballot to: City Clerk, City of Cordova, PO Box 1210, Cordova, AK 99574; or by facsimile to 424-6000 or by email to [cityclerk@cityofcordova.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofcordova.net). Application by mail shall be postmarked, and application by facsimile or email shall be received by the city clerk no earlier than January 1, 2021 and no later than 7 days (Tuesday, February 23, 2021) before the election. Applications are available on the City website or may be requested from the City Clerk. Absentee ballot application may also be requested in-person at an early voting site during its hours of operation.
- **Casting an absentee ballot:** An absentee ballot cast by mail must be postmarked on or before the date of the election and must be received by the City Clerk no later than 14 days after the election (March 16, 2021). An absentee ballot deposited in a drop box must be placed in the drop box by the close of polls on election day. Cordova has one Election Drop Box, located upstairs at the Cordova Center main entrance under the covered drop-off driveway.
- **Absentee voting a special needs ballot:** A qualified voter who is unable to go to a polling place to vote because of disability, infirmity or confinement may vote absentee by special needs ballot. The voter may, through a representative, request a special needs ballot from an election official on election day or from the City Clerk up to 21 days (February 9, 2021) before the election date.

**For further information, contact the City Clerk  
at [cityclerk@cityofcordova.net](mailto:cityclerk@cityofcordova.net) or 424-6248.**

### PUBLIC NOTICE:

Public Works Director Sam Greenwood and Refuse Superintendent Aaron Muma will give another short presentation and afterward field questions about "Ballot Proposition 1", regarding the Refuse Department taking out a Clean Water Fund Loan for \$1.2 million, \$500 thousand of

which qualifies for loan forgiveness, to replace dilapidated machinery and improve environmental compliance. The meeting will take place Thursday, February 25th from 5:30-6:30 PM in Community Room B in the Cordova Center.

PO Box 1210 • 601 1st St., Cordova, Alaska 99574

**(907) 424-6200**

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