

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. ____

A Resolution Calling for an Advisory Ballot Proposition on City and Borough Financial Support for Improving and Expanding Access for all Juneau Families to Affordable High Quality Child Care and Early Learning/Pre-school.

WHEREAS, the Juneau Economic Development Final Plan – adopted by the Assembly by Ordinance No. 2015-10, survey results showed that approximately 75% of business/employer respondents found Juneau’s availability and cost of child care services a “very significant” or “somewhat significant” barrier to Juneau’s economic development. Adopted goals of the plan include: “Ease the Child Care Barrier: Increasing the capacity, quality, and affordability of child care,” and “Support Quality Pre K-12 Education,” and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2017 the Juneau Board of Education unanimously approved Resolution 2017-02, “A Resolution Supporting High Quality Pre-K and to Improve Kindergarten Readiness and Student Success,” and

WHEREAS, there is great deal of scientific research indicating that ages 0-5 are the most important years for healthy brain development, learning preparation, and development of skills and personality traits that will have a major impact on becoming a successful adult, and

WHEREAS, more than 2 out of 3 of Juneau’s kids are “not ready” for Kindergarten according to state Department of Education measures, and

WHEREAS, Alaska exceeds most other states in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). Juneau exceeds the Alaska average in several ACES categories including sexual and emotional abuse and household substance abuse, and

WHEREAS, high quality child care and preschool with a proven curriculum, trained teachers, and parental involvement increases Kindergarten readiness and can reduce the incidence and impacts of ACES through parent involvement, early intervention, and building resilience in youth, and

WHEREAS, Juneau has a well-documented child care and early learning shortage. Juneau lost approximately 20 percent of its child care/early learning providers in the last 12 months. Juneau has less than half of the child care/early learning it is estimated to need for its families, and very few of the current providers have the resources from parent support alone to provide appropriately qualified and trained teachers and high quality learning and care, and

WHEREAS, the Assembly has decided to call for an advisory vote on the City and Borough providing financial support for improving and expanding child care and early learning to be presented to the voters at the October 2, 2018 municipal election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Submission of Proposition to Voters. A proposition as set forth in Section 2 of this resolution shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the City and Borough at the next regular election to be held on October 2, 2018. The City and Borough Clerk shall prepare the ballot proposition to be submitted to the qualified voters as provided by this resolution and shall perform all necessary steps in accordance with law to conduct the election and place this proposition before the qualified voters at said election.

Section 2. Proposition. The proposition to be submitted to the voters as required by Section 1 shall read substantially as follows:

Proposition No. _____
Advisory Proposition on Child Care and Early Learning/Preschool

Explanation of Proposition

Through this ballot measure, the Assembly asks for your advice on providing City and Borough financial support for improving and expanding access for all Juneau families to affordable high quality child care and early learning/pre-school. This is a non-binding measure.

The primary goals of this effort would be to increase the percentage of 5 year old children who are “prepared to learn” (by annual State assessment process) when entering kindergarten from 32% to at least 63%, and reducing the impact of “Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)” on Juneau’s children.

This effort is expected to cost up to \$2.8 million of CBJ funding in the fifth year when the programs is fully implemented, thereafter adjusted for inflation annually. The Assembly intends to increase property taxes to fund this effort, but may be able to partially offset property tax rate increases over the next five years with natural increases in local sales and property values. \$2.8 million is the equivalent of 0.58 mill of property tax in 2018, or \$58.00 per \$100,000 of assessed value.

PROPOSITION NO. ____

Do you support this effort primarily funded with property tax revenue to improve and expand access for all Juneau families to affordable high quality child care and early learning/pre-school?

- Yes
- No

Section 3. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Ken Koelsch, Mayor

Attest: _____
Laurie J. Sica, Clerk