



CITY OF WASILLA

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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NO. 93-10

TO: Wasilla City Council
FROM: City Clerk
DATE: March 1, 1993
SUBJECT: Election Rules and Procedures

At the February 22, 1993 City Council meeting, Councilman McCarthy raised a question of "why don't we follow all the State rules and regulations for local elections". I believe the question deserves an answer.

First of all, local units of government are sub units of the State of Alaska. The State of Alaska decides what is of State interest and requires local governments to adhere to those requirements. Example, local governments are not free to establish their own registration systems.

Secondly; where the State has no interest, they allow local governments to establish rules and procedures to fit local circumstances. Example, announcement of poll closing is 15 minutes for State elections but local governments are free to set their own time or none at all. Ord. 93-01 recently enacted by the Council, sets the announcement of poll closing at 15 minutes to match the MSB Code and also incidentally agrees with the State code, AS.15.15.310. If I could get the MSB Clerk to agree, I would propose no requirement at all. To me, the poll closing announcement has migrated from the lower 48 to the Territory, to the State and to local government by custom without any validity in Alaska due to weather.



Erling P. Nelson, CMC
Director of Municipal Services