

SUBJECT: Home Rule

REQUESTED BY: Administration

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: May 16, 2000

FOR AGENDA OF: May 22, 2000

SUMMARY:

Please see attached. This is being submitted at this time in order to meet the election deadline.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: For review.

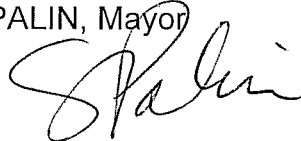
FISCAL IMPACT No Yes, amount requested:

Fund:

MAYOR REVIEW/COMMENT:

We have time to discuss this — I do want to make Council aware of the election deadline however, so proper consideration can be made on the Home Rule issue.

Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor



VIA FAX 907-373-9096
Original Delivered

June 6, 2000

Mayor Sarah Palin and Council Members
City of Wasilla
290 East Herning Avenue
Wasilla AK 99654-7091

Re: Advantages of Home Rule

Dear Mayor Palin and Council Members,

At the next two council meetings, the council members will be considering whether to submit to the voters of Wasilla the question of whether the City should prepare a home rule charter for consideration by the Wasilla voters at a subsequent election. I requested that Dan Bockhorst from the Local Boundary Commission prepare a summary comparison of home rule versus general law powers for your information. I would also like to add my own observations.

The following factors are important to the Council's consideration:

- * A Home Rule city has all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter. A first class city has only those legislative powers conferred on it by the State.
- * Under Home Rule, Wasilla has the greatest power to determine its own future destiny.
- * Under Home Rule, control of the government and laws of Wasilla are local to the greatest extent possible under Alaska and federal law.
- * Under Home Rule, Wasilla would not be subject to the limitations placed on general law cities by Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes, and would be able to enact its own laws which could be closely tailored to fit local conditions.
- * Under Home Rule, the voters of Wasilla could either limit or extend the powers of local government beyond those boundaries authorized for general law cities under Title 29.
- * Under Home Rule, Wasilla would be in a stronger position in dealing with the Borough and the State in many areas of their dealings. Potentially, the City could limit the levy of Borough taxes and Borough control of property development in the City, and other Borough involvement in City matters.

City of Wasilla
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* As a Home Rule city, Wasilla would be in a better position to react to and deal with amendments to State law which take place in the future.

Mr. Bockhorst has given some examples of these points in his memorandum.

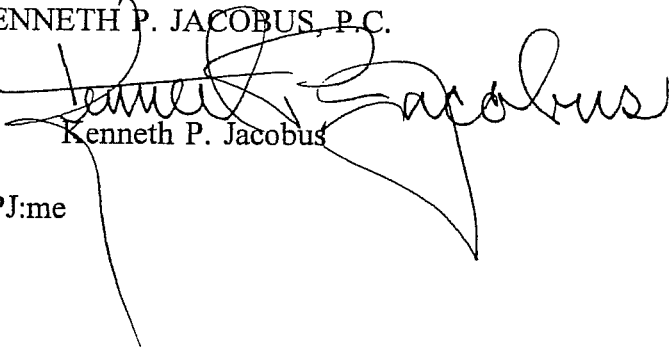
Home Rule will require a greater commitment by the City, particularly initially. I believe that the City ultimately will benefit, however, because control will be more local, and the City will be much more responsible for its local government, laws and destiny. Local government should be controlled locally, and the City of Wasilla should not rely on the State of Alaska to provide Wasilla's laws and circumscribe Wasilla's powers.

If you have any particular questions, please let me know.

Very truly yours,

KENNETH P. JACOBUS, P.C.

By


Kenneth P. Jacobus

KPJ:me