

**ORDINANCE NO. 6206**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FGC SECTION 22-15(d) ABSENTEE VOTING BY PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND AMENDING OTHER SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 22 ELECTIONS TO AUTHORIZE YOUTH ELECTION WORKERS IN CITY ELECTIONS, TO CLARIFY THE DEFINITION OF ELECTION OFFICIAL, AND TO STANDARDIZE ELECTION TERMINOLOGY**

**WHEREAS**, regular City elections are currently held in conjunction with Borough elections, and the City has sought to keep its election codes and procedures as similar as possible to that of the Borough to ensure consistency for voters; and

**WHEREAS**, Borough code and State law refer to absentee voting by a personal representative as “special needs voting;” the City uses the same “Special Needs Ballot Oath & Affidavit Envelope” and process as the Borough for this type of absentee voting, so the City and Borough codes should be consistent; and

**WHEREAS**, civic engagement is a vital part of a healthy democracy, but it can be challenging to find enough citizens willing and able to serve as election officials at local elections; and

**WHEREAS**, engaging young people ages 16 and 17 as election workers will provide them with more education on the election process and increase the likelihood that they will participate in local elections when they reach voting age; and

**WHEREAS**, youth workers would be under the supervision of precinct chairs and would not replace precinct workers required by the Fairbanks General Code; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Alaska and other municipalities already permit youth ages 16 and 17 to participate as election workers in their elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the terms “election official” and “election judge” should be used consistently throughout the Fairbanks General Code (FGC).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:**

**Section 1.** That FGC Sec. 22-15(d), Absentee voting by personal representative, is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

(d) *Absentee voting - **Special needs** by personal representative.*

(1) **A qualified voter with a disability who, because of that disability, is unable to go to a polling place to vote may vote a special needs ballot. Special needs ballots shall be issued and accounted for in accordance with the rules adopted by the state for use in state elections and in effect at the time of the local election.** ~~A qualified voter may apply for an absentee ballot through a personal representative on the day of, or not more than 20 days~~

~~before, the date of an election. The application shall be signed by the applicant and be accompanied by a letter from a licensed physician or a statement signed by two qualified voters stating that the applicant will be unable to go to the polling place because of physical disability.~~

~~(2) The personal representative shall deliver the absentee ballot to the voter as soon as practicable. Upon receipt of an absentee ballot through a personal representative, the voter shall proceed to mark the ballot in secret, place the ballot in the small envelope, place the small envelope in the larger envelope, and sign the voter's certificate on the back of the envelope in the presence of the personal representative who shall sign as attesting witness and date their signature. The voter shall then return the absentee ballot to their personal representative who shall deliver the ballot to the election official who provided the ballot. The absentee ballot must be returned to the city clerk within three days from the date it is obtained but not later than 8:00 p.m. on election day. An absentee ballot that is not returned to the city clerk by the close of business on the third day from the day it is obtained may not be counted, but the voter may vote in the election.~~

~~(3) The city clerk shall keep a record of the name and signature of each personal representative requesting an absentee ballot and the name of the person on whose behalf the ballot is requested. The city clerk shall record the date and time the absentee ballot is provided and the time the ballot is returned.~~

~~(4) A candidate for office at that election may not act as a personal representative. An individual may serve as personal representative for not more than one physically disabled voter.~~

**Section 2.** That FGC Sec. 22-1. – Definitions is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

\* \* \* \* \*

*Election officials* means the city clerk **and employees of the city clerk's office, temporary election workers, election board members, and members of counting or review boards**~~or the clerk's designee, election judges and election clerks, and canvass boards.~~

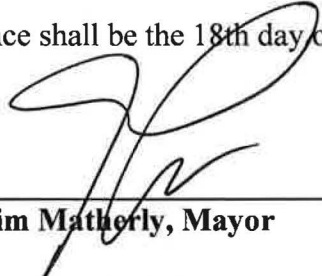
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**Section 3.** That FGC Sec. 22-10. – Election officials is hereby amended as follows [new text in **bold/underline** font; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~ font]:

- (a) For precincts within the city, the city council and the borough assembly shall appoint at least three **election** judges in each precinct to constitute the election board of that precinct. The city clerk is the election supervisor. One **election** judge shall be designated as chairman and shall be ordinarily responsible for administering the election in that precinct. The city clerk may appoint **additional election officials**~~up to three election clerks~~ at any polling place where they are needed to conduct an orderly election ~~and to relieve the election judges of undue hardship.~~

- (b) All election officials should attend a training session unless personally and specifically excused for cause by the city clerk. If any appointed election official is not able or refuses to serve on election day, the city clerk may appoint a replacement for that official.
- (c) Each election ~~judge~~ **official** serving at a precinct polling place must be a qualified voter and, if possible, a resident within the precinct to which they are appointed.
- (d) All election ~~election officials~~ **judges and clerks**, before entering upon their duties, must subscribe to the oath required of all public officers by the state constitution in the manner prescribed by the city clerk.
- (e) Candidates and the contact persons or sponsors on an initiative or referendum shall not serve as election officials. Certain familial relationships may not exist between a candidate and ~~an precinct election judge, election official, or member of a ballot counting team~~ in regular, runoff, or special elections. Those familial relationships are:
- (1) Mother, mother-in-law, stepmother;
  - (2) Father, father-in-law, stepfather;
  - (3) Sister, sister-in-law, stepsister;
  - (4) Brother, brother-in-law, stepbrother;
  - (5) Spouse;
  - (6) Grandparent; or
  - (7) Person sharing the same living quarters.
- (f) **The city clerk may appoint not more than two people aged 16 and 17 as youth election workers at each precinct. A youth election worker must:**
- (1) **Be a citizen of the United States;**
  - (2) **Obtain written permission from a parent or legal guardian;**
  - (3) **Attend mandatory training on polling place election procedures; and**
  - (4) **Serve under the supervision of the precinct chair.**

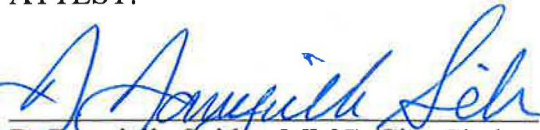
**Section 4.** That the effective date of this Ordinance shall be the 18th day of June 2022.

  
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**Jim Matherly, Mayor**

AYES: Gibson, Therrien, Clark, Marney, Rogers, Cleworth  
 NAYS: None  
 ABSENT: None  
 APPROVED: June 13, 2022

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
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 D. Danyielle Snider, MMC, City Clerk

  
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 Paul Ewers, City Attorney