

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

AO No. 2023-128

AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE A BALLOT PROPOSITION AMENDING THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO REQUIRE ASSEMBLY CONFIRMATION OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

WHEREAS, Title 3 of Anchorage Municipal Code, as amended recently by AO 2023-111(S), As Amended, grants a limited, but nonetheless substantial, role to the Chief Medical Officer, particularly during a state of public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, the role of the Chief Medical Officer is critical to addressing present and emerging threats to the public's health, safety, welfare, and sanitation; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic and public health emergency of 2020-2021 illustrated the importance and significance of this position; and

WHEREAS, the Charter § 5.02(a) explicitly provides the Assembly the authority to confirm the "heads of municipal departments on the basis of professional qualifications"; and

WHEREAS, there are few, if any, positions within municipal government where the professional qualifications of an employee have greater importance or potential to directly impact the health and wellbeing of the residents of Anchorage;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Pursuant to state law and the Anchorage Municipal Charter, a ballot proposition in substantially the following form shall be placed on the ballot and submitted to the qualified voters of the Municipality at the next regular municipal election on April 2, 2024.

PROPOSITION NO. __

**CHARTER AMENDMENT
TO REQUIRE ASSEMBLY CONFIRMATION OF THE
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.**

This proposition would amend Anchorage Municipal Charter Section 5.02 as follows (underlined and bolded words are proposed new words; [~~strikeouts in bold~~] are proposed deletions):

Section 5.02. – Powers of the mayor.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31


(a) The mayor shall appoint all heads of municipal departments **and the chief medical officer of the municipality**, subject to confirmation by the assembly, on the basis of professional qualifications. Persons appointed by the mayor serve at the pleasure of the mayor.

Shall the Anchorage Municipal Charter be amended as set forth above?

Yes [] No []

Section 2. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and approval by two-thirds of the total membership of the Assembly in accord with Charter § 18.02. The proposition's amendments shall be incorporated into the Home Rule Charter for the Municipality of Anchorage and be effective only if certified as approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting on said proposition at the regular municipal election of April 2, 2024.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 9th day of January 2024.



Chair

ATTEST:



Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 948-2023

Meeting Date: December 5, 2023

1 **From: Assembly Member Volland**

2
3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY SUBMITTING**
4 **TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF**
5 **ANCHORAGE A BALLOT PROPOSITION AMENDING THE HOME**
6 **RULE CHARTER TO REQUIRE ASSEMBLY CONFIRMATION OF**
7 **THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MUNICIPALITY.**

8
9 The proposed ordinance would submit to the qualified voters of Anchorage a ballot
10 proposition that would amend the Municipal Charter to require the appointment of
11 the Chief Medical Officer to be submitted to the Assembly for confirmation.
12

13
14
15 **I request your support for the ordinance.**

16
17 Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel's Office

18
19 Respectfully submitted: Daniel Volland, Assembly Member
20 District 1, North Anchorage