

By: FNSB Assembly
Introduced: 08/20/2026
Amended: 08/20/2026
Adopted: 08/20/2026

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 – 26

A RESOLUTION APPROVING INFORMATION OF A STRICTLY FACTUAL NATURE
PERTAINING TO THE INITIATIVE PETITION REQUIRING ALL BALLOTS TO BE HAND
COUNTED BY REGISTERED BOROUGH VOTERS, WITH OBSERVATION AS AUTHORIZED
BY LAW, AND PROHIBITING ELECTRONIC TABULATION SYSTEMS IN THE FAIRBANKS
NORTH STAR BOROUGH

WHEREAS, FNSBC 5.04.150 mandates that for each proposition, initiative
or referendum on the ballot, the Borough Clerk shall include information of a strictly
factual nature, approved by the Assembly, in the Municipal Election Information
Pamphlet; and

WHEREAS, The Borough Clerk recertified an initiative requiring manual
hand counting of all ballots in the Fairbanks North Star Borough Municipal elections on
August 5, 2026 for placement before the voters of the Fairbanks North Star Borough on
October 6, 2026 as Proposition 3 on the ballot;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks
North Star Borough approve the following strictly factual information to be included in
the Municipal Election Information Pamphlet:

1. Proposition 3 would mandate the method used to count ballots as manual hand-
counting beginning with the 2027 election cycle for all Regular, Special, and Run-
Off municipal elections.
2. Hand-counting is the process of a human manually reviewing each ballot and
tallying votes, without the use of machines.
3. The proposed manual ballot hand-counting system includes that:
 - a. Questioned, absentee and special needs ballots are separated from the
regular ballots voted on election day.
 - b. Regular ballots are hand-counted at polling places on election day.
 - c. Counting occurs in public view (to the extent practicable.)
 - d. Only registered Borough voters conduct ballot counts.
 - e. Questioned, absentee and special needs ballots are hand counted at a
central location.
 - f. Electronic tabulation systems are not used to produce or certify official
results.
 - g. Official election results are determined solely from manual hand counts.

- 45 4. A hand-count typically takes longer to determine unofficial election results on
46 election day than an electronic tabulation system. However, the official results will
47 be determined in the same timeframe with either method.
48 5. When a voter inserts a ballot into the electronic tabulation system, the machine
49 alerts them to potential ballot-marking issues and provides the voter an
50 opportunity to review their ballot and vote a new ballot if they choose. If the
51 proposition is adopted, ballots will not be reviewed by voters through the
52 electronic tabulation process. Instead, the hand-counting board will determine
53 voter intent according to election procedures.
54 6. The ordinance does not include a fiscal analysis or estimate of implementation
55 costs. The overall cost would depend on factors including voter turnout, staffing
56 requirements, and the number of races on the ballot.
57 7. Under Alaska law, if Proposition 3 is approved by voters, the ordinance is law for
58 two years and neither the Assembly nor the voters can repeal, modify, or negate
59 it during that period.
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61 ADOPTED THE 20TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.
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Scott Crass
Presiding Officer

ATTEST:



April Trickey, MMC
Borough Clerk

Yeses: Roach, Kelly, Armstrong, Guttenberg, Reeves, Crass
Noes: Rotermund
Other: Wilson (Abstained), LaJiness (Excused)