

Presented by: Mayor and Assembly
Introduced: 08/02/91
Drafted by: B.J.B

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 1529

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU ENDORSING THE ALTERNATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT PLAN FOR SOUTHEAST ALASKA DEVELOPED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE AND URGING GOVERNOR HICKEL TO MODIFY THE REAPPORTIONMENT PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE REAPPORTIONMENT BOARD AS SET FORTH IN THE PLAN PROPOSED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE.

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 6, of the Alaska Constitution provides that when redistricting, legislative districts "shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area," and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Supreme Court has held that the individual members of a geographic group or community of interest have a significant constitutional interest in having their votes protected from disproportionate dilution by the votes of another geographic group or community, and

WHEREAS, the Assembly has reviewed the reapportionment plan submitted to Governor Hickel by the Reapportionment Board as it affects the City and Borough of Juneau and Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the reapportionment plan would divide the city and borough into two house districts, House District Four (Juneau, Douglas, Hoonah) and House District Five (Mendenhall Valley-Lynn Canal), and

WHEREAS, the reapportionment plan would combine House District Four and House District Three (Southeast Islands) to form a new Senate District B, and would combine House District Five and House District Six (Palmer, Valdez, Cordova) to form a new Senate District C, and

WHEREAS, this combination of house districts for purposes of representation in the senate would have the effect of combining portions of Juneau with areas and communities that have little geographic or socio-economic relationships with Juneau, and

WHEREAS, this combination of house districts for purposes of establishing senate districts would also have the effect of diluting the votes of one geographic group or community of interest or another; for example, Juneau could end up without a resident of the Capital City representing it in the senate, and

WHEREAS, the residents of Juneau strongly desire to continue to be represented in the Alaska Legislature as one unified community, and

WHEREAS, in 1987 the Alaska Supreme Court upheld a redistricting plan that maintained all of Juneau as a multi-member house district taking into account the unique social and economic integration of this community, and

WHEREAS, at a minimum, the proposed House District Four and House District Five should be combined to form one senate district for the Juneau area in order to assure the voters of this community a voice in the senate, and

WHEREAS, the city and borough and its delegation in the Alaska Legislature have worked extremely hard over the past twenty years to strengthen the sense of Juneau as a unified community, and

WHEREAS, the reapportionment plan as submitted to the Governor would seriously undercut the local efforts to unify Juneau and would create political conflict and divisiveness at a time when our community is in need of the political and economic unity we have sought hard to achieve, and

WHEREAS, the Assembly is very concerned that the reapportionment plan as proposed by the Reapportionment Board would have similar effects on other communities in Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Conference has carefully reviewed the reapportionment plan and has developed an alternative plan for Southeast Alaska that would far better serve the interests of Alaskans than the plan for this region submitted by the Reapportionment Board, and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Conference plan does not modify the boundaries of any of the house districts outside of Southeast Alaska, and

WHEREAS, the Assembly endorses the alternative reapportionment plan developed and proposed by the Southeast Conference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

1. That the Assembly endorses the alternative reapportionment plan for Southeast Alaska developed and proposed by the Southeast Conference.

2. That the Assembly strongly urges Governor Hickel to modify the reapportionment plan submitted by the Reapportionment Board as described in the alternative reapportionment plan for Southeast Alaska proposed by the Southeast Conference.

3. That with respect to the City and Borough of Juneau, the Governor is urged to adopt a reapportionment plan that retains Juneau as a multi-member house district, which district would also constitute Juneau's senate district.

4. That at a minimum, the Governor is urged to modify the reapportionment plan submitted by the Reapportionment Board to combine the proposed House Districts Four and Five into one senate district for Juneau so as to assure the people of the Capital City of Alaska a voice in the senate.

5. That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Hickel, the Juneau Legislative Delegation, each member of the Alaska Legislature representing Southeast Alaska, the Reapportionment Board, the Southeast Conference, and to the mayor of each community in Southeast Alaska.

6. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Adopted this 2nd day of August, 1991.


Mayor

Attest:


Clerk