
VOTER INFORMATION

October 1, 2024 • Municipal Election
By Mail



PROPOSITION No.1

General Obligation Bond
Public Safety Communication Infrastructure

PROPOSITION No.2

Ship-Free Saturdays

PROPOSITION No.3

General Obligation Bond
Reconstruct Juneau Douglas Wastewater
Treatment Plant



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PROPOSITION NO. 1

General Obligation Bond

Public Safety Communication Infrastructure

This proposition authorizes the issuance of \$12,750,000 in general obligation bond debt to fund infrastructure repairs, equipment replacements, and technological improvements to Juneau's deteriorating public safety communications system relied on by local, state, and federal agencies.

Overview/Explanation

The City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ)'s public safety communication system provides first responders with mission critical radio and data communications. This public system is used during both routine and emergency calls and air rescues throughout the borough. It is also central to communication and interagency coordination during emergency response for floods, landslides, structure fires, active shooter situations, and search and rescue.

The CBJ public safety communication system is used by the following organizations:

- Juneau Police Department
- Capital Transit
- US Coast Guard
- Capital City Fire & Rescue (Including Rescue Teams, CARES Mobile Integrated Health & Sobering Center)
- CBJ Public Works
- Alaska State Troopers
- US Forest Service
- Other State and federal agencies (FBI, DEA, Customs & Border Patrol, TSA Law Enforcement, Probations, Pretrial, Alcohol Marijuana Control Office)

Current Conditions

The existing radio system fails to meet minimum public safety standards. Frequent interruptions, static and interference in radio service with spotty or no reception inside commercial and public buildings and in many neighborhoods puts the public and first responders at risk. Poor quality of radio traffic increases the likelihood of a request for emergency backup to go unnoticed. Handheld portable and mobile/vehicle radios lack basic safety features like GPS and alert tones. The system's communication hardware components are no longer supported by the manufacturers and must be purchased from third parties such as eBay. The radio sheds, towers and power sources supporting this system need to be replaced or upgraded to expand coverage.

Proposed Project

The proposed bond issuance would modernize equipment and expand radio coverage. Radio channels will be added for interoperability with partners, clarity of communications will be increased, and current "dead zones" will be reduced by replacing outdated radio infrastructure. By improving redundancy and system power supply, the project will improve the reliability and portability of communications during emergencies.

PROPOSITION NO. 1

General Obligation Bond

Project Funding

The total cost to replace and upgrade the CBJ public safety radio system is estimated at approximately \$24.4 million.

CBJ General Fund Available Now	\$9.67M
Grant: Congressionally Directed Spending Available Now	\$2M
General Obligation Bond This Proposition	\$12.75M

CBJ has substantial debt capacity to support this project and others without raising the debt service mill rate as many large projects are being paid off in the coming years. If this bond issuance is approved, the debt service portion of the property taxation (mill) rate will not increase. More about the debt service and property tax mill rate is available at www.juneau.org/budget.

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Ship - Free Saturday

On the following pages are statements written by private parties in support and in opposition of Proposition #2. CBJ is neutral on the proposition and the statements do not represent a CBJ position. The statements are provided in this voter information guide so that voters have as much information as possible heading into the election. CBJ appreciates and thanks the statement writers for their time and willingness to contribute to the guide.

If the proposition passes, a new section of code would be added to Title 20 (Business Regulations) of the CBJ code of ordinances. It would state:

20.50.010 No cruise ship with a capacity of 250 passengers or more shall be allowed to dock, moor, or disembark passengers within the City and Borough of Juneau boundaries on any Saturday or July 4.

Additional information is available on this topic and other tourism related topics at <https://juneau.org/manager/tbmp>

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Ship - Free Saturdays (Support)

Ship-Free Saturdays is about Balance.

By Karla Hart

Ship-Free Saturdays puts residents first for one day per week. It gives us a chance to enjoy our homes, the glacier, downtown, and to reclaim a sense of community. It gives whales a break. Seasonal employees might count on one consistent day off per week. It is about restoring balance.

The number of cruise ship passengers visiting Juneau has ballooned from 237,000 in 1990 to 689,000 in 2000 to 1.67 million in 2023. The cruise season has stretched, the daily intensity increased, and we have no pause from spring through summer and into fall.

Industry and city leaders know cruise tourism has significant adverse impacts on the community. Yet, they have failed to meaningfully address the needs of the community for rest, quiet, recreation, clean air, enjoying summer, and simply a break from cruise tourism.

Voluntary hasn't worked.

The Tourism Best Management Practices program claims to "balance the needs of tourism with the rhythm of local life." Does it? Every guideline of the 28-page booklet represents an identified impact the industry acknowledges, and yet we continue to suffer noise, congestion, displacement, wakes, crowding, pollution, and other impacts.

Memorandums of Agreement between Juneau and the cruise companies claim to limit cruise tourism. These voluntary limits on ship numbers and number of passengers allow 2.5 million passengers - 50% growth over 2024 levels.

Ship-Free Saturdays is a **MODEST** and **REASONABLE** proposal for one consistent day a week (plus 4th of July) without the adverse impacts of large-scale cruise ship tourism. Over 2,500 Juneau voters signed the initiative petition to give citizens the chance to decide if we want to put Ship-Free Saturdays into law.

We urge you to vote YES!

What about?

Threatened lawsuits - If industry attempts to force themselves upon a host community that is clearly setting limits, what does it say about the industry? A federal judge in U.S. District Court of Maine ruled in favor of a citizen initiative limiting cruise passengers.

Job losses - Juneau cruise tourism relies heavily on a non-resident workforce that requires seasonal housing. Might we have more families, year-round employees, and living wage workers if this housing was available for them?

Business impacts and city tax revenue losses - with a 16,000 passenger per day limit, six days per week, cruise ship visitation can continue to grow to 2,000,000+ passengers.

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Ship - Free Saturday (Oppose)

Statement in Opposition

By Eric Forst, Red Dog Saloon

Juneau should reject Proposition 2. This measure jeopardizes our economy and the public services we depend on. Here's why voters should vote "NO."

Economic disruption and job loss

Banning cruise ships on Saturdays will cost Juneau millions in lost revenue. Specifically, ship-free Saturdays are projected to reduce local spending by \$30 million, and decrease city revenues by \$3.7 million. This drop in revenue could lead to increased taxes on residents and cuts to essential services.

Cruise tourism supports thousands of jobs in Juneau. Eliminating cruise ship visits on Saturdays will result in job losses, affecting families who rely on tourism for their livelihood. This measure endangers the economic stability of our community, potentially forcing families to move out in search of employment.

Buyer's Remorse in Other States

Bar Harbor, Maine, voted two years ago to restrict cruise tourism. The results have impacted the local economy so negatively that an effort is underway to repeal the measure. Let's not make the same mistake.

Threat to Small Businesses

Local shops, restaurants and service providers depend on the steady flow of cruise passengers to stay open year-round. Ship-free Saturdays will severely impact these businesses, leading to reduced hours, layoffs or even closures. Our small businesses, already struggling during the off-season, cannot stay open without visitor dollars.

Impact on Public Services

Revenue generated from cruise tourism funds crucial public services. Losing these tax dollars and fees means our community will face tough choices, including potential cuts to healthcare, education, public safety and infrastructure maintenance.

Collaboration, Not Confrontation

Juneau has already taken significant steps to manage tourism sustainably. The City and Borough of Juneau created a visitor industry task force that received many public comments and led to three Memorandums of Agreement. These MOAs create a better experience for locals and visitors. This ballot initiative undermines the successful public process and possibly creates a litigious environment where collaboration between the CBJ and the industry abruptly stops.

Create Confidence for Young People

Removing the opportunity for cruise business on Saturdays erases what little confidence young people have in Juneau. The continued economic uncertainty makes pursuing a career and raising a family in Juneau more difficult. Young people have already chosen to leave Juneau, let's not give them another reason to leave. Let's welcome young people to our community by creating an environment of economic opportunity and stability.

Voting "NO" on Proposition 2 is essential to protect Juneau's economy, jobs and public services. We need to continue our collaborative efforts to manage tourism sustainably without resorting to drastic measures.

For the health and future of our community, please join me in voting NO on Proposition 2.

PROPOSITION NO. 3

General Obligation Bond

Proposition No. 3 will authorize the issuance of \$10,000,000 in general obligation bond debt to reconstruct the clarifier building at the Juneau Douglas Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The clarifier at the Juneau Douglas Wastewater Treatment Plant separates suspended solids from liquid effluent through a settling process to achieve the desired purity of treated wastewater. The clarifier is a vital part of the wastewater treatment plant and critical to ensuring that treated sewage meets environmental standards before discharge into Gastineau Channel. The 50-year-old wastewater plant's clarifier building needs significant and time-sensitive structural improvements due to age and corrosion caused by the unique and highly corrosive wastewater treatment environment. Insufficient mechanical ventilation systems are accelerating this corrosion. If not addressed, increasing levels of corrosion will lead to structural failure which will prevent our teams from safely accessing and operating a critical part of the treatment process.

The proposed bond would fund the replacement of the metal building enclosure, including the roof and all structural steel (walls, beams, columns) as well as the mechanical ventilation system and other necessary electrical improvements at the facility. These upgrades will use corrosion-resistant materials and ventilation designs to prevent further corrosion and extend the life of the clarifier equipment as well as the building to ensure continuity of this critical public service for another 50+ years.

The CBJ Water and Wastewater Utility's operational budgets are funded entirely by rate payers. The Utility is not currently funded by property tax or sales tax. (Voter-approved sales tax has periodically been designated to support capital projects for the Utility in the past.) If approved, this bond issuance will reduce the amount of future utility rate increases required to address needed upgrades to aging utility infrastructure.

CBJ has substantial debt capacity to support this project and others without raising the debt service mill rate as many large projects are being paid off in the coming years. If this bond issuance is approved, the debt service portion of the property taxation (mill) rate will not increase. More about the debt service and property tax mill rate is available at www.juneau.org/budget.

For more information, visit www.juneau.org/wastewater-bond-2024.

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CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU
OFFICIAL BALLOT
REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTION
OCTOBER 1, 2024

Elizabeth J. McEwen
Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Instructions:

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●
Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, fill in the oval and print the person's name on the blank line provided for a write-in candidate. If you make a mistake voting, draw a line through the oval and candidate or issue you voted, write "NO" next to it and then continue voting by filling in the oval next to your choice.

MAYOR VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN <u>ONE</u>	PROPOSITION #2
<input type="radio"/> Angela Rodell <input type="radio"/> Beth Weldon <input type="radio"/> Write-in	<p>Initiative Proposition Short Title: Ship-Free Saturdays</p> <p>WHEREAS, the Juneau "cruise season" adversely impacts Juneau residents' health and quality of life; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, the cruise industry has created a Juneau "cruise season" this year, 2024, of 195 days to run from April 9-October 24, and without pause for 142 days, from May 2-September 27; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, a majority of Juneau residents think that our local government is not doing enough to manage cruise tourism; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, city leaders and industry have had decades to act and have failed to balance the economic benefits to some against the economic and other harms of the many imposed by the cruise tourism industry; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, residents are displaced by cruise industry overtourism from downtown, the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area, and recreation and food harvesting on area lands and waters; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, excess human presence and human-driven noise from overtourism sullies the sentient, sacred, divine, and living ancestral natural environment necessary for cultural and spiritual health and growth; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, health, learning, productivity, and enjoyment are diminished by air pollution, noise, light pollution, and traffic from cruise ships, tour buses, helicopters, floatplanes, and boats; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Ship-Free Saturdays would provide one day per week, in a consistent and predictable manner, for rest, recovery, recreation, fishing, gathering, and events and activities at home, downtown, and elsewhere in the community; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Ship-Free Saturdays would give businesses providing cruise industry services one predictable day per week to schedule maintenance and time off. This pause could result in safer, cleaner, and better operations and happier employees; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, Ship-Free Saturdays would enhance the experiences of independent visitors; and</p> <p>WHEREAS, The Fourth of July is a day of community celebration and festivity that extends along our waterfront and through our narrow downtown streets. Making July Fourth cruise ship free opens possibilities for additional community use and enjoyment of our downtown and harbor throughout the entire day.</p> <p>SHALL THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU CODE BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:</p> <p>Section 1. Title 20, Business Regulations, is amended to create a new chapter entitled CBJ 20.50 Cruise Ships, with a new section to read as follows:</p> <p>20.50.010 No cruise ship with a capacity of 250 passengers or more shall be allowed to dock, moor, or disembark passengers within the City and Borough of Juneau boundaries on any Saturday or July 4.</p> <p>Section 2. Effective Date. This initiative shall be effective 30 days after the election is certified.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> SHIP-FREE SATURDAYS, YES <input type="radio"/> SHIP-FREE SATURDAYS, NO</p>
<p>DISTRICT 1 ASSEMBLY VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN <u>ONE</u></p> <input type="radio"/> Neil Steininger <input type="radio"/> Connor D. Ulmer <input type="radio"/> Write-in	
<p>DISTRICT 2 ASSEMBLY VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN <u>ONE</u></p> <input type="radio"/> Nathaniel (Nano) Brooks <input type="radio"/> Dorene Lorenz <input type="radio"/> Emily Mesch <input type="radio"/> Mary Marks <input type="radio"/> Maureen Hall <input type="radio"/> Write-in	
<p>BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER VOTE FOR NOT MORE THAN <u>THREE</u></p> <input type="radio"/> Amber Frommherz <input type="radio"/> Jeff Redmond <input type="radio"/> Elizabeth (Ebett) Siddon <input type="radio"/> Jenny Thomas <input type="radio"/> Will Muldoon <input type="radio"/> Michelle Stuart Morgan <input type="radio"/> Write-in <input type="radio"/> Write-in <input type="radio"/> Write-in	
<p>PROPOSITION #1</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>The proposition will authorize the issuance of \$12,750,000 in general obligation bond debt for paying the cost of undertaking certain public safety improvements including acquisition and installation of a replacement radio communication system. The total annual debt service costs, assuming an interest rate of 3.50%, will be approximately \$1,539,000. This amount of debt service would require an annual property tax levy of approximately \$23.50 per \$100,000 of assessed value. This example of a property tax levy is provided for illustrative purposes only.</p> <p>PROPOSITION #1 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS \$12,750,000</p> <p>To improve public safety by improving communication infrastructure, including, but not limited to, acquisition and installation of a replacement radio communication system that will be Alaska Land Mobile Radio compliant within the City and Borough, shall the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska, issue and sell its general obligation bonds, maturing within 10 years of their date of issue, in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$12,750,000?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> BONDS, YES <input type="radio"/> BONDS, NO</p>	

S A M P L E

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

PROPOSITION #3

Explanation

The proposition will authorize the issuance of \$10,000,000 in general obligation bond debt for paying the cost of undertaking certain wastewater utility infrastructure improvements including replacement of the wastewater clarifier building at the Juneau Douglas Wastewater Treatment Plant that services Thane, Downtown and Douglas. The total annual debt service costs, assuming an interest rate of 3.50%, will be approximately \$1,210,000. This amount of debt service would require an annual property tax levy of approximately \$18.48 per \$100,000 of assessed value. This example of a property tax levy is provided for illustrative purposes only.

**PROPOSITION #3
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS
\$10,000,000**

To improve wastewater utility service by improving wastewater utility infrastructure, including, but not limited to, replacement of the wastewater clarifier building at the Juneau Douglas Wastewater Treatment Plant that services Thane, Downtown and Douglas within the City and Borough, shall the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska, issue and sell its general obligation bonds, maturing within 10 years of their date of issue, in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$10,000,000?

- BONDS, YES
- BONDS, NO

RECALL PETITION A

Recall Board of Education Member Deedie Sorensen, President

Petitioners Committee Verbatim Statement of Grounds:

"Sorensen demonstrated failure to perform prescribed duties, misconduct in office, and incompetence by: ...Failure to understand the FY24 budget accounting errors resulting in \$7.9M deficit and taxpayer loan from CBJ, violating BP3460."

Verbatim rebuttal statement from Deedie Sorensen:

"The reality behind this recall is 20+ years of declining student enrollment and prior board leadership unwilling to adjust the budget to this reality.

School Board members rely on district staff to develop, monitor, and regularly report on budget changes. In November 2023, a multi-month audit confirmed there was a substantial failure to report critical financial information.

In response to the alarming audit and the departure of the finance officer, the Board authorized the new superintendent to hire an accountant to examine our budget exhaustively.

In January 2024, as Board President, I notified the Assembly and our community of the findings - a severe budget deficit.

Next, we implemented strategies to address the issues which included a hiring freeze, securing a \$3.9 million grant for building maintenance, all while holding meetings to gather public input on the 2025 school budget and consolidation. The board, administration, and staff should be commended for achieving a balanced budget revision for 2024, resulting in \$600,000 positive balance. This is the deficit budget referenced in the Recall.

We made difficult decisions for our schools in the 2025 budget. Decisions necessary to ensure our students continue to receive a great education.

Vote "NO" on the recall."

Board of Education Recall Question - Petition A:

Shall Deedie Sorensen be recalled from the office of Board of Education?

- RECALL SORENSEN, YES
- RECALL SORENSEN, NO

RECALL PETITION B

Recall Board of Education Member Emil Mackey, Vice-President

Petitioners Committee Verbatim Statement of Grounds:

"Mackey demonstrated failure to perform prescribed duties, misconduct in office, and incompetence by: ...Failing to understand FY24 budget accounting errors resulting in \$7.9M deficit and taxpayer loan from CBJ, violating BP3460."

Verbatim rebuttal statement from Emil Mackey:

"The Budget Issue is not as described in the Recall Petition nor in the Ballot Title. Unlike other states, the responsibility for Alaska school funding is the sole responsibility of the State and it is unconstitutional for districts to fund past the "local contribution" limited in case law and statute. As long as the State of Alaska funds districts within 5% of 2006 funding levels, all districts will continue to face deficits and cuts.

The board was notified of the issue in January 2024 with four months to make a decision under State Law. The budgetary choice was simply buildings versus staff. In FY 2024, the District employed 317 teachers. The chosen model laid off 46.5 teachers. Had we adopted the model advocated by recall sponsors, the district would have had to lay-off 84 of the 317 teachers. Nobody liked the choices, but the chosen alternative was the best decision possible for student success and kept the lowest possible Pupil/Teacher Ratio for years to come. A successful recall will threaten these solutions and have a chilling effect on responsible decision-making by future board members. I urge a "No" vote against this recall. Learn more at JuneauRecall.com."

Board of Education Recall Question - Petition B:

Shall Emil Mackey be recalled from the office of Board of Education?

- RECALL MACKEY, YES
- RECALL MACKEY, NO

S A M P L E

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT





155 Heritage Way
Juneau, AK 99801

PRESORTED STANDARD
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JUNEAU, ALASKA



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- **Email: cbj.elections@juneau.org**
- **Visit: <https://juneau.org/clerk/elections>**