

Election Policies and Rules of Procedure

3.1 Regular and Special Elections – Overview

Elections are the method in which people living in representative democracies make decisions about who will hold public office, approve tax measures, and vote on other community-wide questions.

Under Alaska State law (AS 29.20.380) the Municipal Clerk shall “administer all municipal elections.” The Municipal Clerk (or their designees) supervise, organize, and run the municipal election.

The Alaska Constitution and state statutes allow local governments a great deal of flexibility in how they conduct their elections. State law requires that a governing body prescribe rules for conducting an election (AS 29.26.010).

For CBJ those rules are found in three places:

1. CBJ Charter
2. CBJ Code
3. Election Policies and Rules of Procedure

The order above is a hierarchy; when conflicts arises, the CBJ Charter takes precedence over the CBJ Code, and both override the Election Policies and Rules of Procedures.

CBJ holds a by-mail regular election annually, with the first Tuesday in October as the last day to return the ballot. This is to elect Assembly and Board of Education members and may also have propositions for the voters to decide upon.

A special election is held as needed any other time. A special election can be called by the Assembly if they want to put something to the voters before the next regular election. A special election can also be called by the Clerk in certain situations as required under state law, for example if citizens petition to recall an elected official.

The rest of these policies and rules of procedure will use the term “election” when referring to either a regular or special election.