A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING ADOPTION OF A CLEAN ELECTIONS SYSTEM IN ALASKA.

THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

WHEREAS, several former and current legislators have recently been indicted for accepting money in exchange for votes; and

WHEREAS, votes taken by these individuals may have cost the state more than $1 billion annually in unrealized oil tax revenues, revenue that is critical to supporting the operations of our local governments; and

WHEREAS, this scandal has undermined public confidence in the integrity of Alaska’s elected officials; and

WHEREAS, adoption of a Clean Elections system can help restore public trust in government, eliminate the potential for and perception of corruption, and promote greater accountability to voters; and

WHEREAS, under Clean Elections, candidates who demonstrate broad public support and agree to forego private contributions can qualify for public financing of their campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Clean Elections is law in seven states and is extremely popular with voters as well as candidates; and

WHEREAS, Clean Elections affirms the principle of “one person, one vote” by curtailing the influence of special interest money and enabling citizens of all backgrounds to participate equally in the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, Clean Elections opens the door to a greater diversity of candidates who will represent the public interest; and

WHEREAS, Clean Elections system saves money by eliminating funding for pet projects advocated by special interests; and

WHEREAS, the time has come for Clean Elections in Alaska;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY that Governor Sarah Palin and the Alaska State Legislature be urged to expeditiously implement a Clean Elections system in Alaska.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this ______ day of ____________, 2007.

ATTEST: 

Chair

Municipal Clerk
From: Assemblymembers Traini and Tesche

Subject: AR 2007–300 - A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING ADOPTION OF A CLEAN ELECTIONS SYSTEM IN ALASKA.

The resolution is modeled on the recent action by the Kodiak Assembly “Supporting Adoption of a Clean Election System in Alaska.” Attached is a Kodiak Mirror article that explains that Assembly’s action.

Bills for a Clean Elections system were introduced in both houses during the last regular legislative session, in both cases sponsored by one representative and senator from the two major parties. The bills were referred to three committees in each house, so they saw no action this year.

An initiative petition is now being circulated by Alaskans for Clean Elections so that the people have a chance to vote on the issue in November 2008, if the legislature does not act during the forthcoming session. To make it on the ballot, the initiative requires 23,831 valid signatures. To assure acceptance, the goal is to submit 30,000 signatures by the January 15 deadline, the day the legislature convenes. Close to twenty thousand have been obtained towards that goal.

The Clean Elections proposal has received strong bipartisan support. Governor Wally Hickel is an enthusiastic supporter, as is Mayor Jim Whittaker of Fairbanks. Many municipal officials signed the petition circulated at the recent AML meeting in Fairbanks, as did Native regional corporation executives and business people from all over the state.

Respectfully submitted:

Dick Traini       Allan Tesche
Assemblymember, Section 4     Assemblymember, Section 1