

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-13

BALLOT PROPOSITION OCTOBER 6, 2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA PROPOSING TO AMEND SECTION 6.01 "INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM" OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER AND, SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF SUCH AN AMENDMENT TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS AT THE REGULAR ELECTION ON OCTOBER 6, 2026

1. CLASSIFICATION. This ordinance is of a permanent nature and is intended to become a part of the Sitka Home Rule Charter.

2. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or any application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and application thereof to any person or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

3. PURPOSE. The purpose of this ordinance is to amend language in the Home Rule Charter (HRC) of the City and Borough of Sitka, Article VI "Initiative, Referendum and Recall," Section 6.01 "Initiative and Referendum." The current charter requires a special election to be scheduled not less than 40 days nor more than 90 days after the filing of an initiative or referendum petition signed by at least one-third of electors who voted in the last regular annual election. This amendment proposes to remove that mandatory requirement and replace it with a discretionary provision allowing the Assembly, by ordinance, to order a special election on the matter if it determines it is in the best interest of the municipality. Otherwise, the petition would go before the voters at the next scheduled regular or special election.

4. ENACTMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that the Home Rule Charter of the City and Borough of Sitka, Section 6.01 "Initiative and Referendum," be amended by revising the language in Section 6.01 to read as follows (deleted language stricken, new language underlined):

* * *

**ARTICLE VI
INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL**

Section 6.01 Initiative and Referendum

The powers and rights of the initiative and referendum are reserved to the people of the municipality as prescribed by law. The assembly, by ordinance, shall regulate the procedure for their exercise but such regulations shall require that a petition to initiate or repeal an action be signed by qualified voters of the municipality equal in number to at least twenty percent of the total number of electors voting at the last regular annual election and the subject of the petition shall be submitted to the voters at the next previously scheduled municipal special or regular election that will be held at least 40 days after certification of the petition. ~~However, a special election must be scheduled not less than 40 days or more than 90 days after filing of a petition containing the signatures of not less than 1/3 of the total number of electors voting at the last regular annual election.~~ If the assembly determines it is in the best interest of the municipality, the assembly may, by ordinance, order a special election to be held on the matter before the next scheduled election.

54 A vote of a majority of the electors who vote on the question shall be required. An ordinance
55 adopted by the initiative procedure may not be amended or repealed by the assembly for a period
56 of one year after the date of the election at which it was adopted, and should two or more
57 ordinances adopted at the same election have conflicting provision, the one receiving the largest
58 affirmative vote shall prevail. Ordinances repealed by referendum shall be null and void from the
59 day following the day of the election.

60
61 * * *

62 **5. BALLOT PROPOSITION.** The following question shall be placed on the ballot at the regular
63 election on October 6, 2026:

64
65 Proposition No. _____

66
67 Shall the City and Borough of Sitka amend Section 6.01 of its Home Rule Charter to
68 remove the requirement for a mandatory special election when at least one-third of voters
69 in the last regular election sign an initiative or referendum petition, and instead allow the
70 Assembly, by ordinance, to determine whether holding a special election is in the best
71 interest of the municipality?

72
73 Yes No

74
75 Informational: See Ordinance 2026-13. Under the current Charter, a special election must
76 be held when an initiative or referendum petition is signed by at least one-third of voters
77 in the last regular election. This amendment would remove the mandatory special election
78 requirement. The petition would instead go before voters at the next scheduled regular or
79 special election, unless the Assembly passes an ordinance calling a special election on
80 the matter.

81
82 **6. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall become effective on the day after the date of its
83 passage.

84
85 The amendment to the Charter set forth in Section 6.01 hereof shall only become effective if the
86 ballot proposition set forth in Section 5 hereof is approved by a majority of the qualified voters at
87 the regular election held on October 6, 2026.

88
89 **PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka,
90 Alaska this 26th day of May, 2026.

91
92
93 _____
94 Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

95 **ATTEST:**
96
97 _____
98 Sara Peterson, MMC
99 Municipal Clerk

100
101 1st reading: 5/12/2026
102 2nd and final reading: 5/26/2026

103
104 Sponsor: Administrator