

CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05

**SPECIAL ELECTION MAY 28, 2025
BALLOT PROPOSITION**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA SETTING A SPECIAL
ELECTION ON MAY 28, 2025 AND SUBMITTING A QUESTION TO THE QUALIFIED
VOTERS TO LIMIT CRUISE VISITATION IN SITKA AND ADD TITLE 25 "TOURISM" TO
SITKA GENERAL CODE**

1. CLASSIFICATION. This ordinance is not of a permanent nature and is not intended to become a part of the Sitka General Code.

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. This ordinance sets the date for a special election, as required by Sitka Home Rule Charter 5.01(b) and Sitka General Code 2.80.260(B), and includes the ballot question to be submitted to the qualified voters of the City and Borough of Sitka.

4. ENACTMENT. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka that:

4.1 There shall be a special election held on May 28, 2025, at which the voters will decide whether to approve proposed Ordinance 2024-33: Limitation of Cruise Visitation in Sitka, adding "Title 25 – Tourism" to Sitka General Code. The proposed ordinance is sponsored by a citizen initiative.

4.2 The special election ballot question shall read as follows:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Shall the City and Borough of Sitka (CBS) adopt proposed Ordinance No. 2024-33 to regulate all cruise ship visitation, beginning with the 2026 cruise season, by establishing:

1. regulations on large cruise ships (defined as ships accommodating 250+ overnight passengers) to include:
 - a. limiting port calls to the cruise season (defined as May 1 – September 30);
 - b. restricting port calls to a maximum of six days per week ensuring at least one day per week with no port calls;
 - c. an annual cap of 300,000 scheduled passengers ashore per cruise season; and
 - d. a daily cap of 4,500 scheduled passengers ashore;

- 52 2. requirements for the CBS to implement and administer a scheduling and
- 53 permitting system for large and small cruise ships;
- 54 3. requirements for the CBS to enforce provisions for violations (principally
- 55 through fines, permit revocation, and/or suspending permit eligibility for
- 56 one year), to be imposed on cruise ship owners or operators; and
- 57 4. requirements for cruise ship operators to report visitation data to the CBS.

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 60 Yes No

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62 Informational: See proposed Ordinance No. 2024-33.

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65 **5. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall become effective on the day after the
66 date of its passage.

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68 Ordinance No. 2024-33, adding “Title 25 – Tourism” to Sitka General Code, shall
69 become effective only if the ballot question set forth in Section 4.2 is approved by a majority of
70 qualified voters at a special election on May 28, 2025, and the election results are officially
71 certified by the Municipal Clerk and approved by the Assembly.

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73 **PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of
74 Sitka, Alaska this 25th day of March, 2025.

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78 _____
79 Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

80 **ATTEST:**

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82 _____
83 Sara Peterson, MMC
84 Municipal Clerk

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86 1st reading: 03/18/2025
87 2nd and final reading: 03/25/2025

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89 Sponsor: Administrator