

STRUCTURES of LOCAL GOVERNMENT in ALASKA

Type	No.	Requirement	Powers by	Jurisdiction-wide			Other Powers	Examples
				Educ	Plan ¹	Tax ²		
Home Rule City (Organized Boro)	7	= or >400 residents	Charter	NO	MAY ³	MAY	May exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter. (Art.X, Sec 11, AK. Constitution)	S&W; Fr; Pl; Rc; Ut; Lb; P&H; Rd; Pk
Home Rule City (Unorganized Boro)	5	= or >400 residents	Charter	MUST	MUST	MAY	May exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter. (Art.X, Sec 11, AK. Constitution)	S&W; Fr; Pl; Rc; Ut; Lb; P&H; Rd; Pk
First Class City (Organized Boro)	8	= or >400 residents	State Statutes	NO	MAY ³	MAY	May exercise a power not otherwise prohibited by law (AS 29.35.250)	S&W; Fr; Pl; Rc; Lb; P&H; Rd; Hc
First Class City (Unorganized Boro)	13	= or >400 residents	State Statutes	MUST	MUST	MAY	May exercise a power not otherwise prohibited by law (AS 29.35.260)	S&W; Fr; Pl; Rc; Lb; P&H; Rd; Hc
Second Class City (Organized Boro)	34	= or >25 voters	State Statutes	NO	MAY ³	MAY	May exercise a power not otherwise prohibited by law (AS 29.35.250)	S&W; Fr; PS; Rc; Lb; Hc;Ws; Pk
Second Class City (Unorganized Boro)	78	= or >25 voters	State Statutes	NO	MAY	MAY	May exercise a power not otherwise prohibited by law (AS 29.35.260)	S&W; Fr; PS; Rc; Lb; Hc;Ws; Pk
Unified Municipalities (Unified Borough)	3	Area & population with same interests	Charter	MUST	MUST	MUST ⁵	May exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter. (Art.X, Sec 11, AK. Constitution)	S&W; Fr; Pl; Rc; Ut; Lb; P&H; Rd; Pk; Pz; Ac
Home Rule Borough (Non-Unified)	5	Area & population with same interests	Charter	MUST	MUST	MUST ⁵	May exercise all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter. (Art.X, Sec 11, AK. Constitution)	S&W; Fr; Pl; Rc; Lb; P&H; Hc; Ws
First Class Borough (Non-Unified)	0	Area & population with same interests	State Statutes	MUST	MUST	MUST ⁵	May exercise by ordinance (not voter approval) on a non-areawide basis any power not otherwise prohibited by law. (AS 29.35.200)	No First Class Boroughs Exist
Second Class Borough (Non-Unified)	7	Area & population with same interests	State Statutes	MUST	MUST	MUST ⁵	May exercise by voter approval on a non-areawide basis any power not otherwise prohibited by law. (AS 29.35.200)	S&W; Fr; Pl; Rc; Lb; Rd; Pk; Pz; Ac; Hp
Third Class Borough (Non-Unified)	1	Area & population with same interests	State Statutes	MUST	NO	MUST ⁵	May exercise any power not prohibited by law, but only on a service area basis. Home Rule/1st Class city within Boro has land use powers. ⁴	Fr; Rc; Lb; Rd; Pz; Hc; P&H

¹ Plan means planning, platting and land use regulation.

² Tax means tax assessment and collection.

⁵ Borough must assess/collect taxes IF levied thru local choice.

³ This power requires delegation from the borough.

⁴ State law prohibits formation of new third class boroughs - AS 29.05.031.

Example of Other Powers -- Code Explanation

Ac - Animal Control	Lb - Library	P&H - Ports & Harbors	Ut - Utilities
Fr - Fire/Paid or Volunteer	Pk - Parks/Recreation	Rc - Refuse Collection/Landfill	Ws - Washeterias
Hc - Health Clinic	Pz - Planning/Zoning	Rd - Road Maintenance	
Hp - Hospital	Pl - Police/VPSO	S&W - Sewer/Water	

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Home Rule Cities							
Cordova	* Kenai	* Kodiak	* North Pole	Petersburg	Valdez		
Fairbanks	* Ketchikan	Nenana	* Palmer	* Seward	Wrangell		
First Class Cities							
Barrow	Galena	Hoonah	* King Cove	Pelican	* Seldovia	Tanana	
Craig	* Haines	Hydaburg	Klawock	St. Mary's	Skagway	Unalaska	
Dillingham	* Homer	Kake	Nome	* Sand Point	* Soldotna	* Wasilla	
Second Class Cities							
Akhiok	Bethel	Eagle	* Houston	Kupreanof	Nikolai	* Port Heiden	Shishmaref
Akiak	Bettles	Eek	Hughes	Kwethluk	* Nondalton	* Port Lions	* Shungnak
Akutan	Brevig Mission	* Egegik	Huslia	* Larsen Bay	* Noorvik	Quinhagak	Stebbins
Alakanuk	* Buckland	Ekwok	* Kachemak	Lower Klaskag	* Nuiqsut	Ruby	Teller
Aleknagik	Chefornak	Elim	* Kaktovik	Manokotak	Nulato	Russian Mission	Tenakee Sprg.
Allakaket	Chevak	Emmonak	Kaltag	Marshall	Nunam Iqua	St. George	Thorne Bay
Ambler	* Chignik	* False Pass	Kasaan	McGrath	Nunapitchuk	St. Michael	Togiak
Anaktuvuk Pass	Chuathbaluk	Fort Yukon	* Kiana	Mekoryuk	* Old Harbor	St. Paul	Toksook Bay
Anderson	Clark's Point	Gambell	* Kivalina	Mt. Village	* Quzinkie	Savoonga	Unalakleet
Angoon	Coffman Cove	Golovin	* Kobuk	Napakiak	* Pilot Point	* Saxman	Upper Kalskag
Aniak	* Cold Bay	Goodnews Bay	Kotlik	Napaskiak	Pilot Station	Scammon Bay	* Wainwright
Anvik	* Deering	Grayling	* Kotzebue	NewStuyahok	Platinum	* Selawik	Wales
Atka	Delta J'ct.	Holy Cross	Koyuk	* Newhalen	* Point Hope	Shageluk	White Mt.
Atkasuk	Diomedea	Hooper Bay	Koyukuk	Nightmute	Pt. Alexander	Shaktoolik	Whittier

*City is within an organized borough.

Unified Municipality
Municipality of Anchorage City & Borough of Juneau City & Borough of Sitka
Home Rule Borough
Denali Lake and Peninsula North Slope Northwest Arctic Yakutat
Second Class Borough
Aleutians East Bristol Bay Fairbanks North Star Kenai Peninsula Ketchikan Gateway Kodiak Island Matanuska-Susitna
Third Class Borough
Haines
(1st Class Boro = none)

Organized City Government				Organized Borough Government		Definitions	
Type	In Org. Boro	In Unorg. Boro	Total				
Home Rule	7	5	12	Unified Municipalities	3	Areawide - throughout the entire borough	
First Class	8	13	21	Home Rule Boroughs	5	Non areawide - throughout the entire borough exclusive of the area lying within the corporate limits of city governments	
Second Class	34	78	112	First Class Boroughs	0	Service Area - an area in which the borough provides higher or different levels of service than it provides on an areawide or non-areawide basis.	
Total	49	96	145	Second Class Boroughs	7		
				Third Class Boroughs	1		
				Total	16		

Eight boroughs were formed under the 1963 Mandatory Borough Act. (Mat-Su, Kodiak Is., Ketchikan Gateway, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks North Star, Anchorage, Sitka, Juneau) In 2000, 87% of the total population resided in organized boroughs. Currently 83% of Alaskans live in mandated boroughs; 4% live in boros formed voluntarily.	* Denali, Lake and Peninsula, Northwest Arctic and Aleutians East Boroughs have no property tax. * Three percent of Alaskans live outside any municipal government. * Alaska is the only state in the union that has unorganized regions within its boundaries.
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