

# Voters face uncertain elections

By JIM BABB

Daily News Staff Writer

No one is really sure how many elections the voters will have to face this fall, but if unification fails Sept. 9, voters may end up having to go to the polls a total of at least three times before the year is out.

If unification passes Sept. 9, then there is a chance it will be the only election scheduled for this year. However, the Borough Assembly Monday

night passed a resolution asking — in the event the charter is approved — the new, merged government to schedule a "regular" election for Dec. 16 to fill Ed Tomco's unexpired term on the School Board. Tomco resigned two weeks ago, and the School Board Tuesday appointed Carolyn Wohlforth to his seat.

IF UNIFICATION is not approved by the voters on Sept. 9, they will have to go to

the polls again on Oct. 7, according to a resolution passed by the assembly Monday.

The only question voters are scheduled to face on the Oct. 7 ballot is how they want the Anchorage area apportioned. Monday, the assembly decided to give voters a choice between two plans, one for multi-member districts and the other for single-member districts. The multi-member plan is the same one incorporated in the

proposed charter up for approval Sept. 9.

Currently, the Anchorage area is malapportioned, and if the charter does not pass it will remain so until voters make some kind of decision as to how they want assembly members elected. The primary reason the borough is malapportioned is that the Eagle River - Chugiak area has no representation on the assembly. When the borough's

last apportionment plan was implemented, Eagle River - Chugiak was an independent borough, and residents there did not vote in elections held last year and in February of this year.

**THE EAGLE RIVER**-Chugiak Borough was declared unconstitutional by the Alaska Supreme Court this spring, and the area is now part of the Greater Anchorage Area Borough. Residents there are still attempting to form an independent borough, but for the time being they must be given the opportunity to elect representatives to present and contemplated borough governments.

If the proposed charter fails on Sept. 9 and voters then select an apportionment plan on Oct. 7, another election will be held Dec. 16, according to Assembly actions Monday. The borough mayor, members of the assembly, and four School Board seats would appear on that ballot. In order for the election to be held Dec. 16, the terms of all borough officers had to be extended by the assembly in a second resolution Monday. Normally, the mayor's term and that of some assembly members and School Board members would have expired Oct. 7.

Benny Leonard and Dave Rose opposed the move to set Dec. 16 as the election date.

IN OTHER assembly action Monday, members of the assembly approved the sale of \$3.5 million in bonds to John Nuveen and Co. of Chicago and New York, and Foster and Marshall of Seattle. The

borough will have to pay 7.17 per cent interest on the bonds. The previous sale of \$4 million in bonds last June was at an interest rate of only 6.8 per cent. Don Meyer, one of the borough's financial consultants, explained the higher interest rates were the result of recent financial problems experienced by New York City.

Richard Burg, chairman of the Alaska Public Employees Association presented the assembly a petition signed by 232 employees, most of whom said current job descriptions and classifications are incorrect. The borough administration says it is in favor of reworking the job classifications, but does not have the personnel to do it.

When the assembly was working on the budget earlier this year, they rejected a request from the personnel department for additional people. The assembly agreed Monday that a reclassification study should be made as soon as possible.

A RESOLUTION submitted by Assemblyman George Dickson, proposing that the question of whether the borough should impose a 5 per cent sales tax on liquor sales be sent to the voters in an upcoming election failed.

The assembly also approved a resolution giving initial financial support to community councils, and the assembly appropriated an additional \$60,700 for 50 fiberglass enclosed bus waiting stations.



Daily News photo by Henry Peck

## Testimony Favors Split

By RAY TYSON  
Times Staff Writer

An overwhelming majority of Chugiak and Eagle River residents who spoke before the state Local Boundary Commission last night said they want to secede from Anchorage to form their own local government.

Thirty-nine persons said they want to incorporate as a borough. Nine were opposed to the move. More than 250 were on hand to hear testimony at

Chugiak High School.

The commission will analyze the testimony and decide by Jan. 1 whether to deny the petition for independence, to allow the issue to go on the ballot or to declare a new government outright.

The opposition testified that incorporation will force taxes in Chugiak and Eagle River to double and that the area lacks a sufficient economic base.

By the middle of last night's five-hour meeting, the com-

mission had received some 30 letters which spoke against a separate government. One letter was on record in favor of secession.

Many of the pro-borough witnesses conceded that they would have to pay dearly for their own government. But they said they want independence regardless.

Many of the proponents said that they aren't getting what they're paying for and have been neglected by Anchorage's ruling body.

"I'm sick and tired of people at a distance making decisions, yet not understanding our situation," Robert Kallenberg told the commission. "Whether it costs more is not the question."

Another hearing participant, Robert Johnson, said, "I'd rather pay twice the mills (taxes)."

Commission members on hand included Gary Ackerman of Fairbanks, a pipefitter; Jo Anderson of Wrangell, an insurance salesman; Oliver Leavitt of Barrow, treasurer of Arctic Slope Regional Corp., and Sigvald Strandberg, commission chairman.

Strandberg has said that public testimony will weigh heavily in the commission's final decision.

Also testifying before the commission was Lee Jordan,

one of the petitioners for independence. He was mayor of the Chugiak-Eagle River borough before its demise in April when the Supreme Court ruled that state legislation leading to its incorporation was illegal.

"This is a historic moment for Eagle River-Chugiak," Jordan said. "There are no precedents or precedent to guide us. We want our borough back."

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