



## City of Homer

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)

Homer City Council

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### Memorandum 21-080

TO: MAYOR CASTNER AND HOMER CITY COUNCIL  
FROM: COUNCILMEMBERS SMITH AND HANSEN-CAVASOS  
DATE: MAY 19, 2021  
SUBJECT: DESIGNATED COUNCIL SEATS

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There have been a number of recent efforts to improve all facets of elections here within the State of Alaska. We bring forward a proposal that has surfaced among various circles of the community that believe this change will enhance our council election process.

In past elections, some factions have sought to game the system by advocating “Vote for One” when two seats were up for election and multiple candidates were on the ballot. The idea being that by withholding a second vote it increases the electoral chance of the candidate favored by their voting block.

In the ‘all candidates for any seat’ type elections we now have, there is always a chance that your second vote will supersede your vote for your most preferred candidate.

By having choices between candidates for a specific council seat, the electorate will have a clear focus on the choices before them and can cast votes for each open seat without fear their ‘second’ vote will hinder their first.

From a candidates perspective, there will be a clear choice reflecting who they may prefer to serve with, rather than taking a chance their candidacy could work against someone they believe well serves the community.

This proposed change also alleviates any potential confusion on who fills what seat should there be a runoff, or contested, election for one of the seats to be filled.

This would follow the process that the City of Soldotna uses. There are no areas or districts associated with the seats and will continue on the same three year cycle as we currently have adopted.