



# City of Homer

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Homer City Council

491 East Pioneer Avenue  
Homer, Alaska 99603

(p) 907-235-3130

(f) 907-235-3143

## Memorandum 22-080

TO: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council

FROM: Councilmember Aderhold

DATE: May 4, 2022

SUBJECT: Resolution supporting efforts to increase voter awareness of upcoming elections

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I was approached by Kenai Peninsula Votes and the Central Kenai Peninsula Chapter of the League of Women Voters asking that the Homer City Council consider a resolution supporting efforts by the City of Homer to increase its efforts to raise local awareness of upcoming elections. Both organizations are nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations interested in increasing voter participation on the Kenai Peninsula.

Homer's clerks currently are the primary source of information about upcoming local elections. They are responsible for conducting local Homer elections which includes advertising, hiring election workers, working with the canvass board to tally election results, and overall ensuring Homer's elections are open and accessible to all registered voters. In addition, Homer's clerks work closely with the Kenai Peninsula Borough clerks and Alaska Division of Elections staff to conduct borough and state elections that take place in Homer.

Homer has done so well with absentee voting during recent state elections that new in 2022 Homer City Hall will be an early polling place for state elections. This means that ballots cast for state elections in person at Homer City Hall during early voting will be counted on election day rather than waiting for absentee ballot tallying.

That said, turnout for elections in Homer is generally below 30% of registered voters. The voter awareness resolution would recognize the value of the City of Homer contributing additional resources to advertising upcoming elections to increase voter participation. Methods to increase awareness could include the City purchasing voting banners to place along Pioneer Avenue and at key local parks and public spaces (such as WKFL Park and the library), using the mobile lighted signs the City purchased during the pandemic to advertise elections, and other ideas.