



MEMORANDUM

Resolutions 23-072, A Resolution of the City Council of Homer, Alaska Providing Comments on Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Resolution 2023-048 to Place an Advisory Vote Question on the October 2023 Borough Ballot Asking whether the Kenai Peninsula Borough should change its Regular Election Date. Adherold/Mayor

Item Type: Backup Memorandum
Prepared For: Mayor Castner and Homer City Council
Date: July 19, 2023
From: Council Member Aderhold

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide background information related to the resolution providing comment on Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Assembly Resolution 2023-048 to put an advisory vote on the October ballot to change Borough elections from October to November to align with the State and Federal Election Day.

During his Borough report at our June 26, 2023, Assembly Member Lane Chesley informed Homer City Council that Assembly Member Richard Derkevorkian intended to sponsor a resolution at their July 11, 2023, Assembly meeting to change the Borough's election date from the first Tuesday in October to the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November to align with State and Federal elections. Various council members and Homer's city attorney had comments and questions for Mr. Chesley during discussion of his report. Among the issues raised were that the City of Homer conducts elections in coordination with KPB, that the late timing of the resolution precluded the Homer City Council from providing comments on the resolution because our one meeting in July would be after July 11, and that Alaska Statute 29. 26.040 states that municipalities require an ordinance to change election dates from the first Tuesday in October.

Following Mr. Chesley's report and at City Council request, the City Clerk provided KPB us once the July 11 KPB meeting packet was publicly available. I submitted comments to KPB Assembly Members as an individual with concerns about the resolution and accompanying memorandum (which provides a list of pros and cons for changing the election date) and received a call from Mr. Derkevorkian to discuss my concerns. Among the items we discussed, Mr. Derkevorkian noted that the vote would be advisory only, and that, based on the outcome of the vote, the Assembly would then spend the time to delve into the issue further and introduce an ordinance to change the date of the Borough election if warranted. He also stated that the pros and cons list in the memorandum

was intended to be provided as information to voters and suggested that if I had additional pros and cons, I should include them as comments to the Assembly for consideration as amendments.

The KPB Assembly discussed the resolution during their Policies and Procedures meeting on July 11, before their regular meeting. In listening to their meeting, I learned that Mr. Derkevorkian intended to postpone the resolution to their August 1, 2023, meeting to provide the opportunity for Cities within the KPB to hold meetings and consider comments on the resolution and memorandum. August 1 is the last meeting at which the KPB Assembly may consider propositions for the October ballot.

With the support of Mayor Castner, I prepared the resolution before you to provide comments on KPB Resolution 2023-048 and the associated memorandum. I look forward to our discussion on this topic and appreciate your consideration.

Attachments:

KBP Memorandum Re: Resolution 23-048
KPB Resolution 2023-048