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**CITY OF HOMER
HOMER, ALASKA**

Aderhold/City Clerk

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RESOLUTION 19-063

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A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HOMER, ALASKA,
SUPPORTING KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH RESOLUTION 2019-
047 TO RECOGNIZE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE KENAI
PENINSULA BOROUGH'S ELECTION STAKEHOLDERS GROUP AND
DIRECTING STAFF TO EXPLORE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
RECOMMENDATIONS, AND SIGNING KENAI PENINSULA
BOROUGH JOINT RESOLUTION 2019-001.

WHEREAS, In February, 2019, the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) established the Election Stakeholders Group (ESG) to increase voter participation by developing sustainable election processes that maximize accessibility and inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, The City of Homer was represented on the ESG by Councilmember Donna Aderhold, City Clerk Melissa Jacobsen participated on the ESG as a subject matter expert, and Joyanna Geisler, Executive Director of the Independent Living Center and ADA Compliance Committee member, participated as an advocate for voters with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In July, 2019, the ESG concluded its work and produced a summary of six final recommendations:

1. Vote by Mail Hybrid: transition the election process from the current polling site structure to a vote by mail hybrid structure (VBMS) wherein every registered voter is mailed a ballot packet 2-3 weeks prior to election day; voters drop their ballots at secured locations, return their ballot by mail, or else vote in person at specified Accessible Vote Centers (AVC);
2. Education & Outreach Campaign: the KPB Assembly appropriates funds for an extensive voter education and outreach campaign designed to encourage voter participation, promote civic engagement, and educate voters about VBMS;
3. Amend Alaska State Statute, Title 29: the KPB Assembly adopts a resolution requesting the Alaska State Legislature to amend AS 29.26.060(c) in order to allow ranked voting for runoff elections;
4. Voter Pamphlet: deliver the voter pamphlet to voters via a website, and also provide hard copies of the voter pamphlets at the Accessible Vote Centers (ACV);
5. Appoint Service Area Board Representatives: transition to appointing KPB service area board representatives rather than electing them;
6. Eliminate Proposition Statements: eliminate having proposition statements, either for or against a proposition, from the voter pamphlet; and

43 WHEREAS, The ESG final report also recommends that the KPB seek support from and
44 partner with each City to conduct all local elections by mail; and
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46 WHEREAS, Because the impact of pursuing these recommendations will be broadly
47 felt throughout the borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly has requested that each
48 City demonstrate support for this initiative by signing KPB Joint Resolution 2019-001; and
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50 WHEREAS, KPB Joint Resolution 2019-001 recognizes the recommendations of the
51 ESG, and supports a KPB vote by mail strategy with an implementation target date of
52 October, 2020.
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54 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby
55 supports Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 2019-047, and authorizes the Mayor Castner to
56 sign Kenai Peninsula Borough Joint Resolution 2019-001, recognizing the recommendations
57 of the KPB Election Stakeholders Group and supporting a KPB vote by mail strategy with an
58 implementation target date of October, 2020.
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60 PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 23rd day of September, 2019.
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62 CITY OF HOMER
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66 _____
67 KEN CASTNER, MAYOR
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69 ATTEST:

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73 MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK
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75 Fiscal note: N/A

