
WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly established the Election Stakeholder Group ("ESG") through the direction and adoption of Kenai Peninsula Borough ("KPB") Resolution 2019-006; and

WHEREAS, the ESG was tasked with researching ways to increase voter participation by developing sustainable election processes that maximize accessibility and inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, the ESG was comprised of assembly members, city council members, city managers, a representative from the KPB mayor's office and community members with a specific interest in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, the ESG was supported by the borough and city clerks as well representatives from the KPB Legal Department, Information Technology Department, and the Geographical Information Division; and

WHEREAS, the ESG adopted guiding principles to focus and guide its work, including: maximizing accessibility and inclusivity of borough elections; improving voter satisfaction and confidence; making efficient use of public resources; ensuring electing security and integrity; and, improving voter outreach and coordination with all stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the ESG, as detailed in its final report, made six specific recommendations regarding potential changes to KPB code and election processes which are supported by, and intended to achieve, the stated guiding principles; and

WHEREAS, the ESG chair and vice-chair presented the attached final report and recommendations to the KPB assembly on August 20, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the ESG recommends that the KPB seek support from and partnership with the cities within the borough to administer all future local elections consistent with the vote by mail hybrid structure; and

WHEREAS, the ESG recommends that the KPB explore cost sharing with the cities within the KPB for the purchase and maintenance of election equipment; and
WHEREAS, in order to fully educate voters and the public on a new process, the ESG recommends the KPB and community partners conduct an extensive and comprehensive communication/education plan; and

WHEREAS, the ESG further recommends collaboration between the KPB and the cities within the KPB to develop legislation and administrative practices for the administration of local elections that are consistent with KPB processes, and make efficient use of government resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AND THE COUNCILS OF THE CITIES OF HOMER, KACHEMAK, KENAI, SELDOVIA, SEWARD AND SOLDOTNA:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the city councils for the Cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna recognize the recommendations of the 2019 Election Stakeholders Group.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the city councils for the Cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna support the KPB clerk and the city clerks as they continue to explore vote by mail elections with a goal to implement the first by mail election in October of 2020 as a strategy to increase voter turnout, thus empowering KPB and city residents with a stronger voice in the democratic process and in the decisions that directly impact their lives.

SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the city councils within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 3RD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2019.

ATTEST:

John Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk


Ken Castner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

ATTEST:

Erika Fitzpatrick, City Clerk

William Overway, Mayor


ATTEST:

Brian Gabriel, Mayor

Jamie Heinz, CMC, City Clerk


ATTEST:

Dean Lent, Mayor

Heidi Geagel, City Clerk


ATTEST:

David Squires, Mayor

Brenda Ballou, MMC, City Clerk

__________________________________________
William Overway, Mayor

Erika Fitzpatrick, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI THIS THIS 18th DAY OF September, 2019.

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Brian Gabriel, Mayor

Jamie Heinz, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA THIS THIS ____ DAY OF ________, 2019.

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Dean Lent, Mayor

Heidi Geagel, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD THIS THIS ____ DAY OF ________, 2019.

__________________________
David Squires, Mayor

ATTEST:
Brenda Ballou, MMC, City Clerk

ATTEST:

William Overway, Mayor

Erika Fitzpatrick, City Clerk


ATTEST:

Brian Gabriel, Mayor

Jamie Heinz, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA THIS THIS 9th DAY OF September, 2019.

ATTEST:

David Squires, Mayor

Heidi Geagel, City Clerk


ATTEST:

Brenda Ballou, MMC, City Clerk

ATTEST:

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William Overway, Mayor

Erika Fitzpatrick, City Clerk


ATTEST:

________________________________________
Brian Gabriel, Mayor

Jamie Heinz, CMC, City Clerk


ATTEST:

________________________________________
Dean Lent, Mayor

Heidi Geagel, City Clerk


________________________________________
David Squires, Mayor

Sue McClure, Vice Mayor

Brenda Ballou, MMC, City Clerk

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Whitney, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle M. (Saner), MMC, City Clerk