CITY OF HOMER  
HOMER, ALASKA

RESOLUTION 19-063

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 (AVC);

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
WHEREAS, The ESG final report also recommends that the KPB seek support from and partner with each City to conduct all local elections by mail; and

WHEREAS, Because the impact of pursuing these recommendations will be broadly felt throughout the borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly has requested that each City demonstrate support for this initiative by signing KPB Joint Resolution 2019-001; and

WHEREAS, KPB Joint Resolution 2019-001 recognizes the recommendations of the ESG, and supports a KPB vote by mail strategy with an implementation target date of October, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of Homer, Alaska hereby supports Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 2019-047, and authorizes the Mayor Castner to sign Kenai Peninsula Borough Joint Resolution 2019-001, recognizing the recommendations of the KPB Election Stakeholders Group and supporting a KPB vote by mail strategy with an implementation target date of October, 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Homer City Council this 23rd day of September, 2019.

CITY OF HOMER

KEN CASTNER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

MELISSA JACOBSEN, MMC, CITY CLERK

Fiscal note: N/A