

Introduced by: Eicher, Niesen, and Tunseth
at the request of the
Borough Clerk

Date: 01/20/26
Hearing: 02/17/26
Action:
Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE 2026-02**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 4, ELECTIONS, TO UPDATE
ELECTION WORKER COMPENSATION, THE CANDIDATE FILING
PERIOD, ADD A NEW CANDIDATE WITHDRAWAL PERIOD AND
EXTEND THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR CURRENT ELECTED
OFFICIALS TO ALIGN WITH A NOVEMBER ELECTION DATE**

WHEREAS, at the October 7, 2025 regular election borough voters ratified 2025-01 Citizen Initiative Ordinance – Proposition No. 5 that changed the borough's election date in October to align with the State of Alaska election date in November by 5,877 Yes votes and 3,374 No votes cast; and

WHEREAS, prior to the ratification of Proposition No. 5, the majority of election workers served during both State elections (August primary and November general elections), and the Borough's regular elections in October; and

WHEREAS, with the Borough's regular election now occurring in November, it is necessary for the Borough to offer competitive compensation in order to retain experienced election workers and attract new workers; and

WHEREAS, amendments to the candidate filing period are necessary to better align with Borough elections held in November, and it is an opportune time to provide candidates with a seven day withdrawal period; and

WHEREAS, the change from October to November elections necessitates the need to extend terms of current elected officials by one month in order to align with the November election date and provide for a smooth transition for elected offices; and

WHEREAS, this transition is expected to affect three consecutive election cycles; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly finds it to be in the public interest to provide clarity and transparency regarding the status and terms of elected officials during this transition period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That this ordinance amends KPB Code and will be codified.

SECTION 2. That KPB 4.10.130(B) is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.10.130. Election expenses.

...

B. The borough or the service area as applicable shall pay each election board member and canvass board member an hourly rate for time spent at his election duties, including the receiving of instructions and posting of notices. The election supervisor shall set the hourly compensation to be paid for time spent by election officials at a rate set by the assembly through the annual budgeting process [COMPARABLE TO THAT PAID BY THE STATE FOR STATE ELECTIONS]. The clerk shall retain a record for auditing and payment of election expenses, including the cost of giving notice, renting polling places, paying election officials, securing ballot boxes, booths and other election necessities.

...

SECTION 3. That KPB 4.30.020(C) is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.30.020. Declaration of candidacy.

...

C. Filing for elective offices of mayor, assembly, school board and service area boards shall be made by filing a declaration of candidacy with the borough clerk from 9:00 a.m. August [1ST]16th through August [15TH]31st, 4:30 p.m. Should August [15]31st be a Saturday or Sunday, then candidates shall have until noon on the first Monday following to file their declaration.

...

SECTION 4. That KPB 4.30.040 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.30.040. Correction, amendments and withdrawal of declarations of candidacy.

A. Any candidate may withdraw his nomination at any time during the period for filing a declaration of candidacy by appropriate written notice to the clerk. However, after the filing has closed, no declaration may be

corrected, or amended [OR WITHDRAWN]. After the filing period has closed, a candidate may withdraw their declaration of candidacy by filing a written notice of withdrawal with the clerk within seven calendar days following the close of candidate filing. If the withdrawal is timely, the candidate's name will not appear on the ballot.

B. A declaration of candidacy presented shall not be changed as to term of office. If a candidate desires to file for a different seat, he shall request a new form from the clerk.

SECTION 5. That for each regular election occurring in 2026, 2027 and 2028, the terms of office for the Borough Mayor and members of the Borough Assembly whose seats are scheduled to expire in October of those years will remain in effect until the certification of the November election.

SECTION 6. That, in accordance with Section 5 above, the terms for elected service area board members whose seats are scheduled to expire in October of those years will remain in effect until the certification of the November election.

SECTION 7. That during this transition period all incumbent elected officials will retain the full authority and responsibilities of their office until their successors are elected, certified and qualified.

SECTION 8. That this ordinance shall be effective immediately.

ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS * DAY OF * 2026.

Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Yes:

No:

Absent: