

Broyles, Randi

From: Blankenship, Johni
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:16 AM
To: Broyles, Randi
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Good morning

Public comment

From: bubba@horizonsatellite.com <bubba@horizonsatellite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 11:10 AM
To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>
Cc: Johnson, Brent <bjohnson@kpb.us>; Dunne, Willy <WDunne@kpb.us>; Chesley, Lane <lchesley@kpb.us>; Bjorkman, Jesse <JBjorkman@kpb.us>
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Good morning

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Hi Johni,

This is the official letter that we would like to submit for ordinance 2021-18 that would go into the public record and to all the assembly members.

Have a good one.

Alex

June 8, 2021

Dear Borough Assembly,

A committee of Lois Pillifant, Kelly Behan, Cindy Koplín, and myself met to review Ordinance 2021-18, and came up with the following suggestions. These suggestions are to help promote the idea that poll watchers can add a sense of security and transparency and that all elections are fair and run appropriately.

We feel strongly that all poll watchers receive some formalized training by the Borough and sign an oath to that effect. After reading about the past Anchorage election and the alleged misconduct by poll watchers, we feel this takes on additional meaning. We believe that all poll watchers should read the, "Guide For Poll Watchers," written by the State of Alaska Division of Elections.

Here are the suggestions that we made for poll watchers regarding this ordinance.

4.60.080. Poll Watcher.

A. Each candidate may appoint a poll watcher for each voting place

Notes:

* Consider adding: The poll watcher's role is to help increase transparency and security of the election.

Under the new amendment where it says interested party, we feel there should also be mention of civic organizations as well-i.e. League of Women Voters -this is also mentioned in the, "Guide for Poll Watchers."

B. A poll watcher shall have the right to:

1. Observe the conduct of the election
2. Monitor the preliminaries of opening the poll
3. Remain at the polling place through the election until the results of the election have been posted and the voting machines sealed, as provided by law.
4. Observe the ballots as they are counted.
5. Observe absentee ballots when they are called during the count.
6. See, at a distance of normal reading ability, all oaths administered and signed, the record of assisted voters, the list of qualified voters, the poll list, and any and all records made in connection with the election.

NOTES FOR SECTION B:

* language in the bill should include that the poll watcher will complete a brief report to the Assembly regarding what they felt worked and didn't work. We feel this is important because the general public also needs to be aware of what the poll watcher (s) learned that day.

*Report to poll center and let the Poll chair know that they are there and when they leave.

*If a poll watcher feels that election misconduct has taken place, they will fill out the complaint form on page 13 of the State Guidelines and give it to the Borough Clerk. There can be no direct intervention with the voter.

*All poll watchers should read “The Guide for Poll Workers.” <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/B02.pdf>

*We suggest that poll watchers not have campaign material on their vehicle as they may be parked in that polling center area for an extended time. A person in our group, when being trained by Gail Fenumiai, recommended that poll workers who park at polling centers make an attempt to cover any material on their car. However, we also know the state law and realize that will take precedence. We were just hoping that cars parked for long periods of time not have election material in site.

C. Each poll watcher shall be sworn to faithfully observe the rule of law prescribed for the conduct of elections. Poll watchers may be present to be sworn in with the precinct election officials, or as time allows, but so as not to interfere with the election. Each poll watcher shall be a resident and qualified voter of the State of Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Election officials, including returning officers, may not serve as poll watchers.

Poll watchers are not permitted to take pictures or make copies of any ballot, list, or record provided in accordance with subsection B above.

Notes: Last sentence should be moved to Section B as number 7

We felt that the way the ordinance was written that Section B regarded the job description of the poll watcher so organize it in that section.

D. A poll watcher shall not disturb voters, attempt to influence voters, campaign at the polling place, nor display or wear any campaign material or buttons while inside any polling place.

Note: This should be moved to Section B as number 8 and language should be stronger (such as: Poll watcher cannot have contact with voters).

NEW SECTION D (Poll Chair/Poll Center/Borough Clerk)

- 1. State that designated areas should be defined for each polling center before they arrive.**

2. If a poll worker sees a poll watcher not following the guidelines, they should text the Borough Clerk immediately to address their concerns.
3. A copy of the State Guidelines for Poll Watchers should be provided to the poll watcher. <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/B02.pdf>
4. Polling Chair should notify poll watcher when they will be setting up for the election and closing down the election. When I worked in an election center we set up the night before the election.
5. There should be designated areas for the poll watcher to be.
6. The poll watcher should always be visible to the poll workers.
<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/B02.pdf>
7. A notice shall be placed on the door that a poll watcher is present and contact is not allowed by the voter and the poll watcher since it is likely that a poll watcher may know a voter.
8. Attention should be paid to the number of poll watchers who want to be at a particular polling center. The law states that each candidate or interested party is allowed to assign a poll watcher to each election center. The concern we have is that there may end up being too many poll watchers at one center.
9. Poll watcher will be issued a poll watcher badge similar to the one example in the poll watcher guide provided by the state.

This part of our letter deals with the new amendment that Jesse added.

4.80.070. Absentee voting-By mail. A. A qualified voter may apply for an absentee ballot by mail if postmarked not earlier than the first of the year in which the election is to be held nor less than seven days before an election. A voter may request [HIS]their name be placed on permanent absentee application by mail status. The application shall include the address to which the absentee ballot is to be returned, the applicant's full Alaska residence address, and the applicant's signature.

In regards to this amendment, we feel that additional language needs to be added to include that a voter can apply online for a ballot. We feel that with the number of people using online applications so they can receive a ballot that this language should to be included in Jesse's amendment. I don't know the exact number of people who applied this way, but I do know we had over 4,000 absentee ballots sent in. Just saying that "you can apply by mail" is just one way to get your absentee ballot. So, it is important to list all of the ways.

Again, we appreciate the work you all do and hope that some of these suggestions will help in the process of giving the people a sense that elections are secure. However, as we all know on

the Peninsula, our elections have been secure and run by the very best people in our Borough. We would really like to see more ways we can increase voter turnout and voter education.

Sincerely,

Alex Koplín, Lois Pillifant, Kelly Behan, Cindy Koplín

Broyles, Randi

From: Blankenship, Johni
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 7:43 AM
To: Broyles, Randi
Subject: Fwd: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fwd: 2021-18

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ken Landfield <keng2013@gmail.com>
Date: June 14, 2021 at 7:15:07 PM AKDT
To: "Blankenship, Johni" <JBlankenship@kpb.us>
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Fwd: 2021-18

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Hi,
I think I had a slightly incorrect email address.
If it's not too late, here's my 2 cents' worth.
Thanks!

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ken Landfield <keng2013@gmail.com>
Date: June 14, 2021 at 1:27:12 PM AKDT
To: j.blankenship@kpb.us
Subject: 2021-18

Hello-

Regarding this bill, I strongly encourage thorough training of poll watchers. This is too important not to be taken seriously.

As long as identity can be securely established and protected, I can think of no reason why absentee ballots should not be made permanently available via the internet.

Thank you for accepting my input.

Ken Landfield
Homer

Broyles, Randi

From: Turner, Michele
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 11:18 AM
To: Broyles, Randi
Cc: Blankenship, Johni
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>2021-18

Michele Turner, CMC
Deputy Clerk / Records Manager
Kenai Peninsula Borough
(907) 714-2165 direct

From: Sammy Crawford <scrawfordak68@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 10:42 AM
To: Turner, Michele <MicheleTurner@kpb.us>
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>2021-18

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Thank you for your support of 2021-18. I would appreciate your addition of complete training for poll watchers as well as having permanent absentee voting by mail OR online.
Sammy Crawford
Kenai

Broyles, Randi

From: Blankenship, Johni
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Broyles, Randi
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>2021-18

Public comment on passed legislation

From: Trisha Davis <deadfallmtn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Blankenship, Johni <JBlankenship@kpb.us>
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>2021-18

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Please share my support for the current proposed amendments to 2021-18. These make sense by making our officials responsible for the results while encouraging voter turnout. This is a win:win for us all.

Thank you for making our voting system beyond reproach....all the bickering across our nation has weakened our democracy. This appears to be a bipartisan project, as it should be to benefit all of our citizens. As a senior citizen, I appreciate being able to cast my votes by mail...as you know our weather may not be pleasant and could keep some folks from venturing out. Hurray for our Borough to ensure sufficient and properly trained election officials to oversee and guarantee our elections accuracy.
Thank you,