

eComments

Ordinance 2026-19

Maureen Todd

Location:

Submitted At: 3:34 pm 05-18-26

Prioritizing education funding is a proven strategy for community prosperity, supported by economic research:

Protecting Property Values: Research from the National Tax Association shows a 10% increase in school spending bolsters student achievement and increases home prices. Funding to the cap acts as "homeowner insurance," protecting the equity of every resident by keeping the Peninsula a desirable destination for families.

The Business Imperative: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce notes that quality education is a "business imperative." To keep our fishing, tourism, and healthcare industries competitive, we must provide a workforce with modern skills. Funding now prevents a "skills gap" that local businesses would otherwise pay for later through high recruitment and training costs.

Reducing Future Tax Burdens: Research from Nobel Memorial Prize-winning economist James Heckman demonstrates that investing in quality education is one of the most efficient ways to drive economic growth. His work shows that these investments significantly reduce future social costs—such as police, judicial, and remedial expenses—while increasing the tax base through higher graduation rates and a more capable workforce.

Driving Economic Growth: Foundational economic research (such as Gary Becker's Human Capital) confirms that our residents' skills are our most valuable assets. Strategic investment in our students leads to higher productivity, a more robust tax base, and a stronger local economy.

Funding to the cap is a pragmatic strategy to ensure the Kenai Peninsula remains a viable and competitive region for both families and industry. Thank you for your continued collaborative, solutions-oriented approach. I hope we can prioritize our schools as a fundamental component of our borough's infrastructure and future growth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.