
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>support for Resolution 2024-026 adopting recommendations of voter turnout working group

From: Donna Aderhold <donnagrace99@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, June 16, 2024 4:00 PM

To: Hibbert, Brent <bhibbert@kpb.us>; Tunseth, Ryan <rtunseth@kpb.us>; Ribbens, Peter <pribbens@kpb.us>; Cox, Tyson <tysoncox@kpb.us>; Elam, Bill <belam@kpb.us>; Ecklund, Cindy <CEcklund@kpb.us>; Johnson, Brent <bjohnson@kpb.us>; Cooper, Kelly <kcooper@kpb.us>; Tupper, Mike <MTupper@kpb.us>; Turner, Michele <MicheleTurner@kpb.us>

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Dear Assembly Members,

Many thanks to Assembly Member Cox for bringing forward the resolution to implement the voter turnout working group last year and the subject resolution to adopt the group's recommendations. I was honored to be appointed to this group as the representative of the League of Women Voters Central Kenai Peninsula Chapter.

Working group members represented diverse perspectives and expertise in Kenai Peninsula elections. I was impressed with the range of ideas group members suggested for increasing voter turnout and the robust discussions we had on each idea. I'm proud of the work we accomplished in six relatively short meetings and wholeheartedly agree with the list of recommendations in our final report.

The recommendations are listed specifically based on the order the group believed they should be implemented. I appreciate that the resolution has maintained this order, and that the associated fiscal note includes a separate cost estimate for each of the recommendations. I hope that as many of the recommendations as possible can be implemented or initiated before the October borough election.

The first recommendation is to conduct a borough-wide survey to gain understanding of why eligible voters do not or are reluctant to vote. We need to hear from these individuals rather than making assumptions about their reasons. The outcome of the survey will help shape each of the subsequent recommendations. I am happy to see that the fiscal note includes hiring a qualified firm to conduct a statistically valid survey so the borough assembly and staff can trust the outcome. I hope the assembly will appropriate funds for the survey so it can be conducted this summer.

I am pleased that a representative of the state's Division of Elections will be a visitor during the assembly's July 6 meeting to describe how elections are conducted and the measures taken to ensure election integrity. Many state election processes are the same as or similar to the borough's, and the borough depends on the state to maintain the list of eligible voters.

One small correction to the resolution is that, as stated in the final report, the group met six times rather than five.

Thank you for supporting the voter turnout working group and for passing Resolution 2024-026 to adopt our recommendations.

Donna Aderhold
Homer resident

Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>KPB Voter Turnout Working Group

From: Alex Koplin <akoplin907@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 15, 2024 10:38 AM

To: Turner, Michele <MicheleTurner@kpb.us>

Cc: Barb Blakeley <barbblakeley@outlook.com>; Brad Parsons <bparsons@peninsulailc.org>; Donna Aderhold <donnagrace99@gmail.com>; Johni Blankenship <jblankenship@soldotna.org>; Kelley, Sean <skelley@kpb.us>; Kris Peck <kpeck@cityofseward.net>; Lauri Wallace <cityclerk@kachemak.city>; Leslie Hamman <kjhamman58@gmail.com>; Linda Cusack <1cusack@acsalaska.net>; Liz Diament <cityclerk@cityofseldovia.com>; Melissa Jacobsen <[mjacobson@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:mjacobsen@ci.homer.ak.us)>; Pat Case <patcase57@outlook.com>; Shellie Saner <ssaner@kenai.city>; Teri Birchfield <birchdr@ptialaska.net>; Steinhage, Walker <wsteinhage@kpb.us>; Ward, Tamera <tward@kpb.us>

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Hello,

I am sharing my thoughts regarding the resolution 2024-025 and the letter I will send to the assembly. I hope everyone is well.

Hello, Borough Assembly members and Mayor Miccichie,

I am writing to you as a Voter Turnout Working Group member. I am pleased to see that Resolution 2024-025, a resolution adopting the recommendations of the Kenai Peninsula Voter turnout group, will be on the agenda for Tuesday, June 17th, sponsored by Mr. Cox. I wanted to share a few comments about the group. First, hats off to Mrs. Turner. She ran great meetings and is an excellent facilitator and manager. We are lucky to have her as our election clerk. The group was great to work with, and it was interesting to hear all the different points of view on the subjects we discussed.

My main concern with this resolution is on item number 1. I am encouraging the Borough to commission a study on voters' thoughts. My only recommendation is that the language in the resolution regarding whether they vote and, if not, why needs to be expanded; I envision a survey that contacts infrequent registered voters. We would get a better understanding of why people don't vote. Without that information, I feel that the other recommendations are solid, but when you don't know exactly why people don't vote, we can't get to the crux of the matter.

As a member of the Kenai Peninsula Votes, I have been researching ways to improve voting, including studying the practices of other countries. However, I believe that hearing from a diverse range of people in our Borough through a comprehensive study is essential. This study could potentially serve as a model for other Boroughs, encouraging more public outreach in voting. The mere fact that non-voters are being asked for their opinion is a positive step forward.

Again, thank you for voting for this group to happen. It was productive, but as you all know, there is always more to do in this area. One last note: the Kenai Peninsula Borough and its Cities run great elections, and as a resident, I wholeheartedly trust our system and the people behind it.

Sincerely,

Alex L. Koplin
Kenai Peninsula Votes member
Ph: 907-299-2517