

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Office of the Borough Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members, KPB Assembly

THRU: Ryan Tunseth, Assembly President *RT*
Dale Eicher, Assembly Member *DE*
Lenora Niesen, Assembly Member *LN*

FROM: Michele Turner, Borough Clerk *MT*

DATE: January 8, 2026

RE: Ordinance 2026-___: 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 (Eicher, Niesen and Tunseth at the request of the Borough Clerk)

The purpose of this ordinance is to revise and update Title 4 of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Code following the ratification of 2025-01 Citizen Initiative Ordinance – Proposition No. 5, changing Borough elections from October to November.

The proposed amendments revise the candidate filing period to better align with a November election schedule, provide for competitive election worker compensation, establish seven day period for candidates to withdraw their filings, and clarifies the terms of office for the currently seated elected officials. Additional context and details for each proposed amendment is provided below:

Section 2. Amending KPB 4.10.130(B). Historically, the majority of election workers serve during both state elections (August primary and November general elections) in even numbered years, and borough regular elections in October. In order to retain experienced election workers as well as attract new workers, it is important that the borough offer election workers a competitive wage. This amendment would allow the election supervisor to set hourly compensation at a rate set by the Assembly through the budget process and not in accordance to that paid by the state for state elections.

Section 3. Amending KPB 4.30.020(C). Moving the candidate filing period to the end of August will adequately accommodate a seven-day withdrawal period (as discussed in Section 4) without affecting the timeline needed to provide candidate information to the Borough's election software provider and ballot printer.

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Section 4. KPB 4.30.040. This amendment provides for a withdrawal period of seven days for candidates to withdraw their declaration of candidacy in the event the candidate no longer wishes to run for the office they filed for.

Sections 5-7. The terms of office for currently seated elected officials are scheduled to expire in October. For elections occurring in 2026, 2027 and 2028, it is recommended that those terms remain in effect until certification of the November regular election. These seats include Borough Mayor, Assembly Members, and elected service area board members.

Your consideration is appreciated.