

City of Seward
Action Memorandum 2023-010

Meeting Date: July 24, 2023
To: City Council
From: Norm Regis, Acting City Manager
Subject: Action Memorandum 2023-010: Opposing Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 2023-048, Regarding The Change In Election Date

Background and justification:

The Kenai Peninsula Borough will be evaluating KPB Resolution 2023-048 at their August 1, 2023 meeting. This resolution proposes placing an advisory question on the ballot at the next regular election (October 3, 2023) asking whether the Kenai Peninsula Borough should change its regular election date.

Two items to consider regarding this proposal:

1. If the vote passes and the Assembly changes the borough’s election day to November the cities will be forced to either 1. Buy our own equipment, or 2. Change our date as well.
2. If the borough and cities change to November 1st we will be competing with the State for the same election officials.

The City of Seward is opposed to any action or change in the election date which has the potential to make elections more costly to the public, reduce voter turnout, or create additional barriers and confusion to the election process. Additionally, the resolution itself is very unclear as to the next steps, if this resolution does indeed pass. It states:

WHEREAS, based on the results of an advisory vote on this question, an ordinance could be introduced to provide that the Borough’s regular election will be held annually on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November; and

The resolution mentions that an ordinance “could be introduced” but provides voters no guarantee that it will be introduced. The resolution does not assure voters that if they vote in favor of this change that the election would indeed be changed. Because of these reasons, the City of Seward opposes KPB Resolution 2023-048.

Comprehensive and Strategic Plan Consistency Information

This legislation is consistent with (citation listed):

Comprehensive Plan: _____
Strategic Plan: _____
Other: _____

Certification of Funds

Total amount of funds listed in this legislation: \$ 0

This legislation (✓):

- Creates revenue in the amount of: \$ _____
- Creates expenditure in amount of: \$ _____
- Creates a savings in the amount of: \$ _____
- Has no fiscal impact

Funds are (✓):

- Budgeted Line item(s): _____
- Not budgeted _____
- Not applicable

Fund Balance Information

Affected Fund (✓):

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General | <input type="checkbox"/> SMIC | <input type="checkbox"/> Electric | <input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boat Harbor | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthcare |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | _____ | |

Note: amounts are unaudited

Fund Balance/Net position – restricted \$ _____

Fund Balance/Net position – unrestricted/unassigned \$ _____

Available Unrestricted Cash Balance: \$ _____

Finance Director Signature: No fiscal impact

Attorney Review

- Yes Attorney Signature: _____
- Not applicable Comments: _____
- _____

Administration Recommendation

- Adopt AM
- Other: _____

Disposition

Approved by City Council on July 24, 2023