

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Richard Derkevorkian, Assembly Member *RD*

DATE: June 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Resolution 2023-*048*, Placing an Advisory Question on the Ballot at the Next Regular Election to be Held October 3, 2023 Asking Whether the Kenai Peninsula Borough Should Change its Regular Election Date (Derkevorkian)

This resolution would place an advisory vote on the ballot to determine whether the majority of voters in the Borough support changing the Borough's regular election date to align with the State and Federal regular election date.

Possible pro/cons for consideration:

- PRO:** Based upon historical numbers there would likely be an increase in voter turnout on even-numbered years when State and Federal elections are occurring on the same day.
- CON:** The Denali and Matanuska-Susitna Boroughs share its election with the State and those boroughs have seen higher percentages of voter turnout on State and Federal election years but lower turnout in the years that only the municipal election is occurring.
- PRO:** Voters will only have to remember a single date on which to vote, assuming the cities align local city election dates with the borough's regular election date.
- CON:** Voters will have to stand in two lines, one for State and one for Borough elections to vote.
- PRO:** The patriotic energy from State and Federal elections will energize voters for the local elections.
- CON:** With two ballots to vote during State/Federal election years (even-numbered years) and one ballot to vote during the municipal election (every year), voter confusion may result.
- PRO:** Voters deciding on State and Federal issues, may add their previously absent voice to local issues because they are already at the polls.

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Re: Resolution 2023- 048

- CON:** The cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward, and Soldotna will still have an October election, as this does not change the cities election date, unless they choose to change their respective election dates.
- PRO:** A larger pool of election workers will be needed as there will be two election official teams at each precinct and absentee/early voting locations. Two teams may offer opportunities for more people to get involved in elections and get paid.
- CON:** The Borough and the State share the majority of the pool of local election workers. Additional officials are somewhat difficult to recruit. The Borough may have to increase pay and compete with the State to secure election workers in order to run a viable election.
- PRO:** This has been done in the Denali and Mat-Su Boroughs, so it certainly is possible.
- CON:** The State Division of Elections has informed the Borough that the State cannot run the Borough elections.
- PRO:** The Kenai Peninsula Borough voters will decide in one election who is elected to represent them on the local, state, and federal levels.
- CON:** As in the Denali and Mat-Su Boroughs, two separate elections being conducted simultaneously will mean: Two separate election boards, two-separate voting lines, two separate ballots, and two separate ballot boxes.

Your consideration is appreciated.