

Introduced by:	Cooper
Date:	08/19/25
Hearing:	09/02/25
Action:	Enacted as Amended
Vote:	8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE 2025-19-09**

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE USE OF FUNDS FOR THE COSTS
OF DISTRIBUTING INFORMATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL
MATERIALS ABOUT BALLOT PROPOSITION NO. 1 SEEKING VOTER
APPROVAL TO REQUIRE HAND COUNTING OF IN PERSON BALLOTS
VOTED ON ELECTION DAY AND BALLOT PROPOSITION NO. 5
SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL TO REQUIRE TO CHANGE THE
CURRENT ELECTION DATE TO ALIGN WITH THE STATE OF
ALASKA ELECTION DATE**

WHEREAS, AS 15.13.145 and KPB 4.10.100, as amended, prohibits municipalities from influencing the outcome of an election concerning a ballot proposition unless funds have been specifically appropriated for that purpose by municipal ordinance; and

WHEREAS, since it possible to view the distribution of informational as something that influences the outcome of an election concerning a ballot proposition, this ordinance specifically appropriates funds for the purpose of distributing informational materials regarding Proposition 1 and such materials may be considered to promote or influence the outcome of the vote on Proposition 1; and

WHEREAS, accurate, efficient, and secure ballot counting methods are essential to public confidence in the integrity of borough elections; and

WHEREAS, public outreach and voter education are necessary to inform voters of how tabulating equipment functions, its safeguards, and its proven accuracy through audits and testing; and

WHEREAS, a well-informed electorate will be better equipped to participate in decisions regarding election processes, including propositions affecting ballot counting methods; and

WHEREAS, voters should be aware that moving the Borough regular election to November will cause certain logistical challenges, including polling place conflicts, ballot printing constraints, and, due to the state making it clear that the Borough and State will not be able to share election workers, the change may result in a need to recruit and train a separate pool of election workers apart from those serving State and Federal elections; and

WHEREAS, changing the Borough regular election date to November would also require the purchase of polling place booths, signs, etc. currently shared with the State; and

WHEREAS, unless the cities within the Kenai Peninsula Borough likewise amend their election dates, this election date change may void the MOA the Borough has with the cities related to election administration; and

WHEREAS, a Borough election date change that does not include the cities changing their local election date accordingly would mean that city residents would continue to participate in city elections in October, resulting in multiple election dates for the same voters and increased voter confusion and administrative burden;

WHEREAS, moving the Borough regular election date to coincide with State and Federal elections could also result in local issues and local candidates being overshadowed by State and Federal election campaigns; and

WHEREAS, it essential to provide factual, nonpartisan information on the efficiencies, cost-effectiveness, and accuracy of ballot tabulators and local election processes, procedures and practices;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That this is a non-code ordinance.

SECTION 2. That the Assembly hereby appropriates \$34,000 from the General Fund fund balance to account 100.11110.26PR1.49999 and approves the use of the funds for an informational and promotional campaign, which may be used to influence the outcome of the election on October 7, 2025, on ballot Proposition 1 concerning hand counting ballots and ballot Proposition 5 concerning changing borough elections to November.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances will not be affected.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall be effective immediately.

ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 2ND DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2025.

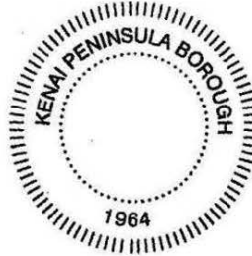


Peter Ribbens, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes:	Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens
No:	None
Absent:	Baisden