

Introduced by: Cox
Date: 06/18/24
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2024-026**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE KENAI
PENINSULA BOROUGH’S VOTER TURNOUT WORKING GROUP**

WHEREAS, Resolution 2023-053 established the Voter Turnout Working Group (Working Group); and

WHEREAS, the Working Group’s scope was to explore actionable options and ideas to present to the Assembly that are aimed at increasing awareness, participation and voting in location elections, including but not limited to changing the Borough election day to align with the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group held five meetings in the Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers, that were open to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group’s final report was submitted to the Assembly on March 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, This resolution adopts all Working Group final report recommendations, without bias, so that Assembly members may decide through the amendment process which recommendations should be acted upon;

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

SECTION 1. That the Assembly adopts the Voter Turnout Working Group Recommendation No. 1:

Survey the borough residents – Conduct a survey with borough residents and ask if they vote, and if not, why. This would allow residents to provide their thoughts and ideas on how to increase voter turnout. Survey to include “Should the borough align election day to match the State election day in November” be one of the questions.

SECTION 2. That the Assembly adopts the Voter Turnout Working Group Recommendation No. 2:

Public Outreach / Education Campaign – This concept would have several possible components that would provide different ways to inform residents when local elections are held and provide residents education of the election process.

SECTION 3. That the Assembly adopts the Voter Turnout Working Group Recommendation No. 3:

Promotion – The working group felt strongly that there is a need to promote local elections and suggested the marketing, promotion and contract service costs be included in the election operating budgets.

SECTION 4. That the Assembly adopts the Voter Turnout Working Group Recommendation No. 4:

Offer Early Voting prior to the election – This option would offer early voting in conjunction with absentee in person voting. Software costs would need to be included in the election operating budgets to assist with marking the precinct registers of who voted early.

SECTION 5. That the Assembly adopts the Voter Turnout Working Group Recommendation No. 6:

Email Distribution of Ballots – Electronic transmission of absentee ballots is currently allowed in both borough and city codes. Electronic transmission includes fax and email. This process allows election officials to deliver an absentee ballot to the voter by email.

SECTION 6. That the Assembly adopts the Voter Turnout Working Group Recommendation No. 7:

Change statute language from “Special Needs” to “Additional Needs” – State Statute defines “Special Needs Voting” as a qualified voter with a disability who, because of that disability, if unable to go to a polling place to vote may vote a special needs ballot. The working group discussed that some voters may not identify with the name of this ballot type and would like it changed to “Additional Needs”.

SECTION 7. That this resolution takes effect immediately.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 18TH DAY JUNE 2024.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: None