

From: [Turner, Michele](#)
To: [Turner, Michele](#)
Cc: [Warner, Avery](#)
Subject: FW: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Election pamphlets ordinance
Date: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:49:29 AM

Good morning,

Please see the public comment below regarding Ordinance 2022-44.

Thank you,

Michele Turner, CMC
Acting Borough Clerk
Kenai Peninsula Borough
(907) 714-2165 direct

-----Original Message-----

From: Ken Landfield <ken@ak.net>
Sent: Saturday, December 17, 2022 5:36 PM
To: Turner, Michele <MicheleTurner@kpb.us>
Subject: <EXTERNAL-SENDER>Election pamphlets ordinance

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> Dear President Brent Johnson and Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
> legislators, I urge you not to amend the code that mandates you to mail voter information pamphlets to all registered voters. We should all be doing everything in our power to increase voter education and turnout, not limiting or diminishing access to important, balanced information in any way. Certainly, there are other means to this material, but we should look for more, not fewer, ways to provide access and to encourage informed voting. Please do not discontinue mailing printed informational pamphlets to every registered voter.

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> Ken Landfield

> Homer

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> 299-4147

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Turner, Michele

From: Kenai Peninsula Borough <webmaster@borough.kenai.ak.us>
Sent: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 1:35 PM
To: BoroughAssembly; Mayor's Department
Cc: Turner, Michele
Subject: New Public Comment to Assembly Members

Your Name: mary griswold

Your Email: mgt@xyz.net

Subject: 2022-44 election brochure

Message:

I support Ord 2022-44 to eliminate mailing election brochures to all boxholders. Voter access to information is critical for making wise choices and modern technology provides us with good alternatives to creating piles of discarded brochures in the post offices. Please make an effort to supply local libraries with copies. Most people who do not use the internet rely on libraries for access to important information and documents.

Borough Clerk and Borough Assembly Members,

Regarding Ordinance 2022-44:

I agree entirely with no longer publishing pros/cons of propositions in the Election Pamphlet. I do not agree with ceasing the mailing of the Pamphlet.

With all due respect, a postcard will be just as likely as the pamphlet to end up in the landfill or get missed due to its size. At least the pamphlet is on newsprint and more likely to compost.

Since it seems likely this Ordinance will pass, I encourage the Assembly to use some of the \$30,000 saved and put towards large ads in the papers (online as well), radio PSAs, large re-usable road signage near all voting places and on the way into and out of our towns. I know the borough website and FB page posts all the dates/deadlines but I wonder if many go out of their way to go there. The City of Homer put up two large digital road signs ahead of election dates facing drivers on the way into town. The Borough should do the same.

It's a challenge to increase voter turnout. It's a challenge to educate voters on dates/deadlines, candidates and propositions. I have worked the elections here in Homer since 2020 and have known folks to come in to vote only because they saw the "vote here" clapboard on the road and have little but a vague idea of what the election is for.

The state did a youth contest for their pamphlet cover art, the Chamber does photo contests for theirs. Both are incentives to get drawn into the pamphlet.

Michelle and Joni (who will be greatly missed) are great and do an incredible job as election clerks. They have a tough job! I especially appreciate their calm on election day. I appreciate and understand the discouragement at seeing low voter turnout and the pamphlets in the trash but I strongly feel a postcard in its stead will only save money.

Sincerely,

Therese Lewandowski, Homer

Hello Assembly members,

In regard to 2022-44. I am in favor of reducing the number of election pamphlets that are directly mailed to voter households.

Ideally, send out postcards now, to gather information, would be my first choice. Conduct a survey where the Borough sends out postcards/survey to all the households (roughly 27,000 households) that are mailed an election pamphlet. The survey would give the Borough information on how that household would like to receive the voter pamphlet for our next election in October of 2023. For example, if you didn't get a response, they would be off the list to receive a pamphlet, and then others have the option of internet, mailed, or not at all.

My second choice, printing less pamphlets (curious to know the number you are considering) and making them available at libraries, city/borough buildings, the post offices on the Peninsula, food banks...this would be good. Additionally, sending postcards out to the voter households telling them there is an election coming up, and they can get a pamphlet at certain locations or call a number or request one via the Borough website would be a good alternative as well. (Side note: If you do end up mailing pamphlets out, I wonder if they would be mailed out individually and not bulk mail? Also, taking the time to mail them and get the addresses should be considered in the overall cost estimates)

Finally, it is a risk to not send the pamphlets out because it has proven to be effective for some voters. If you reduce the number of voting pamphlets, without knowing the number you need to reduce it by, this has the potential to lower the voter turnout from what we have now- which is around 25 percent.

Sincerely,

Alex Koplin

Representing himself as a voter on the Kenai Peninsula and resident for 33 years.

eComment
Ordinance 2022-44

Kristine Schmidt

Location:

Submitted At: 4:49pm 01-17-23

I do not support the requirement to eliminate mailing of informational pamphlets. Borough residents and voters need more transparency and accessibility and this ordinance guarantees less. This ordinance discriminates against low income and fixed income voters who do not have access and cannot afford the latest expensive computers required to run the latest internet browsers. Yes, you must now buy a new computer every year that will run the latest browsers, otherwise for older computers you get the message "your browser is not supported" even though your computer is running the latest version of a browser possible. The expense of this mailing is just good government business.

I also do not support eliminating position papers on ballot propositions. Without those I find it difficult to understand what a ballot proposition is about. Often the proposition involves an ordinance that is confusing and badly written, so I can't figure out whether to vote for or against it without someone explaining the backstory. And i don't have time to fully research every ballot proposition -- nor should I have to. Again, this elimination would decrease voter access to important information which I am opposed to. Maybe the procedures this ordinance is trying to replace could be improved, but improve them -- don't get rid of them. thank for you considering my comments.

Kristine Schmidt, 513 Ash Avenue, Kenai Alaska 99611