

Kenai Peninsula Borough

Office of the Borough Clerk

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

THRU: Tyson Cox, Willy Dunne, and Brent Hibbert *(B) for B. H.*

FROM: Johni Blankenship, Borough Clerk *JB* *(B) for T. C.*
(B) for W. D.

DATE: April 23, 2020

RE: Ordinance 2020-24, Amending KPB Title 4 Regarding Borough Elections to Provide for Vote by Mail Elections, for More Time Between a Regular Election and a Run-Off Election, and to Remove Proposition Statements (Cox, Dunne, Hibbert)

In 2018, the Kenai Peninsula Borough entered into a conciliation agreement with the Alaska Human Rights Commission which specified that the borough would have an ADA compliant election process in place by the end of 2020. The Election Stakeholders Group was formed in response to the case before the Alaska Human Rights Commission. Resolution 2019-047 "Adopted Joint Resolution No. 2019-001 of the Assembly of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Councils of the Cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna, Recognizing the Recommendations of the Kenai Peninsula Borough's Election Stakeholders Group and Directing Staff to Explore Implementation of the Recommendations" was adopted by the Assembly on September 3, 2019.

On December 27, 2019, the clerk's office entered into a contract with Resource Data to prepare a feasibility study and cost analysis for Vote by Mail System (VBMS) implementation and operation.

Resource Data's final feasibility study states, in section 2.1. Overall Assessment – Based on our review we believe that KPB will be able to successfully transition to area-wide vote by mail elections.

This ordinance seeks to codify and therefore implement the following recommendations of the Election Stakeholders Group: #1 Vote by Mail Hybrid, #4 Voter Pamphlet, and #6 – Statements Advocating for Approval or Rejection of Propositions as well the recommendations provided by Resource Data's feasibility study.

Your consideration is appreciated.