

# **ELECTION STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

Final Report and Recommendations



The Election Stakeholders Group was established to research ways to **increase voter participation** by **developing sustainable election processes** that **maximize accessibility and inclusivity** while **conserving public resources**.  
(established by KPB Resolution 2019-006)

## PURPOSE

*Voting is the foundation of our democracy. Active participation in the electoral process is necessary for high functioning governance.*

## Municipal Stakeholders

- ▶ Kenai Peninsula Borough
- ▶ City of Homer
- ▶ City of Kachemak
- ▶ City of Kenai
- ▶ City of Seldovia
- ▶ City of Seward
- ▶ City of Soldotna

## Community Stakeholders

- ▶ League of Women Voters
- ▶ Election Review Board Members
- ▶ Independent Living Center

## SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

THE ESG WAS SUPPORTED BY THE BOROUGH AND CITY CLERKS, AS WELL AS THE BOROUGH'S IT DEPARTMENT, GIS DEPARTMENT AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT

1. Human Rights Commission's determination of the current process as "Significantly Discriminatory"
2. Election Equipment
  - a. Age/Ownership of Equipment
  - b. ADA Incompatibility

CRITICAL IMPASSE – NOW IS THE TIME!



The Election Stakeholders Group (ESG) received presentations from the following entities and individuals:

- ▶ State of Alaska Division of Elections
- ▶ Municipality of Anchorage
- ▶ Ballot / Voter Pamphlet Printer and Service Provider
- ▶ United States Post Office
- ▶ Election Software Providers
  - ▶ Dominion Voting
  - ▶ Election Systems and Software
- ▶ Borough and City Clerks

# EDUCATION

- 1.) Maximize Accessibility and Inclusivity
- 2.) Efficiency and Conservation of Public Resources
- 3.) Voter Satisfaction and Confidence
- 4.) Longevity in the Solution
- 5.) Coordination and Collaboration
- 6.) Security and Integrity
- 7.) Voter Outreach
- 8.) Continuity of Operations/ Contingency Disaster Plan

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**Recommendation #1 – Vote by Mail Hybrid**

*(consistent with all guiding principles)*

**Recommendation #2 – Education and Outreach Campaign**

*(consistent with guiding principles 1,3,4,5 and 7)*

**Recommendation #3 – Alaska State Statutes Title 29 Amendment**

*(consistent with guiding principles 1,2, and 3)*

**Recommendation #4 – Voter Pamphlet**

*(consistent with guiding principles 2 and 3)*

**Recommendation #5 – Appointed Service Area Boards**

*(consistent with guiding principles 2)*

**Recommendation #6 – Statements Advocating for Approval or Rejection of Propositions**

*(consistent with guiding principles 2 and 3)*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Seek support from and partners with the cities within the borough to:

1. conduct all local elections by mail,
2. share costs,
3. develop and implement a comprehensive communication and education plan,
4. and the administration of all future elections.

The ESG strongly promotes the collaboration between the KPB and the cities within the KPB to develop legislation and administrative practices for the administration of local elections.

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS



The next step is for the legislative bodies to take action supporting the efforts and recommendations from the Election Stakeholder Group.

A Joint Resolution has been prepared for consideration by each legislative body within the boundaries of the KPB which, if adopted, will provide direction to the administrations to coordinate and collaborate on the implementation of the ESG's recommendations.

## NEXT STEP

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH  
CITY OF HOMER  
CITY OF KACHEMAK  
CITY OF KENAI  
CITY OF SELDOVIA  
CITY OF SEWARD  
CITY OF SOLDOTNA

### JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2019-001

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE  
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH AND COUNCILS  
OF THE CITIES OF HOMER, KACHEMAK, KENAI,  
SELDOVIA, SEWARD AND SOLDOTNA,  
SUPPORTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH'S ELECTION  
STAKEHOLDERS GROUP AND DIRECTING STAFF  
TO EXPLORE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS

- ▶ AN ORDINANCE AMENDING KPB TITLES 2, 4 AND 16 – SERVICE AREAS TO PROVIDE THAT ALL KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SERVICE AREA BOARDS ARE APPOINTED INSTEAD OF ELECTED
- ▶ A RESOLUTION SEEKING AN AMENDMENT TO A.S. 29.26.060(C) TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL LOCAL CONTROL

## CONCURRENT EFFORTS

The ESG would like to thank the Borough Assembly and Administration, the City Councils and Administrations and all supporting entities for participation in the group and consideration of its recommendations.

QUESTIONS?

