

**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**

- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly established the Election Stakeholder Group (“ESG”) through the direction and adoption of Kenai Peninsula Borough (“KPB”) Resolution 2019-006; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG was tasked with researching ways to increase voter participation by developing sustainable election processes that maximize accessibility and inclusivity; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG was comprised of assembly members, city council members, city managers, a representative from the KPB mayor’s office and community members with a specific interest in the electoral process; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG was supported by the borough and city clerks as well representatives from the KPB Legal Department, Information Technology Department, and the Geographical Information Division; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG adopted guiding principles to focus and guide its work, including: maximizing accessibility and inclusivity of borough elections; improving voter satisfaction and confidence; making efficient use of public resources; ensuring electing security and integrity; and, improving voter outreach and coordination with all stakeholders; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG, as detailed in its final report, made six specific recommendations regarding potential changes to KPB code and election processes which are supported by, and intended to achieve, the stated guiding principles; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG chair and vice-chair presented the attached final report and recommendations to the KPB assembly on August 20, 2019; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG recommends that the KPB seek support from and partnership with the cities within the borough to administer all future local elections consistent with the vote by mail hybrid structure; and
- WHEREAS,** the ESG recommends that the KPB explore cost sharing with the cities within the KPB for the purchase and maintenance of election equipment; and

WHEREAS, in order to fully educate voters and the public on a new process, the ESG recommends the KPB and community partners conduct an extensive and comprehensive communication/education plan; and

WHEREAS, the ESG further recommends collaboration between the KPB and the cities within the KPB to develop legislation and administrative practices for the administration of local elections that are consistent with KPB processes, and make efficient use of government resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AND THE COUNCILS OF THE CITIES OF HOMER, KACHEMAK, KENAI, SELDOVIA, SEWARD AND SOLDOTNA:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the city councils for the Cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna strongly supports the recommendations of the 2019 Election Stakeholders Group.

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the city councils for the Cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna support the KPB clerk and the city clerks as they continue to explore vote by mail elections with a goal to implement the first by mail election in October of 2020 as a strategy to increase voter turnout, thus empowering KPB and city residents with a stronger voice in the democratic process and in the decisions that directly impact their lives.

SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and the city councils within the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

APPROVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

Wayne H. Ogle, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOMER THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

Ken Castner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melissa Jacobsen, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KACHEMAK THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

William Overway, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erika Fitzpatrick, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI THIS THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

Brian Gabriel, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jamie Heinz, CMC, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SELDOVIA THIS THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

Dean Lent, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heidi Geagel, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEWARD THIS THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

David Squires, Mayor

ATTEST:

Brenda Ballou, MMC, City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA THIS THIS ____ DAY OF ____
_____, 2019.

Nels Anderson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michelle M. Saner, MMC, City Clerk