

Assembly members, administration, citizens of the borough,

My name is Susan Smalley, a 48 year Kenai City resident. I'm here to speak on Consent Agenda #KPB-4597

First, A Disclaimer: Neither my intent, nor the letter I am going to read, have been shared with the borough administration, any borough assembly members nor the clerk's office.

You may not notice that my name has been removed from the list of election workers for approval. My name was removed at my request on September 12.

Due to the short time frame and burden it would put on the clerk's office to research the past 40 plus years of my election service, I did not challenge the request to have my name removed for the upcoming election. However, this action, as minor as it may seem, is not only about my reputation, my honesty and my integrity, it also challenges the Borough election process.

For the record, I've worked municipal, state and national elections for more than 40 years in Kenai and Soldotna. I began working when we hand counted into the wee hours of the night at the Kenai Armory. Some years there have been as many as four elections in a year. I gave up on doing the math for an exact count. For about a dozen elections, I've had to either work in a different precinct or sit out a cycle because a family member was running. I have never worked in a precinct with a family member on the ballot. I would never have been permitted to work in a precinct with a family member on the ballot. The same restriction would apply to an official write-in campaign. We sign oaths at training & at the polls & canvass board.

Perhaps having heard my election history, you can understand the range of emotions I had when I was told that an assemblyperson, representing Kenai, was challenging having my name on the list as a worker because he alleged I had worked an election with a family member running for election. This allegation about the election process, and my ethics and integrity is a bold-faced lie. There really is no other way to say it I mentioned in my opening statement that it was my choice to bow out. It's a factual statement. It was my choice. However, I was furious. I was sad. I was bewildered.

Because of who I am, and the respect I have for the process of elections, I would never place the other election officials in that awkward position and cause them more work with the election just days away.

Maybe if you weren't sitting here listening to me speak, you would never know this, and maybe that was the intention. But I want you to know. That's why I'm here. It's really not just about me. In my opinion, it's about the election process and about not letting someone get away with saying whatever serves their political agenda and casts doubts on the process. For me, the accused, it feels like **an attempt at intimidation, as well as an assault on our election process, to which I have dedicated more than 4 decades of my life. And now you know, on the record, why my name is missing.**

Thank you,

Arleen (Susan) Smalley