

Introduced by:	Cox, Hibbert
Date:	08/01/23
Action:	Adopted as Amended
Vote:	9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2023-053**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A VOTER TURNOUT WORKING GROUP TO
EXPLORE ACTIONABLE OPTIONS AND IDEAS AIMED AT INCREASING
AWARENESS, PARTICIPATION, AND VOTING IN LOCAL ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly (“Assembly”) recognizes the importance and value of a higher voter turnout for local election; and

WHEREAS, local elections directly impact day-to-day lives of Borough residents; and

WHEREAS, increased participation in local elections and an informed citizenry is of paramount importance in a democratic republic form of government; and

WHEREAS, this resolution establishes a Voter Turnout working group for the specific purpose of exploring actionable options and ideas to increase voter awareness, participation, and turnout; and

WHEREAS, the Borough prioritizes open access for qualified voters to choose elected officials by free and secret ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Borough also prioritizes nonpartisan, factual, election information, and secure and accurate election administration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. The Voter Turnout working group is directed to specifically focus its meetings to explore actionable options and ideas to present to the Assembly that are aimed at increasing awareness, participation, and voting in local elections, including but not limited to, changing the Borough election day to align with that of the State of Alaska.

SECTION 2. The members of the working group will include 14 members comprised as follows, subject to individual availability and willingness to participate on the working group: the Borough (1) and City Clerks (6); two community members chosen by the Mayor; one community representative qualified to represent the interests of persons with physical, visual, reading or impairments that affect one’s ability to vote privately; two members of the Borough’s canvass board; one member representing the League of Women Voters; and one member representing the Kenai

Peninsula Votes group. Members will be appointed by the Assembly at its regular meeting on September 19, 2023. If a City Clerk is unable or not authorized by a respective city council to participate on the working group, a designee with requisite election experience or expertise may serve in the city clerk's place and if a city does not provide an alternate then the seat will not be filled.

SECTION 3. The Voter Turnout working group will meet at least 3 times reserving the option for more meeting times, as needed, to the discretion of the group.

SECTION 4. Subject to availability, the Voter Turnout working group will be staffed and noticed by the Borough Clerk's Office, and the Borough Legal Department.

SECTION 5. The Voter Turnout working group is subject to Alaska Open Meetings Act and will use Robert's Rules of Order to conduct business.

SECTION 6. The Voter Turnout working group is not authorized to act or communicate on behalf of the Borough other than to make recommendations to the Assembly.

SECTION 7. The Voter Turnout working group will present a list of prioritized actionable recommendations to the Assembly no later than the first meeting in March 2024. Upon providing its report to the Assembly, the working group will automatically terminate.

SECTION 8. That this resolution takes effect immediately.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 1ST DAY OF AUGUST, 2023.

Brent Johnson

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Chesley, Cox, Derkevorkian, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tupper, Johnson

No: None

Absent: None