


Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Johnson, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Richard Derkevorkian, Assembly Member 

DATE: September 7, 2023

SUBJECT: Resolution 2023-060, Recommending an Amendment to Title 14 of the Alaska Statutes, Relating to School Boards, to Allow for Term Limits for School Boards (Derkevorkian)

Implementing term limits for the school board would bring alignment with other political offices in the borough, such as the Assembly and Mayor. This consistency in term limits across various branches of local government ensures a fair and equitable system. Research, including a study published in the *Journal of Politics* in 2017, has shown that term limits can lead to increased representation among elected officials, both in terms of demographics and ideas. This representation is crucial for fostering innovation in policymaking and preventing the consolidation of power.

Furthermore, term limits prevent the concentration of power in the hands of a few entrenched incumbents. A study by the National Conference of State Legislatures found that without term limits, some politicians can accumulate extensive influence and become less responsive to their constituents. By limiting the number of terms an individual can serve, we ensure that power is more evenly distributed, promoting a healthier democracy.

Lastly, term limits enhance accountability. When elected officials know they have a limited time in office, they are more likely to focus on their constituents' needs and prioritize long-term benefits over short-term political gains. This can lead to more effective governance and reduced corruption, as suggested by studies conducted by the Brookings Institution and the Cato Institute.

In summary, implementing term limits for the school board in alignment with other political offices in the Borough, such as the Assembly and Mayor, is a valuable tool for promoting increased representation, preventing power concentration, and increasing accountability in local politics, as supported by various studies and evidence.

Your consideration is appreciated.