



MOA Elections
Municipal Clerk's Office
619 E. Ship Creek Avenue,
Door D, Suite 250
Anchorage, AK 99501

May 8, 2020

Johni Blankenship, MMC
Borough Clerk
Kenai Peninsula Borough
144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

Via email at JBlankenship@kpb.us

RE: Absentee Voting, Vote by Mail, or Vote at Home in 2020!

Dear Johni:

We have all been impacted by the COVID-19 virus and the related “stay home” orders necessitated by the pandemic. Because elections are an essential government function, as election administrators, we need to find new ways to conduct elections in light of travel, social distancing restrictions, and promoting safety of our workers and community.

The Municipality of Anchorage is pleased to report that it successfully conducted the April 7, 2020 Regular Municipal Election as a Vote by Mail or Vote at Home election, despite some very trying circumstances in the early stages of the pandemic. This success was despite losing the majority of available election workers, who did not want to expose themselves to the risks of contracting COVID-19 at vote centers or were not available due to quarantine restrictions. The MOA implemented new and creative ways to operate with the remaining staff while also following federal, state, and local guidance to minimize the odds of contracting the virus through social distancing and other recommendations.

At the Election Center, the MOA Election Team processed approximately 71,000 returned envelopes and ballots over the course of its 3-week election period. We sorted envelopes, checked signatures, resolved problems, opened envelopes, scanned and tabulated ballots, produced results, and even conducted a recount. The Election Center, with over 10,000 square feet of available space, allowed all the processes to be separated and easy to perform within the social distancing guidelines.

I wanted to confirm the offer that the Municipality of Anchorage, the Municipal Clerk's Office, and our Election Team stand ready, willing, and able to assist with your election in 2020 using absentee voting, Vote by Mail, or a Vote at Home format. We offer use of the turnkey and state of the art facility, complete with locking cages, alarms, security



cameras, and other security features. Your jurisdiction can take advantage of MOA election staff support, badge your own staff into the facility, or we could work together in combination to process your 2020 election. Because the MOA election was in April, your jurisdiction can conveniently conduct your election without fear of overlap with the Municipality's election. We have discussed with our mutual vendors options to be able to assist more than one jurisdiction in 2020.

We invite you to give serious consideration to using the MOA facility and equipment to launch your absentee by mail, Vote by Mail, or Vote at Home election in 2020. For more information please contact me directly at 343-4312 or at Barbara.Jones@AnchorageAK.gov.

Sincerely,

Barbara Jones
Municipal Clerk

c: Felix Rivera, Chair
Dennis Wheeler, MOA Project Manager