

eComments  
Ordinance 2020-24

**Robert & Jill Shimko**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:56am 06-03-20

I appose strongly - I tried to do this twice already. I am out of time. Record my "NO" to vote by mail.

**karen vadla**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:36am 06-03-20

I urge you to pass Ordinance 2020-24 to provide for Vote by Mail Elections for More Time Between a Regular Election and a Run-Off Election, and to Remove Proposition Statements! Vote in person weakens our voting system and does not consider the rights of individuals who are not able to attend due to health issues. Also, these are unprecedented times due to COVID -19. Vote in person does not consider the rights of rural areas where vote by mail provides an opportunity to vote. 'Vote by mail' is the correct option for our state and for all states as this option provides 'every registered voter' the opportunity to vote! Please DO NOT take away one of our most important rights by 'making' people vote in person when that "in person" voting situation may not be

possible. Consider the needs of all people; rather than the needs of only some people. Thank you very much for your service to our borough. Your work is appreciated.

**Tom Harrell**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:20am 06-03-20

mail in voting is not necessary

We stand in line at the store, the post office, the bank we can do it to vote also!!!

**Ralph Crane**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:07am 06-03-20

I oppose Ordinance 2020-24. This is yet another attempt to dilute tried and true methodologies for better ensuring legitimate voting. Anyone unaware of the numerous recorded incidences of uncounted mail-in votes and the outright fraud perpetrated through mail-out/in ballots is either not paying attention or intentionally denying the truth of such instances. To lay this current effort to subvert responsible voting practices at the feet of the current COVID-19 virus is denying the reality that thousands of Alaskans are "out and about" daily. Voting is the epitome of "essential service". There are already Absentee Ballots that allow for those that have compromised immunities or underlying conditions that would prohibit in-person voting at polling stations..there is simply no real need to go to a voting system that allows more fraud to occur.

I thank you for the opportunity to address this Ordinance and I ask you to oppose Ordinance 2020-24.

Respectfully

Ralph Crane

**Cassie Lawver**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:33pm 06-02-20

I do not support Ordinance 2020-24, Vote by Mail. There are so many unanswered questions and I have not seen any guarantee this will save money. Votes are sacred and should be treated as such. How secure will our votes be transporting them to Anchorage? I have read many headlines of ballots being found in closets, etc... Will volunteers have a background check and be bonded? Will the ballots have a number that corresponds with a voter so if the voter comes in and said he/she never received their ballot, there will be a system in place to make sure the "missing" ballot has not been used fraudulently. Will voters be allowed to observe volunteers while counting our ballots? So many unanswered questions that I can not support this ordinance.

Thank you,

Cassie Lawver

**Delayna West**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:12pm 06-02-20

Dear members,

I'm in opposition to ordinates 2020-24.

I believe if we can go to stores and go about our other business we can safely vote in person.

Thank you.

DeLayna West

**Terri Nettles**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:53pm 06-02-20

I am not in support of Ordinance 2020-24. We already offer absentee voting for anyone who doesn't want to vote in person.

If your concern is the virus, please look around you to see that the majority of the people are frequenting grocery stores, restaurants and other activities. Some have chosen to wear masks and maintain the 6ft distance as recommended. We can offer the same safety guidelines at the voting precincts. Those who are uncomfortable with voting in person can take advantage of voting by absentee ballot.

I believe with vote by mail there are more things that can go wrong compared with in-precinct voting. Vote by mail could see more legal challenges than an in-precinct vote. There have been news reports of lost ballots and some residences receiving numerous ballots.

Will the Borough be able to verify every resident and each address? Are they able to guarantee that no one will receive more than one ballot and can they guarantee that the current resident is the actual person registered with the Borough?

There have also been news reports regarding previous elections that some absentee ballots were not counted because they were not completed correctly or due to errors in the processing of those ballots.

I have a lot of concerns about this process. I would encourage you to vote against this ordinance.

If you truly believe this is best for the people of the Borough and that they will support it, put it to a vote of the people. Let the residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough make this decision. In my opinion it is much too big of a decision for a handful of folks to make and has the potential to negatively impact Borough residents.

Thank you,  
Terri Nettles

**David Lewis**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:46pm 06-02-20

Ordinance 2029- should be postponed till January 21. Right now we should be concentrating on the economy and nothing else. Also this is a very touchy subject and right now we don't need people going at one another. This also seems like a politico ploy on the part of some to gain brownie points with certain groups. If you don't postpone the vote no.

**Paul Clayton**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:49pm 06-02-20

We support Ordinance 2020-24. Vote by mail is a perfect solution to our health threats. It is safe and secure as demonstrated by other states which use vote by mail. The worry of suffering a hacking disaster is eliminated. It allows our rural residents easier access to voting. This is a solution with no downsides beyond unsubstantiated fear of voter fraud which has never been shown to be a problem even in multiple other states and elections. Please make voting easier and healthier for us all by passing Ordinance 2020-24.

**Patricia Cue**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:28pm 06-02-20

Dear KPB Assembly Members,

I support the Ordinance 2020-24 which is providing for vote by mail elections. Our country faces an unprecedented threat from Covid-19 and the health and safety of the people of the Kenai Peninsula Borough must be paramount in all decisions made that may impact citizens. Voting by mail will reduce the risks associated with close contact associated with in-person voting.

After an exhaustive study to determine how best the Kenai Peninsula Borough can create a system that supports access to voting, the working group concluded that voting by mail is one method that will improve voter turn out. This working group collaborated and collectively made this recommendation.

I urge you to look at the facts when making your decision. Our country faces serious challenges at this moment in history and political leaders have the responsibility to evaluate situations based on the truth and facts. There are no facts that support the claims that voting by mail leads to voter fraud. No one party benefits from voting by mail. It does however improve access. And it will reduce exposure to Covid-19.

I urge you to support Ordinance 2020-24.

Patricia Cue

**Lynda Raymond**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:50pm 06-02-20

I encourage the Assembly to pass Ordinance 2020-24. Voting by mail is essential at this time with increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases here on the peninsula. Voting by mail is essential for the safety of BOTH the voters and election workers and to insure there is a fair election.

It is an issue also of equal access since without voting by mail, many would be discouraged from voting because doing so could significantly jeopardize their health.

Voting by mail has worked in many other states, other parts of Alaska, and even in our own Borough. It is not new. There is the knowledge and means to make this happen...with your consent. It is possible to have a fair election and keep our citizens safe if you will approve Ordinance 2020-24.

Thank you.

Lynda Raymond  
Homer, AK

**Karen Murdock**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:52pm 06-02-20

I would ask that the Assembly pass Ordinance 2020-24. Voting by mail will provide all voters equal opportunity to access the ballot box. The borough is already providing this option to voters in some of our smaller and/or more remote districts.

Some people grapple with being able to get to the polls, due to health concerns, disabilities and/or work schedules. There can be numerous obstacles. I can personally recall one election, when my back went out a few days before the election. I was too late to request an absentee ballot. With excruciating pain, I struggled to make it into the polls. How I would have welcomed a vote by mail ballot.

As a poll worker, I am particularly concerned about the Covid 19 virus and the propensity for polling places to be a place to spread the virus. Covid is predicted to be worse in the fall. Given the small enclosed spaces of some of the polling places, it would be prudent for the Borough Assembly to take a proactive stance and pass voting by mail. With supporting voting by mail for all Borough residents, the Assembly would be insuring that everyone has an opportunity to exercise their right to vote in a safe environment. Please support our right to vote and help maintain the health of our Borough. Thank you for this opportunity to speak and for all that you do! Karen Murdock

**Jeff Szarzi**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:33pm 06-02-20

I encourage you to pass Ordinance 2020-24 to ensure the safety of our community for the upcoming election in October. During this time of the Covid pandemic we are learning of ways to solve problems that assure the safety of our community members, and voting by mail is one of these solutions. As a resident of upper Kachemak Bay, I already vote by mail in the borough elections and would like to be able to vote in all elections using this method.

We are seeing more Covid cases in the southern peninsula recently as travel is picking up, because of this I feel more comfortable staying at home and limiting my time in public spaces for the safety of everyone in the community. In the fall, the corona virus will be compounded with the seasonal flu, we need to be even more aware of ways to prevent large gatherings of people. Voting by mail is one solution.

Thank you,

Jeff Szarzi  
34750 Greentree Cir  
Homer, AK

**Lynn Takeoka Spence**

Location:  
Submitted At: 6:39am 06-02-20

I support vote by mail for all elections. I believe in the long run it will save the borough money and in the short run it will make voting safer and more efficient for your constituents. As public servants I'm sure you are concerned about our safety during this pandemic so although you having been working on it for some time, it could be great to get this instituted as soon as possible.

I tried early voting once just to see what it was like and it was time consuming for me and more importantly the staff that takes care of this. Without vote by mail, I will be going through the early voting process to avoid lines. You will have a paper ballot anyway.

Please get ahead of the curve and institute vote by mail.

**Harold Spence**

Location:  
Submitted At: 6:37am 06-02-20

To the Assembly,  
Recognizing that instituting vote-by-mail for the October election will present logistical problems for the hard-working Borough Clerk and her staff, the overriding issue is public health and safety. I urge the assembly to adopt vote by mail for use this fall. Alaska is already seeing a spike in COVID-19 cases and I fear this is only the beginning.

Sincerely,  
Harold Spence

**Ann Keffer**

Location:  
Submitted At: 3:37am 06-02-20

I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill. Not to do so would be a betrayal of the public's trust, whose health and welfare are in your hands. Voting should not be a matter of life and death, and in this era of CoVid-19 in-person voting is a threat to the health and, yes, the very lives of voters and poll workers. Voting by mail is not a new idea. It has worked well in those Alaska boroughs and in the 25 states that have instituted it to varying extents. Voter fraud has been negligible, and statistical analysis has shown that mail-in ballots favor neither party. Please do the right thing and pass this bill.

**Kathryn Carssow**

Location:  
Submitted At: 12:08am 06-02-20

Please pass this ordinance that both provides for a safe and reliable way for citizens to vote and reduces the exposure of poll workers to the covid 19 virus. We want people who may be experiencing virus symptoms or who have been exposed to the virus and warned of their risk to be able to vote without exposing others. We want to limit the number of people gathering at polling places. We need to reduce the risk of virus exposure to poll workers -- many of whom are in the vulnerable age group. Once this pandemic is behind us, the mail-in option will continue to prove valuable to increase participation in the election process regardless of party, as research indicates. We know mail-in voting on the peninsula has been successful in Hope, Cooper Landing and other locations. We know the risk of voter fraud is negligible, at worst. Please pass 2020-24.

**Kyle Schneider**

Location:  
Submitted At: 11:43pm 06-01-20

Members of the Assembly: The right to vote, free from reprisal of any kind, ought to be first and foremost in the

minds of Americans. Extending voting to guarantee that ALL eligible voters are able to vote must be the top priority of every legislative and representative body in the nation.

I urge you to vote for the expansion of mail-in voting to help secure, in perpetuity, the right of all eligible voters to cast their vote in the manner which they are most comfortable.

With deepest regards,  
Kyle Schneider

**Julia Person**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:55pm 06-01-20

I support ordinance 2020-24. In this time of pandemic, it does not make sense to force people to vote in person. We have used mail in ballots for military personnel to vote, people out of the country to vote, and absentee ballots have been used for some time. There is no valid demonstration that any fraud has occurred.

**Ron Keffer**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:41pm 06-01-20

Assembly Members:

I strongly favor mail-in voting as it is constructed in Ordinance 2020-24. In this moment, the measure highly recommends itself. As long as C-19 is about, voters may have to choose whether to vote or to stay home to avoid exposure. No KPB voter should face that Hobson's Choice. Even absent the virus, making voting less of a burden can only be seen as a very good step.

Some objections have been made to mail-in ballots. For example, some believe they favor one group or party over another, but the data have indicated that simply isn't so. Another objection raises the issue of voting fraud. Again, research has made it crystal clear that claims of an increased incidence of fraud are unfounded. (When I thought through what someone would have to know and do in order to commit voting fraud through the mail, that alone convinced me the numbers of fraudulent ballots would be vanishingly small. Of course, the likely prison sentence at the end of the endeavor is not an incentive either.)

This matter is time sensitive, too. Borough staff must have time and resources to get ready. Please pass the ordinance as soon as possible and let's get going.

Thank you for the effort you have put into constructing and considering this ordinance. I know it ain't as easy as it looks!! Also, thanks for reading my comments. Please make this happen!

Ron Keffer  
Homer

**Elise Boyer**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:08pm 05-31-20

Please implement mail-in voting on time for the October 2020 election. I am very concerned about people gathering at polling places, many of which house or gather vulnerable populations. I listened to the feasibility report and am encouraged and excited about the opportunities to maximize voter participation while minimizing threats to health. The offer of resources from the City of Anchorage should be accepted immediately. Finally, please do not require stamps; they make voting harder, particularly for younger or "off grid" voters who do everything online. In many cases, they will require additional exposure to public places just to buy stamps.

I recognize that everything is harder these days, and the challenges have multiplied. I am sincerely grateful for your continued efforts to serve.

**Wayne Aderhold**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:04pm 05-30-20

Dear Assembly Members,

Thank you for bringing forward Ordinance 2020-24. I fully support the Borough adopting a vote by mail hybrid system, providing more time between regular and run-off elections, and removing "sponsored" proposition statements from voter pamphlets. My comments below are focused on the vote by mail hybrid system.

I was privileged to be a member of the Election Stakeholder Group last year and had opportunity to learn about the security measures and safeguards implemented during a vote by mail process that minimizes potential for voter fraud. The hybrid system also allows voters a choice of voting by mail or voting at a polling site. The system proposed for the Borough to adopt provides maximum flexibility and accessibility for all voters, including voters experiencing disabilities. I will admit that I walked onto the stakeholder group skeptical of vote by mail; I've almost always voted in person, and have preferred to vote on election day. Seeing my neighbors lined up to vote helps me feel connected to my community and our participatory form of government. My participation in the Election Stakeholder Group and what I learned from the experts who presented to us helped me understand the value and benefits of a vote by mail system. I also learned that the Borough has conducted vote by mail within more remote areas for years with a high level of success. The Election Stakeholder Group included a cross-section of ideas and beliefs regarding voting by mail. We identified, debated, and discussed a wide variety of pros and cons and positive and negative associations with vote by mail systems. In the end, the group unanimously agreed on the recommendation to adopt a vote by mail hybrid system.

The report prepared for you by Resource Data provides a detailed roadmap for you to follow. Thank you for contracting with Resource Data to provide you with recommendations on implementing a vote by mail hybrid system. I urge you to continue down the path you initiated in early 2019 and vote in favor of Ordinance 2020-24.

Thank you for your service to your districts and to the Borough as a whole,

Donna Aderhold

Homer

**Alex Koplin**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:42pm 05-29-20

May 29, 2020

Dear Assembly Members and Borough Clerk,

By voting in favor of ordinance 2020-24 which will allow the Borough to do mail-in voting for the October election, we can make a statement that voting and safety are top priorities. As we saw in Wisconsin during their April primary, at least 7 people tested positive for Covid-19 associated with that event. As you all know, The Kenai Peninsula Borough stakeholders have conducted weekly meetings for a year to study the issue of accessibility and making voting more efficient. The stakeholders made their recommendations to the Borough Assembly and they were approved. One of the recommendations from this report was to do mail-in voting in case of an emergency. Covid-19 is that emergency. Waiting to see how the virus is impacting us in October is really not an option. By acting now about mail-in voting we can take the guessing game out of the equation.

Five states already do mail in voting, as well as many municipalities across the country. Juneau has decided to do mail in voting for their October election. The benefits of mail in voting are: it can be done safely, it could increase voter turnout, it gives more people more time to study the issues before they vote. (It is amazing to me, as a poll worker how few people really knew what was on the ballot when they actually got to the voting booth).

Our Democracy is at a cross roads right now. In my opinion the national discussion has been withered down to name calling and real substance seems to be lost. Younger voters are watching the grown-ups fight over voting options and it's just another way to distract from the real issues.

I know many of you were at Dennis Wheeler's presentation about mail-in voting and he was very thorough and answered many of our questions during that meeting. There were some questions regarding fraudulent voting and Mr. Wheeler was quite clear on this issue and talked about the "cure" process which notifies election workers if the signatures don't match up. The fact of the matter is when you have a paper trail it is easier to follow the ballot.

Voting should have its own holiday and should be celebrated and honored. I've been working on getting more people to vote for over four years as a member of Kenai Peninsula Votes, and we just want people to vote. Mail-in

voting is safe, secure and reliable. Don't walk away from this chance to have the Borough elections by mail in voting this October. And for the people that want to vote at the polls, they will still be able to do so. It's a win-win for all.

Passing Ordinance 2020-24 will convey the message that we care about the Kenai Peninsula Borough citizens' safety and we're going to do everything in our power to make voting happen safely and securely. Everyone should feel that their voice matters.

Sincerely,  
Alex L. Koplin  
Kenai Peninsula Votes  
bubba@horizonsatellite.com  
907-299-2517