



Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Meeting Agenda Legislative Committee

Tyson Cox, Chair
Lane Chesley, Vice Chair
Bill Elam, Member

Tuesday, September 19, 2023

4:30 PM

Council Chambers, Homer City Hall

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88473739641?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88473739641?pwd=dW1sY2RYV0F4dURjV25yVW9WUGw3QT09)

[pwd=dW1sY2RYV0F4dURjV25yVW9WUGw3QT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88473739641?pwd=dW1sY2RYV0F4dURjV25yVW9WUGw3QT09)

Meeting ID: 884 7373 9641 Passcode: 671108

NEW BUSINESS

1. Resolutions

- *c. [2023-060](#) A Resolution Recommending an Amendment to Title 14 of the Alaska Statutes, Relating to School Boards, to Allow for Term Limits for School Boards (Derkevorkian)

Attachments:

[Resolution 2023-060](#)

[Memo](#)

Introduced by: Derkevorkian
Date: 09/19/23
Action:
Vote:

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2023-060**

**A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING AN AMENDMENT TO TITLE 14 OF THE
ALASKA STATUTES, RELATING TO SCHOOL BOARDS, TO ALLOW FOR TERM
LIMITS FOR SCHOOL BOARDS**

WHEREAS, Alaska Statutes, AS 14.12.030 - 14.12.080, do not authorize either a local governing body or a local board of education (“school board”) to set term limits for school board members; and

WHEREAS, AS 29.40.140(d) authorizes local adoption of term limits for Kenai Peninsula Borough (“Borough”) Assembly members; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has established term limits for Assembly members and the Borough Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the decision to adopt term limits for local school board members should be allowable under Alaska Statutes and should be a matter of local choice; and

WHEREAS, a recently filed ballot measure would set term limits for lawmakers serving in the Alaska Legislature; and

WHEREAS, term limits may help combat incumbents’ name recognition advantage, and allow for new, fresh perspectives;

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

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly hereby recommends that the Alaska Legislature enact legislation to allow for term limits for school boards.

SECTION 2. A copy of this resolution will be sent to all members of the Alaska State Legislature.

SECTION 3. This resolution is effective immediately upon adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 19TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.

Brent Johnson, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Yes:


No:

Absent:

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.