



City of Homer

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Memorandum

TO: Katie Koester, City Manager

FROM: Melissa Jacobsen, City Clerk

DATE: January 7, 2020

SUBJECT: By Mail Election Meeting with Kenai Peninsula Borough Clerks

In response to Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 2019-047 and supporting Resolutions from the cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward, and Soldotna, the Borough and City Clerks will be working together to explore the implementation of the recommendations of the KPB Election Stakeholders Group.

We held our first meeting on December 13, 2019 and a list of our discussion points (prepared by Seward City Clerk, Brenda Ballou) is included below. We will meet again on January 24th to review Dennis Wheeler's proposal for by mail options for the Borough and Cities.

December 13th:

Dennis Wheeler, project manager for Municipality of Anchorage's Vote by Mail initiative

- *Is putting together a proposal for by mail options for the borough/city clerks*
- *KPB is contracting with him; no cost to cities*

Hurdles & Concerns to Overcome

- *Low voter turnout/engagement*
- *Voter intimidation/influence*
- *Security/fraud*
- *Cost/cost-sharing (based on number of registered voters vs. population)*
- *Ballot adjudication*
- *ADA compliance*

Things to Promote

- *Convenience voting*
- *Use social media, videos, etc. (one town did a parade)*
- *FAQs*
- *Voter verification process*
- *ADA compliance*
- *Know your district/jurisdiction*
- *SWAG (stuff we all get) like pins, stickers, etc.*

By Mail Ballots for KPB

- *Combine borough and city ballots into one "package" to be sent to voters*
- *Color code the borough ballot and envelope differently from the city ballot and envelope*
- *Voters turn in both envelopes to the same location; clerks separate and courier to the appropriate location*

- *Who and how do the envelopes get verified?*

Centralized Canvass at KPB vs Canvass at City

- *KPB would be willing to centralize canvassing of all ballots*
- *Cities are not in favor of centralizing canvass (will likely have to re-verify anyway; voter concerns about lost ballots or security issues)*
- *KPB is using state's "Review Board" concept to pay their Canvass workers \$25/hour rather than \$10/hour for Canvass Board*

Signature Verification

- *KPB will be asking for signature verification software because they have 50,000 voters to verify*

"Vote Centers" vs AVO

- *By Mail ballots mailed out three weeks in advance of election day, as usual*
- *Voters turn in voted ballots at drop boxes or at Vote Centers*
- *Voters can vote in person at Vote Centers (i.e., Absentee In Person)*
- *There is NO election day location anymore – just an extra day for the Vote Centers*

Election Equipment

- *KPB will take on the costs for election equipment; equipment would belong to KPB*
- *KPB will establish a Mutual Aid Agreement (MAA) with cities*
- *MAA will dictate cost of equipment rental, mailing, etc.*

Voter Pamphlets

- *KPB will customize the pamphlets to regions/districts*

2020 Census

- *Data will be received in 2021*
- *State/municipalities will then have the options to request redistricting*
- *Final decisions on redistricting will be made by Division of Elections*