

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-15**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH,
ALASKA, AMENDING TITLE 3 OF THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH CODE TO
ESTABLISH NEPOTISM STANDARDS FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

WHEREAS, Borough Charter Section 19.03C provides that the Assembly shall adopt standards and procedures addressing nepotism; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Assembly recognizes the importance of maintaining public confidence in the integrity, fairness, and transparency of borough governance; and

WHEREAS, this ordinance is to apply to all elected officials of the Borough, excepting the School Board, which has its own adopted conflict of interest provisions; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this ordinance is to establish clear standards regarding nepotism, disclosure, and recusal in order to prevent conflicts of interest and the appearance of impropriety in official actions; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly finds that adopting these standards provides guidance to elected officials, promotes ethical decision-making, and serves the best interests of the Petersburg Borough and its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough, Alaska, as follows:

Section 1. Classification.

This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall be codified in the Petersburg Municipal Code.

Section 2. Purpose.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish nepotism standards for elected officials of the Borough, excepting the School Board.

Section 3. Substantive Provisions.

The Petersburg Borough Code is amended by adding a new section 3.04.070, to read as follows:

3.04.070 – Nepotism

A. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to promote public confidence in the integrity of borough elected officials and to prevent nepotism and the appearance of conflicts of interest in employment decisions and official actions taken by elected officials.

B. Definitions. For purposes of this section:

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1. **“Elected Official”** means a member of the Borough Assembly, including the Mayor, Planning Commission, and any other elected borough board or commission. This does not include a member of the Borough School Board.
2. **“Family Member”** means an elected official’s spouse or domestic partner; children, including step-children, adopted children, and foster children; grandchildren; parents, including step-parents; grandparents; siblings, including half-siblings or step-siblings; and in-laws, including mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, and sister-in-law.
3. **“Official Action”** means any decision, recommendation, approval, disapproval, discussion, or vote on a matter before the body on which the elected official serves.
4. **“Substantial Financial Interest”** means a direct financial, employment, contractual, or ownership interest that could reasonably be expected to result in a material financial or economic benefit or detriment to a family member of an elected official. The term does not include interests that are minimal, remote, or speculative.

C. Prohibitions.

1. An elected official shall not participate in, influence or attempt to influence, or vote on, any decision regarding the hiring, promotion, compensation, discipline, supervision, evaluation, or termination of a family member for any position of employment with the borough. This is not intended to prohibit a member of the Assembly from participating in proceedings related to, and voting on, the Borough budget or union contracts.
2. An elected official shall not participate in, influence or attempt to influence or vote on, any official action in which a family member has a substantial financial interest, unless the action is generally applicable legislation affecting a broad class of persons to substantially the same degree or affecting the community as a whole.

D. Disclosure and Recusal. An elected official shall disclose any substantial financial interest involving a family member prior to discussion or official action on the matter. If an interest is declared, the official shall refrain from participating, debating, or voting on the issue, unless after disclosure of the interest the official's participation is approved in a public meeting by the majority of the body on which the elected official sits.

Section 4. Severability: If any provision of this ordinance or any application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

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Section 5. Effective Date: This ordinance will take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough, Alaska this 17th day of August, 2026.

Robert Lynn, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca Regula, Borough Clerk