

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH PROPOSITION SUMMARY

PROPOSITION NO. 3

APPORTIONMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND BOARD OF EDUCATION

To be voted on by all borough voters

Every ten years, the federal government conducts a census and remits population figures to each state and county in the nation. Both state law and the borough code require the Borough to review these figures and determine whether the current apportionment of the Assembly meets the constitutional mandate of equal representation and “one person - one vote.” The Borough is further mandated to place one or more plans of apportionment before the voters at its next regular election following final approval of a state redistricting plan.

On May 3, 2011, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly declared itself and the Board of Education to be malapportioned through the adoption of Resolution 2001-045 and authorized the Assembly President to appoint a committee to review the distribution of population within the Borough, to conduct public hearings and solicit public comment with respect to Assembly and Board of Education apportionment, and to develop one or more plans for Assembly and Board of Education apportionment for consideration by the Borough Assembly. This committee met throughout the months of May and June and conducted public hearings in Seward, Homer, Kenai and Sterling. On July 5, the Committee submitted two different plans to the Assembly and recommended that the Assembly place both plans before the voters in October.

On August 2, 2011, the Assembly adopted Ordinance 2011-25 approving two plans for presentation to the voters. Conceptual maps of the two plans are provided on the following pages.

Plan 1 includes 9 single member districts. If adopted by the voters, this plan would realign existing Assembly and Board of Education District boundaries to provide districts of approximately 6,156 residents. If the actual qualified voters of an existing Assembly/ Board of Education District change by ten percent or more, the Assembly/Board of Education Member representing that District would be required to stand for reelection in October 2012. Assembly/Board of Education Members representing districts with changes affecting less than 10% of the district’s qualified voters and who have not completed their term of office may not be required to stand for reelection in 2012. This is a policy question that the Assembly will decide if this plan is adopted by the voters.

Plan 2 includes 11 single member districts. If adopted by the voters, this plan will create 11 new Assembly and Board of Education Districts. Each of these districts will contain approximately 5,036 residents. The 11 Assembly/Board of Education Seats would all be filled at the October 2012 election. The terms of office would be staggered so that three members would be elected for 1-year terms, four members would be elected for 2-year terms and four members would be elected for 3-year terms.

Following certification of the election, the Borough Assembly will adopt an ordinance putting into place the plan that receives a majority of the votes cast in October. Since it is the intent of the Borough to align Assembly Districts to follow state voter precinct lines as nearly as possible, the district lines on the conceptual maps presented prior to the election may be adjusted to follow the new precinct lines which will be adopted by the State of Alaska in the next few months.

FISCAL NOTE: The additional cost for Plan 2: Eleven (11) single member districts, relative to Plan 1: Nine (9) single member districts, would be approximately \$48,000 annually for the Assembly and approximately \$35,000 annually for the Board of Education.

BALLOT LANGUAGE

As approved by Ordinance 2011-25

Choose one of the Following Plans for Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and Board of Education Representation.

Plan 1: Nine (9) Single Member Districts

Plan 2: Eleven (11) Single Member Districts

DESCRIPTION OF APPORTIONMENT PLAN: State Law requires that the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly adopt an apportionment plan for Borough Assembly representation, after the 2010 federal census.

Kenai Peninsula Borough Ordinance 2011-25 meets this requirement by adopting and presenting to the voters for selection two representations and options, one of which is different from the current plan. The plan receiving the most votes will be put into place after the election. Both plans will result in some or the entire current Assembly and Board of Education member terms and seats being abolished beginning with the regular borough election in October 2012. Assembly and Board of Education members elected in the 2012 will serve staggered terms of one, two and three years. The current Assembly and Board of Education plan contains nine (9) districts with one member elected from each district.

The first option, Plan 1, would consist of nine (9) districts in the borough. Each district would have one Assembly member and one Board of Education member, elected by the voters of that district.

The second option, Plan 2, would consist of eleven (11) districts in the borough. Each district would have one Assembly member and one Board of Education member, elected by the voters of that district.