

PROPOSITION NO. 2
Proposed Nikiski Law Enforcement Service Area
To be voted on by voters residing in the proposed service area

Shall the Kenai Peninsula Borough be authorized to exercise law enforcement powers to provide law enforcement services in the Kenai Peninsula Borough Nikiski Law Enforcement Service Area within the service area boundaries defined by Ordinance 2004-10?

YES *[A Yes Vote will result in the creation of a law enforcement service area in the Nikiski area.]*

NO *[A No Vote will prohibit the exercise of law enforcement powers in the Nikiski area, and the service area will not be created.]*

An increase in the reported frequency and severity of burglaries and other crimes in the Nikiski area, coupled with limited State Trooper resources available to respond to calls from the community, led the Nikiski Community Council to hold a series of community meetings and to create a Law Enforcement Investigation Committee to identify problems and potential solutions. A general consensus emerging from these meetings was that it would be desirable to create a service area to provide law enforcement services within the community.

At the request of the Community Council, Assembly Member Gary Superman introduced an ordinance establishing the service area contingent upon approval of the voters at the October 5, 2004 regular borough election. The service area boundaries will mirror those of the existing Nikiski Fire Service Area. (See map on the adjoining page.) A public hearing was conducted within the proposed service area on May 10, 2004. Everyone attending that meeting spoke in favor of creating the service area.

If approved by the voters in October, the service area board will be charged with the task of determining the scope and level of law enforcement services to be provided. These services may be provided by contracting with an existing law enforcement agency or by the creation of a new law enforcement agency within the community. If a new law enforcement agency is created, the board may provide for either an elected or an appointed chief law enforcement official.

FISCAL NOTE: Until the scope and level of services has been determined, it is difficult to estimate the amount of local taxes that will be needed to cover the costs associated with the service area. A tax rate of one mill will generate approximately \$1,360,000, an amount presumed to be sufficient to cover the costs of operating a full scale law enforcement agency. A lower level of service, such as contracting with an existing law enforcement agency, would probably require less than one mill of local taxes.

In addition, it is anticipated that the service area will be eligible for state and federal grants to offset some of the costs of providing law enforcement services. It is also anticipated that the service area will seek partnerships with other law enforcement agencies to maximize resources available to the community.