



KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

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DAVID R. CAREY
BOROUGH MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

FROM: Gary Knopp, Assembly President *GK*

DATE: May 26, 2011

SUBJECT: Ordinance 2011-24, increasing the term limitation on assembly members from two terms to three consecutive terms

Since 2007 the voters have approved two initiatives limiting consecutive terms of office served by assembly members to two terms which includes all or a portion of a three year term. As a result the turnover rate in the nine member assembly is by necessity occurring more frequently than it has in the past. Additionally, one assembly member will be termed out this year after having served only 4 years, and more will likely be termed out due to the upcoming reapportionment in much less than 6 years. In my view, allowing a person to serve for three consecutive three-year terms before being prohibited from running for the next regular term still satisfies a primary purpose of term limits of ensuring that new people regularly serve on the assembly. Limiting the number of terms to three full terms enables the voters to reelect for a third time an assembly member who is willing to serve again and who the voters would like to reelect. This additional time period is also important in that it enables assembly members to gain more knowledge needed to be more effective and experienced representatives of their constituents.

Additionally, in my opinion the three-year waiting period before an assembly member may serve again in office is unnecessarily long. Normally the waiting period would be three years unless the new member vacates the office. However, mandating this waiting period prevents a former assembly member from serving for even a few months to fill a mid-term vacancy, even if that person is the best qualified or only person showing interest in serving. The code imposes a 180-day waiting period on the mayor, and this appears to be a reasonable time period to require a person to wait before serving again on the assembly.

As this is an ordinance imposing term limitations on assembly members it must be approved by the voters. Your support would be appreciated.