

# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

## Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Gary Knopp, Assembly President  
Charlie Pierce, Vice President

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### MEMORANDUM

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

**FROM:** Linda Murphy, Assembly Member *LB for L.M.*

**DATE:** March 13, 2012

**RE:** Ordinance 2012-07, Amending KPB Titles 2-Administration, 4-Elections and 16-Service Areas to Provide that All Kenai Peninsula Borough Service Area Boards are Appointed Instead of Elected

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This ordinance is intended to save money and time, reduce voter confusion during the election process and encourage public participation in serving on service area boards by changing service area boards from elected to appointed positions. Thousands of dollars will be saved annually by eliminating service area board seats from the elections process through reduced printing costs and time required of election judges and the Clerk's office. The borough has one of the most complicated election processes in the state which this action will help to simplify. Providing for appointed service area boards is intended to reduce voter confusion as the content of the voter pamphlet and number of ballots would be reduced as many service areas bifurcate precincts requiring more than one ballot for each. Historically there have been numerous vacant seats as well as seats where only one person has filed to run for a service area board. This ordinance is intended to encourage public interest in these seats by eliminating the need to run for office and otherwise comply with the election process requirements.

An appointed board has worked well for the Road Service Area and the borough is one of, if not the only municipality in the state, with elected service area boards. Further, the process is designed to maintain the integrity of the system as appointed board members will be required to meet certain service area specific criteria and must be confirmed by the assembly.

Your consideration is appreciated.