

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY LIMITING THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY MEMBERS AND MAYOR TO A MAXIMUM OF ONE FULL TERM AND SUBMITTING THE ISSUES TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 5, 2019 REGULAR BOROUGH ELECTION.

AGENDA OF: August 6, 2019

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

Defeated Unanimously 8-2019
(Signature)

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Introduce and set for public hearing.

APPROVED BY JOHN MOOSEY, BOROUGH MANAGER: *(Signature)*

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator	TS/NS	For Assemblymember Sumner
	Borough Attorney	NS	
	Borough Clerk	<i>AM</i>	7/29/19 <i>(Signature)</i>

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note X NO YES _____
Ordinance Serial No. 19-090 (3 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: This ordinance is presented at the request of Assemblymember Sumner.

Current Borough Code provides that assembly members and the mayor may serve two consecutive, full terms. This ordinance proposes that assembly members and the mayor will serve only one term of office. Unlike the code in place now, this ordinance will establish that once a single term of 3 years is served, a person cannot seek a second term or seek another term in the same elected office simply by waiting a period of time.

The proposed ordinance changes MSB 2.12.020 and MSB 2.08.020 and will limit the term of office for assembly members and the mayor, respectively, to one full term.

Alaska statutes 29.20.140 and AS 29.20.230 require a vote of the people in order to limit the total number of terms for assembly members and mayor. Therefore, this ordinance also proposes two ballot questions for the November 5, 2019, regular Borough election.

Each ballot proposition asks whether assembly members and the mayor should be limited to serving one full term.

Limiting Borough elected officials to a single term allows for fresher ideas and solutions to be brought forth. Additionally, term limits allow more involvement from the public because each year, newly elected officials will serve in office. Limiting elected officials to serving one term avoids the inherent advantage incumbents enjoy over challengers when running for office and eliminates any potential for the prolonged situation where power is in the hands of very few.

Recommendation of Administration: Adoption of the legislation.