

Sponsored by: Assemblymembers Fonov and Bernier
Action:

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 25-002**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECTING THE CLERK TO REVIEW ELECTION OFFICIAL PAY AND TO NO LONGER USE PAPER COUNTERS IN THE ELECTION.

WHEREAS, the November 5, 2024, Regular Borough election saw the largest voter turnout in Borough history; and

WHEREAS, election officials are the backbone of being able to run an election efficiently; and

WHEREAS, the years that the Borough elections are with the State of Alaska, the Borough competes with the State of Alaska for election officials; and

WHEREAS, a competitive rate of pay is a way to ensure that the Borough keeps long-serving election officials and is able to recruit new people; and

WHEREAS, the Borough in 2022 changed code to require that ballots be counted by hand starting at the 2023 election; and

WHEREAS, in early 2023 the Assembly directed the Clerk to look for and budget for paper counters, which would determine how many ballots have been voted at the precincts and early voting locations; and

WHEREAS, the total number of ballots to be counted needs to be determined prior to counting the votes for each race, as the

precinct officials need to finalize the ballot accountability reports and the hand counters need to be able to verify that they have accounted for all of the ballots for each race; and

WHEREAS, there were issues reported by hand counters with the paper counters being too slow and not able to accommodate for the large number of ballots being put through the paper counter; and

WHEREAS, the total number of ballots to be counted can be done without the paper counters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clerk is directed to compare the rate of pay for election officials and bring a recommendation back to the Assembly during the budget.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk is directed to no longer use paper counters in the election and have hand count officials count out the total number of ballots.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2024.

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)