

Sponsored by: Assemblymember hALE

Introduction: 05/19/2020

Public Hearing: 06/02/2020

Amended: 06/02/2020

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 20-053**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECTING THE BOROUGH CLERK TO ENCOURAGE Absentee By-Mail FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020, REGULAR ELECTION.

WHEREAS, some experts predict a resurgence of COVID 19 in the fall and winter; and

WHEREAS, if the virus has a second wave, it will likely occur during the Borough's 2020 regular election; and

WHEREAS, the State Legislature has allowed for the State Division of Election to conduct by-mail elections for the duration of the public health disaster emergency declaration issued by the Governor of Alaska on March 11, 2020, if necessary;

WHEREAS, at the time of writing this resolution the State Division of Election has not officially announced the decision on how they will be conducting the general election; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the Borough's election workers are some of the at risk population for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there is concern that the Borough may not have enough poll workers to conduct a precinct-based election; and

WHEREAS, there have already been precinct locations that have told the State Division of Election that elections can no longer

be held at those locations; and

WHEREAS, should the fall/winter outbreak occur, there is no guarantee of poll workers or precinct locations being available; and

WHEREAS, encouraging absentee voting for the 2020 election is a way to ensure that the Borough's regular election can move forward without the uncertainties brought on by the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, encouraging absentee voting for the 2020 election ensures that every registered voter in the Borough has the opportunity to vote without concerns about going to crowded polling locations; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Borough Assembly directs the Borough Clerk to conduct a comprehensive campaign to encourage absentee voting in the 2020 regular election, including, at a minimum, two mailings one of which is an absentee ballot application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Clerk is directed to bring forward legislation that outlines the changes that would need to occur to conduct by-mail elections.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 2 day
of June, 2020.

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: Hale, Nowers, Leonard, Mayfield, and Boeve
NO: McKee and Sumner