

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY CHANGING SCHOOL BOARD TERMS FROM 3 YEAR TERMS TO 4 YEAR TERMS, PROVIDING FOR TRANSITORY TERMS TO ALIGN SCHOOL BOARD AND ASSEMBLY DISTRICT TERMS, AND TO AND TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION TO THE QUALIFIED AREAWIDE VOTERS AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 REGULAR ELECTION.

AGENDA OF: July 21, 2026

ASSEMBLY ACTION:

AGENDA ACTION REQUESTED: Introduce and set for public hearing.

Route To	Signatures
Originator	6/24/2026 X N S for Assm Fonov, McKee, ... Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos
Borough Attorney	6/24/2026 X Nicholas Spiropoulos Signed by: Nicholas Spiropoulos
Borough Manager	6/24/2026 X Michael Brown Signed by: Mike Brown
Borough Clerk	7/2/2026 X Lonnie McKee ... Signed by: Lonnie McKee

ATTACHMENT (S) : Ordinance Serial No. 26-081 (5 pp)
 SB 143 (8 pp)
 School Board Terms (2 pp)
 Assembly Terms (2 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT: This ordinance is sponsored by Assemblymembers Fonov, McKee, and Bernier to change the School Board terms from 3 years to 4 years. In addition, the change will provide for transitory terms so that the School Board District seats and Assembly District seats are aligned for the terms so that the elections for each coincide. The proposal here must be ratified by the voters, so this ordinance will place the matter before the qualified areawide voters at the November 3, 2026 regular election.

As of the terms beginning in 2026 Borough Assemblymembers will serve 4 year terms. However, School Board members currently serve three year terms under the provisions of state law found at AS 14.12.050(a) and AS 29.20.300(a). The provisions of those state laws did not allow for the ability to change the length of School

Board terms. However, on May 17, 2025, the Alaska Legislature passed SB 143 which, in part, amended AS 14.12.050(a) and AS 29.20.300. Under the new provisions of law, an ordinance approved by voters may alter the terms of office for the School Board. The ordinance here will change the School Board terms from 3 years to 4 years in length.

In addition to changing the length of School Board terms, the terms will be aligned with the Assembly Districts. Currently, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board and Assembly have seats with the following expiration of terms:

Position	Term Ending	Position	Term Ending	Next Term Ending
School District 1	2027	Assembly District 1	2026	2030
School District 2	2028	Assembly District 2	2026	2030
School District 3	2026	Assembly District 3	2028	2032
School District 4	2027	Assembly District 4	2026	2030
School District 5	2028	Assembly District 5	2026	2030
School District 6	2026	Assembly District 6	2028	2032
School District 7	2028	Assembly District 7	2028	2032

To make the districts align, all School District seats except for District 7 will need one transition term of a shorter length. After this single transition term, every seat will have a 4 year term.

Position	Term Ending	Transition term	Term Ending
School District 1	2027	3 years	2030
School District 2	2028	2 years	2030
School District 3	2026	2 years	2028
School District 4	2027	3 years	2030
School District 5	2028	2 years	2030
School District 6	2026	2 years	2028
School District 7	2028	none	2032

By using less than a 4 year term as a shortened transition term, all School Board seats and Assembly District seats will be aligned by 2030 and will all have 4 year terms thereafter.

By moving to 4 year terms, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough can then decide if it wants to continue to have annual elections, or whether to move to a bi-annual cycle as the State of Alaska does. There are efficiencies to be gained and potential cost savings of such a proposal, but that final decision is not addressed in this ordinance.

To be effective, this proposal must be approved by the voters. Therefore, a ballot question is contained placing the matter before

the qualified areawide voters at the upcoming November 3, 2026 regular borough election.

RECOMMENDATION OF ADMINISTRATION: Introduce and set for public hearing.

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 143(CRA) am H

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Amended: 5/13/26

Offered: 3/18/26

Sponsor(s): SENATOR YUNDT

REPRESENTATIVE Vance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to ethics and budget training for school board members; relating to the**
2 **terms of office of municipal school board members; relating to the size of the city council**
3 **in second class cities; and providing for an effective date."**

4 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

5 * **Section 1.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

6 (a) The department shall

7 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
8 except the University of Alaska;

9 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
10 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
11 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
12 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
13 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
14 preparatory courses;

1 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
2 governing bodies and personnel;

3 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
4 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
5 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

6 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Family and
7 Community Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held
8 in juvenile detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are
9 defined in AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

10 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
11 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
12 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
13 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
14 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
15 the members of each house;

16 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
17 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
18 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
19 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
20 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

21 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
22 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
23 a school district for students four and five years of age, approve an early education
24 program provided by a school district that complies with the standards adopted by the
25 board under AS 14.07.165(a)(5), and revoke approval of an early education program if
26 the program does not comply with the standards adopted by the board under
27 AS 14.07.165(a)(5);

28 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
29 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
30 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
31 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

1 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
 2 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
 3 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
 4 licensed;

5 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
 6 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
 7 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
 8 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
 9 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
 10 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
 11 and costs, and final contract documents;

12 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
 13 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
 14 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
 15 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
 16 will lead to employment opportunities;

17 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

18 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
 19 school bus driver training course;

20 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
 21 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
 22 behavior;

23 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
 24 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
 25 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

26 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
 27 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

28 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
 29 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
 30 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
 31 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language

arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

(C) a process for districts to petition the department for continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

(17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

(18) establish a reading program to provide direct support for and intervention in the reading intervention programs of participating schools as described in AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770;

(19) annually convene, either in person or electronically, a panel to review and comment on the effectiveness of the programs created by the department and the regulations adopted by the board to implement AS 14.03.410, 14.03.420, AS 14.30.760 - 14.30.770, and 14.30.800; the panel

(A) shall provide recommendations and guidance to the board, the department, and the legislature on how to integrate early education and reading programs created under this title with tribal compacting or programs focused on cultural education within the department;

(B) shall discuss support for reading in Alaska Native languages and other non-English languages;

(C) must collectively represent the regions of the state and include teachers of grades kindergarten through three, school administrators, parents of students in grades kindergarten through three, stakeholders from Indigenous language immersion programs, representatives from early education stakeholder groups, and researchers of best practices for improving literacy performance, including best practices for instruction of Indigenous students and students whose first language is not English;

(20) provide school board ethics and budgeting training to school board members who are required to receive the training under AS 14.08.041(g) and AS 14.12.045.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.07.020(a), as amended by sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA 2022, is amended to read:

(a) The department shall

1 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
2 except the University of Alaska;

3 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
4 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
5 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement
6 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
7 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
8 preparatory courses;

9 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
10 governing bodies and personnel;

11 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
12 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
13 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

14 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Family and
15 Community Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held
16 in juvenile detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are
17 defined in AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

18 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
19 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
20 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
21 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
22 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
23 the members of each house;

24 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
25 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
26 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
27 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
28 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

29 (8) exercise general supervision over early education programs that
30 receive direct state or federal funding, including early education programs provided by
31 a school district for students four and five years of age;

1 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
 2 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
 3 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
 4 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

5 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
 6 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this
 7 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
 8 licensed;

9 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
 10 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
 11 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
 12 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
 13 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
 14 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
 15 and costs, and final contract documents;

16 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
 17 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
 18 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
 19 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
 20 will lead to employment opportunities;

21 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

22 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
 23 school bus driver training course;

24 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
 25 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
 26 behavior;

27 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
 28 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
 29 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

30 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
 31 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

(B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

(C) a process for districts to petition the department for continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

(17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

(18) provide school board ethics and budgeting training to school board members who are required to receive the training under AS 14.08.041(g) and AS 14.12.045.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 14.08.041 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) Within 30 days after beginning a term, each regional school board member shall receive training provided by the department on the topics of school board ethics and budgeting.

* **Sec. 4.** AS 14.12 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 14.12.045. Required training for school board members. Within 30 days after beginning a term, each school board member shall receive training provided by the department on the topics of school board ethics and budgeting.

* **Sec. 5.** AS 14.12.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(d) The governing body of a municipality may by ordinance alter the terms of office provided for in this section.

* **Sec. 6.** AS 29.20.130 is amended to read:

Sec. 29.20.130. City council composition. Each first class city has a council of six members elected by the voters at large. Each second class city **with a population greater than 1,000** has a council of seven members elected by the voters at large. **Each second class city with a population of 1,000 or less has a council size, established by ordinance, of not fewer than three members and not more than seven members, elected by the voters at large.** The council of a first or second

1 class city may by ordinance provide for election of members other than on an at-large
2 basis for all members.

3 * **Sec. 7.** AS 29.20.300(a) is amended to read:

4 (a) Each municipal school district has a school board. Except as provided in
5 (b) or (c) of this section, members of a school board are elected at the regular election
6 for three-year terms and until their successors take office. Members are elected at
7 large unless a different method of election has been approved by the voters in a regular
8 election.

9 * **Sec. 8.** AS 29.20.300 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (c) The governing body of a municipality may by ordinance approved by the
11 voters alter the terms of office provided for in (a) of this section.

12 * **Sec. 9.** Section 2 of this Act takes effect on the effective date of sec. 16, ch. 40, SLA
13 2022.

14 * **Sec. 10.** Except as provided in sec. 9 of this Act, this Act takes effect immediately under
15 AS 01.10.070(c).

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

School Board

Board Exp

Bergey	Thomas		Board Position	SB District 1		
Company Representing				Term	10/17/2018	to 11/23/2027
17777 E Sullivan Ave			Type of Term	2	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645	Member			
Home	(907) 746-6561	Work	(907) 715-6561	Cell		
		E-mail	tbergey@mtaonline.net			

Kruse	Kendal		Board Position	SB District 2		
Company Representing				Term	12/7/2022	to 11/22/2028
12201 E Lady Slipper Ln			Type of Term	1	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645	Member			
Home		Work		Cell	(720) 231-5396	
		E-mail	kendal.kruse@matsuk12.us			

McCollum	Kathryn		Board Position	SB District 3		
Company Representing				Term	12/7/2022	to 11/17/2026
PO Box 877564			Type of Term	2	Full	
Wasilla	AK	99687	Member			
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 232-6991	
		E-mail	kathy.mccollum@matsuk12.us			

Shane	Andrew		Board Position	SB District 4		
Company Representing				Term	11/20/2024	to 11/23/2027
1561 N Landmark Dr			Type of Term	1	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645	Member			
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 398-7580	
		E-mail	andrew.shane@matsuk12.us			

Pitcher	Brooks		Board Position	SB District 5		
Company Representing				Term	12/6/2023	to 11/22/2028
9304 W Sanderling Dr			Type of Term	2	Full & Partial	
Wasilla	AK	99623	Member			
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 232-8425	
		E-mail	brooks.pitcher@matsuk12.us			

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

School Board

Board Exp

Larson	Ole (Richard)		Board Position	SB District 6			
Company Representing				Term	10/21/2008	to	11/17/2026
501 N Gulkana				Type of Term	4	Full	
Palmer	AK	99645	Member				
Home	(907) 376-3658	Work		Cell		E-mail	Ole.Larson@matsuk12.us

Colee	Lorie		Board Position	SB District 7			
Company Representing				Term	11/19/2025	to	11/22/2028
2180 N Backhaus St				Type of Term	1	Full	
Wasilla	AK	99623	Member				
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 982-1039	E-mail	lorie.colee@matsuk12.us

Information Contact	School District Administration - Stacy 746-9272
Total Board Members	7 members
Meeting Schedule	1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.
Meeting Location	School Board Chambers
Board Notes:	3 Year terms; No term limit. In 2015, the voters approved amending MSB 19.04.025 to implement the School Board seats follow the Assembly district boundaries. By 2018 all School Board seats will reflect the appropriate Assembly District jurisdictions. (OR 16-011)

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

Assembly

Board Exp

Bowles	Michael		Board Position	ASB District 1	
Company Representing				Term	11/24/2025 to 11/22/2026
PO Box 2264			Type of Term	1	Partial
Palmer	AK	99645	Member		
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 355-1355
			E-mail	Michael.Bowles@matsugov.us	

Nowers	Stephanie		Board Position	ASB District 2	
Company Representing				Term	11/24/2019 to 11/22/2026
PO Box 3895			Type of Term	2	Full
Palmer	AK	99645	Member		
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 831-6299
			E-mail	StephanieNowersDistrict2@gmail.com	

McKee	Dolores "Dee"		Board Position	ASB District 3	
Company Representing				Term	11/16/2021 to 11/26/2028
350 E Dahlia Ave			Type of Term	2	Full
Palmer	AK	99645	Member		
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 315-2802
			E-mail	dee.mckee@matsugov.us	

Sumner	Maxwell		Board Position	ASB District 4	
Company Representing				Term	10/3/2024 to 11/22/2026
2937 S Blaire Dr			Type of Term	2	Partial
Wasilla	AK	99623	Member		
Home	(907) 232-6797	Work		Cell	
			E-mail	maxwell.sumner@matsugov.us	

Gamble	Bill		Board Position	ASB District 5	
Company Representing				Term	11/27/2023 to 11/22/2026
PO Box 520504			Type of Term	1	Full
Big Lake	AK	99652-0504	Member		
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 232-0103
			E-mail	bill.gamble@matsugov.us	

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

Assembly

Board Exp

Fonov	Dmitri		Board Position	ASB District 6	
Company Representing				Term	2/10/2023 to 11/26/2028
350 E Dahlia Ave			Type of Term	2	Full & Partial
Palmer	AK	99645	Member		
Home		Work	(907) 861-8546	Cell	
			E-mail	fonov@matsugov.us	

Bernier	Ronald "Ron"		Board Position	ASB District 7	
Company Representing				Term	11/16/2021 to 11/26/2028
350 E Dahlia Ave			Type of Term	2	Full
Palmer	AK	99645	Member		
Home		Work		Cell	(907) 354-7522
			E-mail	ron.bernier@matsugov.us	

DeVries	Edna		Board Position	ASB Mayor	
Company Representing				Term	11/16/2021 to 11/26/2028
350 E Dahlia Ave			Type of Term	1	Full
Palmer	AK	99645	Member		
Home		Work	(907) 861-8682	Cell	(907) 795-8133
			E-mail	edna.devries@matsugov.us	

Information Contact	Borough Clerk's Office
Total Board Members	7 members
Meeting Schedule	1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month (Please check the Notice of Public Meetings schedule at: www.matsu.gov/boards/public-meetings-calendar for meeting information.)
Meeting Location	Assembly Chambers
Board Notes:	State POFD required