

Introduced by: Brown @ Request of
Date: April 7, 1998
Hearing: May 5, 1998
Action: Enacted as amended
Vote: Unanimous

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE 98-11**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING KP.B 4.50.015
REGARDING ABSENTEE BY MAIL PRECINCTS**

WHEREAS, in 1996, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly amended the Borough Elections Code to allow the Borough Clerk to designate precincts with a voter turnout of less than 50 voters in the last regular election as an "absentee by mail" precinct; and

WHEREAS, based on the voter turnout in the 1995 regular election, several precincts within the Borough were designated "absentee by mail" precincts for the 1996 regular election; and

WHEREAS, as anticipated, the voter turnout increased for most of the "absentee by mail" precincts and, as a result, some of these precincts experienced a voter turnout in excess of 50 voters for that election; and

WHEREAS, those precincts with greater than 50 voters voting in 1996 lost their "absentee by mail" precinct status, and polling places were set up within the precincts for the 1997 regular election; and

WHEREAS, this change caused confusion among the voters and resulted in a smaller turnout in these precincts than was experienced when ballots were mailed to each of the voters in the 1996 election; and

WHEREAS, it remains the intent of the Borough Assembly to encourage voter participation in the election process, and designating certain smaller precincts as "absentee by mail" precincts appeared to have that result when it was first incorporated during the 1996 regular election;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. KP.B 4.50.015 is hereby amended to read as follows:

4.50.015 Absentee by-mail precincts.

A. Precincts where the voter turnout was less than 75 [50] voters at the last regular election may be designated as "absentee by-mail" precincts by resolution of the assembly. In those precincts, no election workers shall be appointed. The procedures outlined in Chapter 4.120 shall be followed with the following exceptions:

1 [A]. that ballots shall be sent to each registered voter in the precinct on or before the 15th day prior to the election; and


2 [B]. that voted ballots must be postmarked on or before midnight of election day and received by the clerk no later than the Tuesday following the election.

B. Voters wishing to vote absentee in person may do so at any designated absentee voting site.

C. Any precinct designated as an "absentee by-mail" precinct in accordance with the provisions of subsection A, above, will remain an "absentee by-mail" precinct until such time as the "absentee by-mail" status is removed by resolution of the assembly.

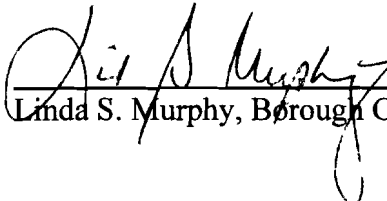
SECTION 2. That this ordinance shall take effect after it has been precleared by the U. S. Department of Justice.

ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 5th DAY OF MAY, 1998.



Jack Brown, Assembly President

ATTEST:



Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk

