



In the Loop

AEB Elections 2011



Sand Point, King Cove and Akutan: Head to the polls on Oct. 4, 2011.

False Pass, Nelson Lagoon and Cold Bay:

Watch for your election ballots arriving by mail.

Make your vote count!

THE ISSUES:

BALLOT PROPOSITION A:

Exemption from the Alaska Public Official Financial Disclosure Law and providing for local adoption of public official disclosure.

In 2007, the State of Alaska changed its public official financial disclosure law in a way that makes it more difficult for local public officials. The new rules require more personal information to be reported. For some, that has been seen as an invasion of privacy. As a result, fewer people are interested in running for public office.

The Alaska Public Official Financial Disclosure laws allow municipalities to “opt-out” of the state law by a majority vote at a regular municipal election. Many Alaska communities have chosen to “opt-out” of the state system without any problems. Recently, our Assembly passed Ordinance 11-04 so voters could decide whether the Borough should become exempt from the Alaska Public Offices Commission requirements.

If voters pass this ordinance to “opt-out” of the state law, the Borough would develop a new form using the State of Alaska Public Official Financial Disclosure Statement (used before the 2007 amendment) as a model. The goal is to provide a less invasive form so more people will be encouraged to run for office while balancing the public’s right to know about the financial interests of elected officials.

BALLOT PROPOSITION B:

An area-wide severance tax for removing, transporting and selling natural resources from the Aleutians East Borough.

On May 31, 2011, The Aleutians East Borough (AEB) Assembly passed Ordinance 11-05, which will go before voters on Oct. 4, 2011. If voters pass Proposition B, an area-wide severance tax will be imposed on individuals or companies extracting natural resources from the Borough, but not paying any AEB tax. These resources include metal ores and coal, gravel and commercial products (fish, seafood) from Borough waters. Harvesters and processors already taxed on fish will not have to pay this or any additional tax.

Metal ores and coal extracted from the ground would be taxed at a rate of 1.5 times the gross production value per ton. Gravel removed from the ground will be taxed at a rate of 10 cents per cubic yard. Commercial products of Borough waters would be taxed at a rate of 2% of the purchase price.

Severance taxes are a common revenue source in other states and municipalities, including the Lake and Peninsula Borough. An area-wide severance tax would create an additional revenue source for the Aleutians East Borough.

Notice of Offices to be Filled

The regular election for the Aleutians East Borough will be held October 4, 2011. Declaration of Candidacy must be filed with the Borough Clerk in Sand Point or with an Assistant Borough Clerk beginning August 22 through September 2, 2011.

The following seats are open:

Aleutians East Borough Mayor (3 year term)

Aleutians East Borough Assembly Seat A (3 year term)

Aleutians East Borough Assembly Seat F (3 year term)

Aleutians East Borough School Board Seat C (3 year term)

Aleutians East Borough School Board Seat D (3 year term)

Declaration of Candidacy forms may be obtained from the Borough Clerk's office in Sand Point or from the following Borough Assistant Clerks:

King Cove City Office.....Kimberly Newman/Savanah Yatchmeneff

Akutan City Office.....Sandra Bell

False Pass City Office.....Chris Emrich

Cold Bay City Office.....Dawn Lyons

Nelson Lagoon.....Nanette Johnson

Completed notarized forms must be received in person by the clerk or assistant clerk. Faxed copies of signed declaration of candidacy will not be accepted as official notice of intent to file.

Qualifications of Mayor: Shall be a qualified elector of the Aleutians East Borough and shall have been a resident of the Borough no less than three consecutive years prior to serving as mayor.

Qualifications of Assembly and School Board Members: The Assembly and School Board Members shall be a qualified elector of the Aleutians East Borough and shall have been a resident within the Borough for a minimum of one year prior to holding office.

All candidates must file a completed public official financial disclosure statement.

No Declaration of Candidacy may be accepted, corrected, amended or withdrawn after 5 p.m. on Friday, September 2, 2011.

Paid for by the Aleutians East Borough, P.O. Box 349, Sand Point, AK 99661