

April 3, 2023

Rep. Mike Cronk
State Capitol Room 418
Juneau, AK 99801

Sen. Click Bishop
State Capitol Room 504
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Cronk and Senator Bishop,

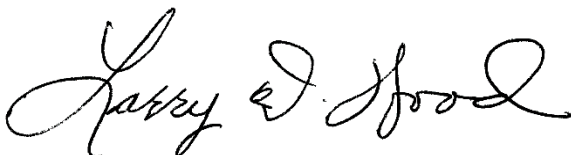
The Local Boundary Commission was created by the delegates of the state constitutional convention to advance the broad public interest in establishing and altering municipal governments. One of the fundamental principles in Alaska's state constitution is that local boundary decisions are best decided on a state level. Article 10, Section 12 allows the Local Boundary Commission to consider "any proposed local government boundary change."

The Local Boundary Commission met on March 30 to discuss and review House Bill 69 and Senate Bill 79. The commission is in support of this legislation, which would make it easier for communities with low populations and limited administrative capacity to apply for reclassification. The Local Boundary Commission wishes to go on record with the following recommendations for amendments:

- In addition to the council requesting reclassification, additional language allowing for a number of voters equal to 15 percent of the number of votes cast in the city at the preceding regular election to petition for reclassification;
- Requesting the local option election on reclassification be administered by the Division of Elections;
- Adding a sunset timeline of two years; allowing for the legislature to renew the legislation at its discretion.

The issues arising during the Commission's discussion have piqued an interest in the Commission exploring more broadly its process for reclassification. The Commission is committed to examining these processes and will consider making recommendations for legislative changes in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry D. Wood". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Larry D. Wood

Chair, Local Boundary Commission