

INFORMATION REGARDING THE  
KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH REGULAR ELECTION  
TO BE HELD OCTOBER 2, 2012

Prepared and paid for by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, 1900 First Avenue, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901



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KETCHIKAN, AK  
PERMIT NO. 74

Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
1900 First Avenue, Suite 115  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

**INTRODUCTION**

On Tuesday, October 2, 2012, Borough voters will elect two Borough Assembly members and four School Board members. Voters will also decide one ballot measure. Borough voters who live within the boundaries of the City of Ketchikan or City of Saxman will have additional ballots for the city council positions in those cities, as well as any city ballot propositions. This voter information pamphlet does not provide information about city candidates or issues. A sample Borough ballot is included with this pamphlet. Borough staff prepared this pamphlet to provide general information about the upcoming Borough election and to help explain the bond proposition.

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING**

The Regular Borough Election is Tuesday, October 2, 2012. Polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Polling place information is listed on the cover of this brochure.

**Application for Absentee Ballot:** Any qualified voter may vote an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by fax or by personal representative for special needs voting. Application forms for absentee ballots are available at the Borough Clerk's Office, 1900 First Avenue, Suite 115, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901 or may be downloaded from the Borough's website: [www.kgbak.us/clerks/election\\_information.htm](http://www.kgbak.us/clerks/election_information.htm).

Applications for absentee ballots must be submitted to the Borough Clerk's Office. Applications for absentee by-mail ballots must be postmarked no less than seven days prior to the election. Applications for absentee by-fax ballots must be submitted not less than the day immediately preceding the election. A person may vote an absentee ballot in person at the Borough Clerk's office during normal business hours beginning at 8:00 a.m., Monday, September 17, 2012, and ending at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 2, 2012.

**Borough Precinct Locations and Descriptions**

There are seven voting precincts in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough. Information regarding precinct boundaries is available at the Borough Clerk's Office. The polling places for the Regular Borough Election of October 2, 2012 are as follows:

Ketchikan No. 1	Schoenbar Middle School	217 Schoenbar Road
Ketchikan No. 2	The Plaza	2417 Tongass Avenue
Ketchikan No. 3	AMHS Ferry Terminal	3501 Tongass Avenue
North Tongass No. 1	North Tongass Fire Station No. 6	7550 N. Tongass Highway
North Tongass No. 2	North Tongass Fire Station No. 8	13110 N. Tongass Highway
Saxman	Saxman Community Center	2841 South Tongass Highway
South Tongass	Fawn Mountain Elementary School	400 Old Homestead Road

**BALLOT PROPOSITION NO. 1 - \$5.5 MILLION BOND PROPOSITION FOR SCHOOL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS**

**Proposition No. 1 asks:**

"Shall Ketchikan Gateway Borough incur debt and issue general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$5,500,000, maturing within a maximum of 15 years, to pay costs of the capital improvements described in Ordinance No. 1634, including improvements and upgrades in Ketchikan High School, Revilla Junior/Senior High School, Schoenbar Middle School, Houghtaling Elementary School, Fawn Mountain Elementary School, and Point Higgins Elementary School, District-wide capital maintenance projects and other capital improvements, and shall Ordinance No. 1634 of the Borough authorizing the issuance of the bonds for these purposes be approved?"

**Why is this proposition on the ballot?**

By issuing bonds to fund the \$5.5 million in capital improvements for schools, it is anticipated that as much as \$3,757,430 (68%) of the bond principal and 68% of the interest on that principal may be funded by the State of Alaska.<sup>1</sup> In other words, for each \$1 of local taxpayer money spent on the improvements, the Borough may be able to obtain approximately \$2.15 in funding from the State

The following projects are proposed to be funded with the bond proceeds.

- \$1,941,630 for capital projects at Ketchikan High School including: (a) Dudley Field improvements; (b) new stage lighting; (c) replacement of clock system; (d) 24 energy-efficiency measures; and (e) installation of air handler controls;
- \$1,133,000 for Ketchikan High School pavement upgrades; replacement of telephone system at Ketchikan High School; replacement of sound system at Ketchikan High School gymnasium, and replacement of worn flooring at several schools;
- \$1,000,000 for demolition of the Mike Smithers Pool to allow the site to be used by the School District;
- \$282,390 for Houghtaling Elementary School playground improvements and sidewalks; and Point Higgins Elementary School fire department hose connection;
- \$925,700 for Fawn Mountain Elementary School arctic entries, field restrooms and changing facilities; emergency generator; kickball field surfacing, and sidewalk maintenance; and
- \$217,280 for Schoenbar Middle School fence and sidewalk upgrades.

**If this proposition passes, what will be the effects to Borough taxpayers and citizens?**

If the proposition passes, up to 68% of the principal and interest on the \$5.5 million in bonds for capital projects will be funded by the State of Alaska. At 68% funding by the State, the local taxpayers will save an estimated \$3,757,430 in principal, plus interest.

Taxes will not have to increase to pay the principal and interest on the bonds. The anticipated 32% local share of the principal of the bonds is estimated to be \$1,742,570. On August 6, 2012, the Borough Assembly appropriated more than \$1.5 million (\$1,506,129.36) in Secure Rural Schools funds and other monies to be deposited into the School Bond Fund (the Fund established by the Borough to pay all debt on school bonds). In doing so, the Assembly prefunded an amount equivalent to more than 86% (86.4%) of the entire anticipated local share of the principal bond payments.


Additional school capital projects are contemplated in the years ahead. These include, for example, replacement of heating systems in several of the schools at an estimated cost of \$5 million. The cost of those projects funded by bonds in a manner similar to the current proposal is included in projections for the Borough School Bond Fund. Including all projected expenditures, the fund has a healthy projected balance. It is estimated that the balance will not drop below \$3,750,000 over the 15-year life of the proposed 2012 bonds.

**If this proposition fails, what will be the effects to Borough taxpayers and citizens?**

Borough and School District officials will re-evaluate the planned capital improvements. Many of the improvements will likely be deferred or eliminated.

<sup>1</sup> The determination of the exact level of funding will be made by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED). Information needed by DEED to make its determination was submitted to DEED in mid-August by the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District. The Fawn Mountain Elementary School improvements are expected to be eligible for reimbursement of 60% of the estimated principal cost of \$925,700. It is anticipated the remaining \$4,574,300 in projects will be eligible for reimbursement of 70% of the principal cost. If those rates are approved by DEED, the blended reimbursement rate for the improvements as a whole would be just over 68% (68.3%). Reimbursements by the State would be subject to annual legislative appropriations. The State has always appropriated funds to meet its scheduled reimbursements for school bond debt.

**SAMPLE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH BALLOT TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE DULY QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH:**



**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH**  
**REGULAR BOROUGH ELECTION**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2012**

Completely fill in the oval opposite the name of each candidate for which you wish to vote.

<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <b>BOROUGH ASSEMBLY MEMBER</b>  <b>(3-year term)</b>            Vote for not more than two (2)         </div> <p>Todd Phillips <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Jim Van Horn <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER</b>  <b>(3-year term)</b>            Vote for not more than three (3)         </div> <p>Stephen Bradford <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Ralph Beardsworth <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Colleen E. Scanlon <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In <input type="radio"/></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER</b>  <b>(2-year term)</b>            Vote for not more than one (1)         </div> <p>Michelle O'Brien <input type="radio"/></p> <p>Write-In <input type="radio"/></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PROPOSITION 1</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$5,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - SCHOOL DISTRICT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS</b></p> <p>Shall Ketchikan Gateway Borough incur debt and issue general obligation bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$5,500,000, maturing within a maximum of 15 years, to pay costs of the capital improvements described in Ordinance No. 1634, including improvements and upgrades in Ketchikan High School, Revilla Junior/Senior High School, Schoenbar Middle School, Houghtaling Elementary School, Fawn Mountain Elementary School, and Point Higgins Elementary School, District-wide capital maintenance projects and other capital improvements, and shall Ordinance No. 1634 of the Borough authorizing the issuance of the bonds for these purposes be approved?</p> <p style="text-align: right;">BONDS      YES <input type="radio"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">BONDS      NO <input type="radio"/></p>
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