



Public Notice of Amendment of Petition to Consolidate the City of Ketchikan and the Ketchikan Gateway Borough

Under the terms of an initiative approved by voters on October 7, 2003, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB) (by and through the Ketchikan Charter Commission) filed a Petition with the Alaska Local Boundary Commission (LBC) in September 2004 to consolidate the City of Ketchikan and KGB as a home-rule borough. In October 2005, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough (KGB) (again, by and through the Ketchikan Charter Commission) filed amendments to that Petition.

A copy of the amended Petition, along with original Petition materials, may be reviewed at the following three locations in Ketchikan (days and times during which the facilities are generally open are also listed):

BOROUGH CLERK'S OFFICE	KETCHIKAN CITY CLERK'S OFFICE	KETCHIKAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
344 Front Street – Street Level	334 Front Street - Fourth Floor	629 Dock Street
Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.	Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.	Monday – Wednesday 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday – Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The amended Petition and related documents are also available for review on the Internet at: <http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/lbc/ketchikan3.htm>

The following is a summary of the substantive October 2005 amendments to the Petition:

- the proportion of the City of Ketchikan General Fund balance to be transferred to the Gateway Service Area was increased to 100% (up from 80%);
- the sales tax levy for public works in the Gateway Service Area was changed to maintain the current levy of 1.5% (it was originally proposed to reduce it to 1.25% and allocate the 0.25% difference for areawide purposes);
- areawide property taxes were projected to be increased by 2 mills to pay for expected increased costs relating to retirement and insurance.
- a 2-mill limit was placed on annual areawide property tax levy increases, with provision that at least two-thirds of the assembly, with special public notice provisions, or a majority of the voters may authorize an increase greater than 2-mills above the previous year's levy (this provision replaces a 10-mill property tax cap set in the original petition);
- the original proposal to require at least two-thirds of the assembly or a majority of the voters to authorize any fee increase was eliminated;
- a provision was added that water utility services may only be provided on a service area basis; and
- fiscal data and projections throughout the Petition were updated and otherwise modified to reflect other amendments.

Written comments regarding the amendments to the Petition may be filed with the LBC by 4:30 p.m., December 30, 2005. Written comments must be received in the office below by that deadline:

Local Boundary Commission Staff
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1770
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510
Fax: 1-907-269-4539
Email: LBC@commerce.state.ak.us

Questions concerning the proposed consolidation may be directed to LBC staff at the mailing address, e-mail address, or facsimile number listed above. Additionally, inquiries may be directed to LBC staff by telephone at 1-907-269-4559.