



# Ketchikan Gateway Borough

# VOTER INFORMATION



Information Regarding the  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough Regular Election  
to be held October 7, 2025

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



Borough voters will have the opportunity to vote for candidates for Borough Mayor, Assembly Members and School Board Members. The back side of the ballot contains a proposition for all Borough voters. A sample Borough ballot is provided in this pamphlet. Sample City of Ketchikan or City of Saxman ballots are available at the respective City Clerk offices.

# Sample Borough Ballot

PROOF

**PROPOSITION NO. 1**  
Five Year Extension of School Capital Projects Sales Tax

The general sales tax of one half of one percent (1/2 %), dedicated to bondable school capital projects and insurance on school buildings and facilities, was ratified by the voters June 8, 2004, and an extension for five years was ratified by the voters October 4, 2016, and the tax now expires January 1, 2027. Shall the general sales tax of one half of one percent (1/2 %), dedicated to bondable school capital projects and insurance on school buildings and facilities, be extended until January 1, 2032?

YES  
 NO

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

PROOF

**KETCHIKAN GATEWAY BOROUGH**  
**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
**REGULAR BOROUGH ELECTION**  
**OCTOBER 7, 2025**

**Instructions:**  
To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: ●  
Use a blue or black ink pen to mark your ballot. NO RED INK. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.  
To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, fill in the oval and print the person's name on the blank line provided for a write-in candidate.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOROUGH MAYOR</b> <b>(Three-year term)</b> Vote for not more than one (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Austin Otos <input type="radio"/> Jaimie B. Palmer <input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER</b> <b>(Three-year term)</b> Vote for not more than two (2)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Jon Schleiff II <input type="radio"/> Steven W. Thomas <input type="radio"/> Lindsey Johnson <input type="radio"/> Melissa Reed <input type="radio"/> Write-in <input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOROUGH ASSEMBLY MEMBER</b> <b>(Three-year term)</b> Vote for not more than two (2)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Glen Thompson <input type="radio"/> Rodney Dial <input type="radio"/> Grant EchoHawk <input type="radio"/> Write-in <input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER</b> <b>(Two-year term)</b> Vote for not more than one (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Paul Robbins Jr. <input type="radio"/> Shari Montgomery <input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>BOROUGH ASSEMBLY MEMBER</b> <b>(One-year term)</b> Vote for not more than one (1)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Alan Bailey <input type="radio"/> Daniel (Dan) Ortiz <input type="radio"/> Write-in</p>	

VOTE BOTH SIDES OF BALLOT

# Ballot Proposition

**All qualified Borough voters will have the opportunity to vote on Proposition 1.**

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

There is currently a ½ percent sales tax dedicated to funding school capital projects, which is set to expire on January 1, 2027. Revenue from this tax is used for bondable school capital projects, including new construction, renovations, roof replacements, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, safety upgrades, and technology infrastructure.

<b>PROPOSITION NO. 1</b> Five Year Extension of School Capital Projects Sales Tax
The general sales tax of one half of one percent (1/2 %), dedicated to bondable school capital projects and insurance on school buildings and facilities, was ratified by the voters June 8, 2004, and an extension for five years was ratified by the voters October 4, 2016, and the tax now expires January 1, 2027. Shall the general sales tax of one half of one percent (1/2 %), dedicated to bondable school capital projects and insurance on school buildings and facilities, be extended until January 1, 2032?
<input type="radio"/> YES
<input type="radio"/> NO

The tax was first approved by the voters in 2004 and was reauthorized by the voters in 2016. The Borough Assembly, on August 4, 2025, acted to place the question before the voters at the October 7, 2025, election. Putting this proposition on the ballot at this time gives the Borough and School District time to plan projects and funding well in advance of the current expiration date.

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

If the measure is approved by the voters, the tax rate would remain the same as it is today and there would be no change. Citizens would not see an increase in sales tax rates, since the proposition is an extension of an existing tax rather than a new tax. Sales tax applies to purchases made by both residents and non-residents, so sales from non-resident purchases would continue to contribute to this revenue source. Continuing this ½ percent sales tax would provide an ongoing revenue source until January 1, 2032, to cover the cost of capital projects and insurance on school buildings.

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

If the measure is rejected by the voters, taxpayers would no longer pay 50 cents for every \$100 of taxable purchases after January 1, 2027. Annual sales tax revenue earned would decrease by approximately \$1,764,161, there would be no dedicated funding source for school capital projects and insurance on school buildings, and other revenue would need to be reallocated for these purposes. Sales from resident and from non-resident purchases would no longer contribute to the School Bond Capital Improvement Project fund.

# Voter Registration

Residents may register to vote at the Borough Clerk's Office and may also register or update voter information online using the State of Alaska's online voter registration system at <https://voterregistration.alaska.gov/>. In order to be a qualified voter of the Borough you must be registered to vote in State elections at a residence address in the Ketchikan Gateway Borough not less than 30 days prior to the election.

# Accessibility Assistance

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough makes every effort to ensure election processes and polling places are accessible to all of its voters. You may have a person of your choice provide assistance to you as long as that person is not a candidate, your employer, agent of your employer, or agent of your union. You may request assistance from an election worker at any voting location. The person you choose can help you in completing forms, reading voting materials and go into the voting booth with you to assist you in casting your ballot. In addition to personal assistance, there will be ADA accessible voting units available at The Plaza, the Gateway Recreation Center, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminal, and the North Tongass Fire Station 8 on election day.

# ELECTION INTEGRITY AND SECURITY

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough Clerk's Office employs processes to safeguard the public trust and to secure the integrity of our election each year.

- All of our election policies and procedures address both security and accessibility. We provide for transparency of the process at the same time as confidentiality of the voter's ballot. All processes are available for any voter regardless of physical ability. And we safeguard all processes from abuse or fraud with planned redundancies to ensure reliability.
- Borough elections are nonpartisan; Clerk's Office staff are neutral and nonpartisan officials. The Borough Election Code incorporates all provisions of the U.S. and Alaska State Constitutions.
- All election officials attest to an Oath of Office to uphold national, state, and local laws and prevent the violation of law by any other person.
- All election officials are required to attend training provided by the Borough Clerk.
- All election forms, policies, procedures, and equipment, are available for public inspection, with the exception of the populated voter register and completed forms containing confidential or identifying voter information.

# HOW TO VOTE



## Absentee By Mail

Applications for absentee-by-mail ballots must be received by the Clerk's Office no later than September 30, 2025. Voted by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and be received by the Clerk no later than 9:00 a.m. October 13, 2025, in order to be counted.

## Absentee By Fax

Voters can apply for an absentee-by-fax ballot 30 days prior to the election until 5:00 p.m. the day preceding the election.

## Absentee In Person

When: September 22 - October 6, 2025

Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Where: Borough Clerk's Office, 1900 First Avenue, Suite 230, and  
City Clerk's Office, 334 Front Street

## In Person on Election Day

There are seven Borough election precincts. Your designated polling place is based on your residential address on your voter registration. On election day, your name will be listed on the precinct register in the precinct where you reside. You may vote in another polling place, but you will be asked to fill out a questioned voter envelope. Questioned voter ballots will be reviewed and counted separately by the canvass board.

## POLLING PLACES:

Ketchikan No. 1	Gateway Recreation Center	601 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	South Tongass Alliance Church	376 Old Homestead Road

# VOTING INFORMATION

## ● How do I vote on Election Day?

- Show up - polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day,
- Have ID ready - election workers will have a precinct register.
- If it's not your designated precinct, you can vote using a questioned envelope.
- Follow the voting instructions provided by the poll workers.

## ● What if I am housebound or need help voting?

Provisional voting is available for you. Another adult may serve as a personal representative and may pick up a ballot for you, bring it to you for you to vote, sign the witness acknowledgment on the outside of the personal representative envelope, and return the ballot in the personal representative envelope to the absentee voting facility or any voting precinct on election day.

## ● How do I vote for a Write-In Candidate?

In order to vote for a write-in candidate the voter must, in the space provided, write in the candidate's name as the candidate's name appears on the declaration of write-in candidacy filed with the Borough Clerk and fill in the oval opposite the candidate's name. The use of stickers on the ballots is prohibited. Voters may request assistance from the poll workers.

## ● Which Write-In Votes are Tallied?

According to KGBC 5.30.040 (a), Write-in votes are only tallied:

- (1) If the person running as a write-in candidate has, at least before 5:00 p.m. of the day before the election, filed a declaration of write-in candidacy on a form provided by the clerk stating that they are willing to assume the office if elected and have also filed a completed public officials financial disclosure statement with the borough clerk; or
- (2) If the total number of write-in votes for an office exceeds the smallest number of votes cast for a candidate for that office whose name is printed on the ballot.

## ● Campaigning Prohibited at Polling Places

Do not take campaign materials with you to the polling place. Campaign signs and materials are not allowed within 200 feet of an active polling place, including the absentee voting locations at the Clerks' offices.

# BALLOT COUNTING AND CERTIFICATION

## ● How are election results tabulated?

Each of the seven Borough polling places is equipped with a ballot tabulation scanner. The precinct polling place officials start the day with verifying that the precinct tabulator runs a Zero Totals Report for the precinct. At the close of the polls, the officials run the Results Totals Tape and print it out for the precinct. The Results Tape is hand delivered to the Borough Clerk, and the results are entered into the Election Night Results Spreadsheet.

Preliminary results from the in-person election day voting at the seven polling places will be posted on Election Night on the Borough website at [www.kgbak.us/elections](http://www.kgbak.us/elections).

## ● What is the role of the Canvass Board?

The Canvass Board convenes on the Monday following the election. The role of the Canvass Board is to review the precinct registers from Election Day, and review the absentee, questioned, and special needs ballots submitted by voters. After a thorough review of all of the materials, the Canvass Board will count the eligible absentee, questioned, and special needs ballots. The Canvass Board will verify and sign the election results spreadsheet, reports and certificates to be presented to the Borough Assembly. The canvass board results will be posted on the Borough website at [www.kgbak.us/elections](http://www.kgbak.us/elections).

## ● How is the Election certified?

The Borough Assembly will convene in special meeting on October 20, 2025, to review the election results and Canvass Board reports. The Assembly will consider a resolution declaring the election validly held, certifying the election, and accepting the reports of the Canvass Board.

# Election Officials


Borough voters are encouraged to participate in our local election. If you are interested in becoming an election official, please contact the Borough Clerk's Office at 907-228-6605. Election officials are provided training and are paid for their service.



Youth Vote Ambassadors  
make a difference!



APPLY TODAY!



## Youth Vote Ambassadors

The YVA Program is designed to spark the interest of young people in the political process and in their rights and responsibilities as citizens. These students assist the Borough and City Clerks offices by serving as election workers. Qualified applicants must be a high school student in good standing and at least 16 years old, be willing to attend training, and have written permission from a parent or guardian.

## Free Bus Rides to and from the polls!

All Borough Transit buses will be offering free bus rides to and from the seven precinct polling places on Election Day. Just tell the bus driver that you are voting, and your ride will be free!



**FREE**  
*rides to vote!*

**All buses, All services, All day!**




For questions call  
**907-225-8726**

Additional Election Information Available at:



 [kgbak.us/elections](http://kgbak.us/elections)

 907-228-6605

 [elections@kgbak.us](mailto:elections@kgbak.us)

 1900 First Avenue Suite 230  
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