



EAGLEXIT

12110 Business Blvd, Ste 6 PMB 165, Eagle River, AK 99577

I had the opportunity to speak on the Mike Porcaro show the other day to discuss our Eaglexit effort. Mike during the conversation said, "If you guys are successful, I'd like to see the Hillside do the same thing". When Mike said that it hit a high note with me.

The concerns and actions of many Anchorage residents over the question of good local government representation have resulted in frustrated attempts to change what is "unchangeable".

The election process does not yield enough conservative participants to make a change.

The long-term solvency of the controlling political party with the legal right to compel contributions in the form of dues to effectuate the continued control of the status quo cannot be changed.

The past decade of campaign investment, including recall petitions and elections, totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars by conservatives has produced no change.

Why is this when all these residents want to do is live under a local government which strives to provide the maximum freedom possible within the bounds set by society rather than use local government imposing its authority on its citizens and distributing public funds to specific constituencies?

It has become a public money laundromat.

Seeing the ineffectiveness and inefficiencies of the Anchorage local government and political process, we decided the only available process to change this is to detach Assembly District 2, Eagle River and Chugiak, from the Municipality of Anchorage and incorporate as our own municipal entity.

This is a statewide issue. When a community plans to form its own local government in Alaska, it must use the Alaska Local Boundary Commission. In the case of Eaglexit, this boundary change will impact 40% of the state's population and over 50% of the land base of the Municipality of Anchorage.

Most importantly, it will determine potential competency and desirability of the exercise of local government by a smaller population over the current status quo.

In our situation, how does that work?

First, Eaglexit is grassroots. Alaska's constitution follows the American system for the establishment of self-government because our founders believed that people closer to the scenes of action are better informed and make better decisions about matters that directly concern them.

When an Alaskan community, through growth and maturity, is ready for self-government what can it do?

From the state's website, "The Local Boundary Commission was created by the Constitution of the State of Alaska to ensure that arguments for and against proposals to create or alter municipal governments are analyzed objectively and take area wide and statewide needs into consideration."

The Local Boundary Commission (LBC) procedures and timeline for a petition for the Eagleexit changes are very straightforward once a petition, legal brief and charter are written. Eagleexit has completed these documents. They are currently being reviewed by our legal counsel. Upon legal review completion, the petition will need the required signatures of the voters residing in the area proposed to be detached. Once done, it will be submitted to the LBC.

The signatures are required when the petition is submitted to the LBC for formal review and filing at the very beginning of the process. The signatures must be collected no more than one year prior to the submittal of the petition.

The timeline for LBC action as outlined below is approximately 422 days once the petition, legal brief and charter are submitted to LBC staff, however, this can change.

The LBC chart of the procedure and timeline is on the next page.

A general timeline is provided below.

PETITION PROCESS TIMELINE	
Date	Action
Within 45 days of receiving petition	LBC staff conduct a technical review of the petition. It will either be accepted for filing or it will be returned to the petitioner to correct or complete.
Within 45 days of receiving notice of acceptance for filing	After the petition is accepted, staff will provide a public notice of the filing of the petition and instructions for publication. This notice informs the public and alerts them to an opportunity to comment.
Beginning when notice of filing is published, at least 49 days	Public comments and responsive briefs are received during the time period published in notice. If deemed necessary, the department can require the petitioner to conduct public informational meetings.
At least 14 days	Petitioner may respond to the responsive briefs and comments.
About 7 weeks	LBC staff prepare and distribute preliminary report with recommendations for the public to review and comment.
At least 28 days after the preliminary report is mailed	Opportunity for public review and comment on the preliminary report.
Approximately 3 weeks	LBC staff consider comments on preliminary report and makes any appropriate changes to its report and recommendation. The final report is issued for public review.
At least 21 days after the preliminary report is mailed	LBC conducts public hearing(s).
Within 90 days of hearing	LBC conducts public decisional meeting and reaches a decision (often made immediately after hearing).
Within 30 days of decisional meeting	LBC issues its written decision.
Within 30 days of when the written decision is issued	Any public member may request reconsideration within 18 days after the written decision is issued. The LBC may grant a reconsideration request, or order reconsideration on its own motion within 30 days after the written decision is issued. If the LBC does not act on a reconsideration request within 30 days, the request is automatically denied.
If petition is denied, LBC process ends (parties may appeal LBC action to superior court)	If the LBC approves a legislative review petition, the petition is subject to review by the legislature. If the LBC approves a local action by election petition the voters in the area approved for detachment must approve the proposed detachment.

A little clarification is needed here. The LBC staff will perform a draft review of the petition, charter and legal brief. If corrections are needed, documents will be returned to Eaglexit for correction. Once corrections are made the signature collection process can proceed. Once signatures are collected the entire package is resubmitted to the LBC for formal review as described below.

Within 45 days of receipt of the petition, the LBC staff conducts the formal technical review of petition. If the petition is technically complete, it is accepted for filing. If it is incomplete, it is returned to the petitioner for correction or completion.

Within 45 days of receiving notice of acceptance for filing, after the petition is accepted, public notice of the filing of the petition is provided.

At least 49 days after initial publication or posting notice, there is an opportunity for comment (filing of responsive briefs and written comments). Petitioner can be asked to conduct public informational meetings during the 7+ week comment period.

At least 14 days, petitioner replies to the responsive briefs and comments.

Within 7 weeks or at the LBC Chair discretion, LBC staff prepares and distributes preliminary report with recommendations for public review and comment.

At least 28 days from mailing of preliminary report, there is an opportunity for public review and comment on the preliminary report.

Within 3 weeks or at the LBC Chair discretion, the LBC staff consider comments on the preliminary report and make appropriate changes to its report and recommendation. The final report is issued for public review.

At least 21 days from the mailing of the final report, the LBC conducts public hearing(s).

Within 90 days of the hearing(s), the LBC conducts public meeting(s) and reaches a decision (often made immediately after hearing).

Within 30 days of decision meeting, the LBC issues written decision.

Within 30 days of the written decision being issued, any public member may request reconsideration within 18 days after the written decision is issued. The LBC may grant a reconsideration request, or order reconsideration on its own motion within 30 days after the written decision is issued.

If the petition is denied, the LBC process ends (parties may appeal LBC action to superior court), if approved by the LBC, in the case of a local action, the petition is subject to approval by the voters in the area approved for change.

Most of the above times are set at a minimum and can be expanded by the LBC chair. The chair has the authority to set the schedule and can allow more time than required for public comment, staff reports, and hearing schedule.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of requirements. There are other requirements (e.g. serving the petition, arranging PSAs, departmental information meetings) that occur during the petition process outlined above.

We encourage you to get involved, too! Feel free to call us anytime, and don't hesitate to come to our weekly Tuesday evening meetings at the Cozy Carpet Warehouse behind the store at 7 pm.



Thank you for joining us in this effort!

Sean Murphy, Chair

Sean Murphy came to Alaska in the Army. Met his wife and moved to Eagle River in 1999 with his family. He is a retired Anchorage School District educator and administrator. He is active with his community council and is the new chair of Eaglexit. He can be reached at Sean.Eaglexit@gmail.com or 907-632-5307.