

EAGLEXIT Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the purpose for separating from the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)? [To allow the residents of our communities to decide how to manage their affairs that represent their values.](#)

2. What is the process for separating from the MOA? [The process is defined in state law. It is governed by the **Alaska Local Boundary Commission \(LBC\).**](#)

3. What makes the Eagle River, Chugiak, Peters Creek area eligible under the State Constitution to become a separate borough? [We meet all the state requirements to be a new borough. In fact, the new borough will be the fifth largest borough in the State.](#)

4. In order to form the new borough do the voters of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, and Peter Creek (Assembly District 2) get to vote on becoming a new borough? [Absolutely.](#) The LBC will not make a final decision on detachment and incorporation until the residents have voted and the majority favor detachment and incorporation.

5. Are the Eagle River, Eagle River Valley, Chugiak, Birchwood, and Peters Creek Community Councils supportive of this separation action? [We can't speak for the community councils. We did a community survey which](#)

[shows that 70% of the 1500 residents surveyed support detachment and incorporation from Anchorage.](#)

6. Are property taxes projected to increase or decrease in the new borough? [Decrease.](#) It could be around 25-30% when providing similar services to what we have now. However, it depends on what the residents decide they need.

7. Is it anticipated that a sales tax would be necessary to fund the new borough? [No.](#) The decision on [how and how much tax we have](#), will be the people's choice. We want to encourage growth in our communities and adding a sales tax would not be a benefit.

8. Are the Anchorage voters and/or Anchorage Assembly required to support this separation? [No.](#) Alaska statutes define the Local Boundary Commission's role in making municipal boundary changes. In Alaska Statute AS 29.06.040(c)(2) a proposed annexation or detachment must be approved by a majority of votes on the question cast by voters residing in the area proposed to be annexed or detached.

9. Why not just join the Mat-Su borough instead of forming a new government? [That was looked at early in the detachment discussions. It was decided after much discussion that it would put our communities in a situation similar to what we have had with Anchorage.](#)

The Mat-Su would be telling us how to manage our community affairs. There is no advantage to that happening. Additionally, we don't want a sales tax and Mat-Su has a sales tax.

10. What is a "Home Rule Borough" and how does that differ from the Mat-Su Borough? [Home rule boroughs have a charter](#) that outlines their powers and structure. They can either be unified, which means that incorporated cities may not exist within the borough, or [non-unified](#), which means that cities may exist within the borough. We will be a non-unified borough. Anchorage is unified and does not allow cities to exist within its borough. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, commonly known as the Mat-Su Borough, was incorporated as a second-class borough in 1964 with a manager form of government, governed by an elected mayor and Assembly. Borough services are provided on an area-wide and non-area-wide basis. Area-wide services are those services that are provided both within and outside the incorporated cities of the Borough. Non-area-wide services may only be provided outside of the incorporated cities.

11. How long would this process to separate and incorporate take? [4-5 years.](#) It is complicated to be exact. The LBC flowchart for detachment and incorporation has approximate durations for their activities. See our website.

12. How would police and fire protection be provided in the new borough? **We will have a cost effective approach to police and fire protection services. The exact means and costs for those services to be determined by the residents.**

13. What would happen to the Chugiak Volunteer Fire Department? **We hope they will be a part of our fire and emergency services in our borough.**

14. Will our roads be plowed in the new borough? **Yes.** We expect that the Chugiak/Birchwood/ Eagle River Rural Road Service Area Board (CBERRRSA) will continue to contract road plowing and maintenance of borough roads to provide the same or better service to communities.

15. Will the new Borough be eligible for federal grants and programs, as the area was under MOA? **Absolutely,** in fact as a borough it would put us in even footing with Anchorage and Mat-Su for federal funding to meet our specific needs.

16. What assurances are made to return to the MOA if the new borough is unable to raise sufficient funds to support desired services? **None. We will have become an Alaska borough, as such, the state of Alaska is the guarantor.** We know that we have sufficient tax revenue at current rates to more than meet our schools and necessary services.

17. Does the state provide any benefits for forming a borough like other regions of the state? **Yes.** Alaska statutes in AS 29.65.010 and AS 29.65.050 provide that the state makes general land grant entitlements available to boroughs and unified municipalities. Once a new borough is created the state DCCED and DNR will determine the land available to land grant entitlement. Additionally, the state will provide 3 years of transition grants to the new borough.

18. What will happen to our schools? Once we are a borough, **our** school district(s) will be created to meet the needs of students, parents and community The charter defines how school boards will be established by our residents. Funding for schools will be

established by **our** borough Assembly with ratification by the Local Governance Commissions (LGCs).

19. Will existing ASD teachers that join the new borough schools lose their retirement benefits by leaving ASD? **No.** Teacher retirement is managed and controlled by the State.

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