

Turnagain Arm Communities Special Election Information

The Municipality of Anchorage will hold a special election on Tuesday April 4, 2017, in conjunction with the regular municipal election, asking voters whether create the Turnagain Arm Police Service Area (TAPSA). If passed, a 0.5 mill rate will be levied against taxable properties within the TAPSA boundary.

The TAPSA boundary encompasses portions of the Municipality of Anchorage along the Turnagain Arm that are currently outside an existing police service area. The general description is for the communities of Rainbow, Indian, Bird Creek, Portage, the northern portion of Crow Creek Road outside the Girdwood Police Service Area, and Fire Island. It does NOT include regular patrols within the communities, regular response along the Seward Highway, or emergency response within Chugach State Park or Chugach National Forest.

The purpose of the TAPSA is to provide police service within the communities after May 1, 2017, when the Alaska State Troopers (AST) will stop providing police services for this area.

IF PASSED, property owners will pay a property tax of 0.5 mill rate based on the assessed value of their property, i.e. \$50 per \$100,000 of property value. This will create a fee-for-service fund to cover police response within the TAPSA area. This means that monies from the fund will only be used to pay for actual police response and investigations within the TAPSA boundary. If there are monies remaining in the fund after a given calendar year, those monies will roll-over to the following year and the mill rate will be adjusted down to the level necessary to replenish the fund. The mill rate for the TAPSA cannot be increased above the 0.5 mill rate without a vote of the property owners within the TAPSA boundary.

Initially, the Anchorage Police Department (APD) will provide police service; however, that can change if another law enforcement agency is better suited to provide police response within the TAPSA. The APD will respond to the following types of incidents:

- Persons Crimes (Assault, Robbery, Sexual Assault)
- Domestic Violence (Assault, Criminal Mischief, Violating a Protective Order)
- Burglary
- Felony Property Crimes (In progress crimes such as theft and vandalism, valued over \$1000)

It will also allow residents within the TAPSA to use the APD Online Reporting System at: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/police/forms/Pages/OnlineReportingSystem.aspx> to file a police report. Generally a police report is required by most homeowner's insurance companies in order to file an insurance a claim.

IF NOT PASSED, effective May 1, 2017, the communities along Turnagain Arm will NOT have a designated law enforcement agency to provide regular police response for most of the incidents listed above. However, in the event of an active shooter or a felony crime in progress, the APD or another law enforcement agency will most likely respond. The AST will not respond to incidents off-highway.

The Anchorage Assembly passed a resolution AR No. 2017-64 that allows for the special election, attached. Below is a copy of the sample ballot for the TAPSA special election.

A **YES** vote means the TAPSA will be created and property owners will be taxed at the 0.5 mill rate for police service on a fee-for-service basis.

A **NO** vote means the TAPSA will NOT be created and the communities of Rainbow, Bird Creek, Indian, Portage and northern portion of Crow Creek Road in Girdwood will NOT have police service.

Questions can be directed to Susanne Fleck-Green at 343-7105 or by email at Fleck-GreenSL@ci.anchorage.ak.us, in Mayor Berkowitz's Office; or Assemblyman John Weddleton at 770-0685, or by email at WeddletonJ@ci.anchorage.ak.us.

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE SPECIAL ELECTION APRIL 4, 2017 - SAMPLE BALLOT

SAMPLE BALLOT

TO VOTE: COMPLETELY FILL IN THE OVAL OF THE SELECTION OF YOUR CHOICE AS SHOWN ●.

PROPOSITIONS

Proposition C

This proposition would create a new Turnagain Arm Police Service Area (TAPSA).

The service area would consist of all areas of the Municipality not located within a service area with police powers as of May 4, 2017. The communities of Rainbow, Indian, Bird Creek, Portage, and the northern portion of Crow Creek Road outside the Girdwood Valley Service Area would be included in the new TAPSA.

The service area would be empowered to provide police services for the area. The mill rate of taxes levied from the area for purposes of providing police protection services shall not exceed 0.5 mills in any calendar year, beginning with the 2017 tax levy, or \$50 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Unused taxes collected in one year would roll over to the following year, and could result in reduced future levies.

Funds collected in the service area would initially be used to pay the Anchorage Police Department, on a fee-for-service basis, to investigate crimes that occur within TAPSA. Another provider could be selected on a future date. Funds would not be used to provide for regular patrols or regular response to accidents on the Seward Highway. The service area would be supervised and administered by the Anchorage Police Department.

Shall a new Turnagain Arm Police Service Area be created, as described above? (AO 2017-38(S))

YES

NO