



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of Superintendent

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## M E M O R A N D U M

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**DATE:** May 27, 2010  
**TO:** Members, Board of Education  
**FROM:** Steve Atwater, Ph.D. *Steve Atwater*  
Superintendent of Schools  
**RE:** Resolution Opposing Proposition 1

**Background:** Proposition 1, "An Initiative Creating an Alaska Anti-Corruption Act" is on the August 24, 2010 primary election ballot. The proposition, if passed, would close down, or severely hamper all organizations that rely on dues that come directly or indirectly from tax revenues. Further, it would prohibit a public body, public officer, person in the employ of the state, any of its political subdivisions, any school district, or candidate for public office from, directly or indirectly using tax revenues or any other public resources for campaign, lobbying, or partisan purposes, including payment of dues or membership fees of any kind to any person, league, or association which, directly or indirectly, engages in lobbying, campaigns, or partisan activity.

In sum, the proposition would not allow KPBSD employees or Board Members to use District funds to work with our legislature and local governments.

**Recommendation:** The administration recommends that you pass this resolution.

# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

## Resolution Number 09-10-4 Opposition to Proposition 1

As members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board, we believe Proposition 1 on the August 2010 primary election ballot poses grave problems for the rights of citizens to influence their government and improve the lives of children. The ballot measure seeks to prohibit, as a criminal act, any school district from hiring a lobbyist or any superintendent to advocate for state funds. This initiative, if passed, would disenfranchise tens of thousands of Alaskans from their own government.

**Rationale:** The broad brush of Proposition 1 seeks to ban the use of tax dollars for any partisan activity, but in so doing threatens criminal penalties against any public official, state employee, public body, school district, council or candidate for office who “directly or indirectly” violates the terms of the initiative. For our republic to work, our citizens have to be involved. Proposition 1 blocks our ability to be involved and undermines our civic responsibility. The First Amendment guarantees our right to free speech and to associate with other citizens; this initiative assumes anybody who receives public dollars, “directly or indirectly,” is capable of breaking the law.

As public officials, we believe in corruption-free government. However, Proposition 1 is misdirected in this regard and would shackle the hands of anybody who does business with the government, “directly or indirectly.”

Adopted by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School Board on this 7th day of June 2010.

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Joe Arness, President  
School Board

Attest:

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Sally E. Tachick  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires 7/25/13