

Hello, Gustavus.

I am sure by this point you have heard that the Local Boundary Commission (LBC) held their decision meeting on the Xunaa Borough petition this last Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. At this meeting, the five commissioners met and reviewed the standards outlined in Alaska Administrative Code ([3 AAC 110.045](#), [3 AAC 110.050](#), [3 AAC 110.055](#), [3 AAC 110.060](#), [3 AAC 110.065](#), [3 AAC 110.280](#), and [3 AAC 110.300](#)) Commissioners Larry Wood and Clay Walker voted against the motion to accept the Xunaa Borough Petition as presented. Commissioners John Harrington, Ely Cyrus, and Richard “Clayton” Trotter voted yes to accept the Xunaa Borough as presented, so the motion passed.

The vote was taken after 4 hours of discussion on the standards, using a Checklist containing a synopsis of statutes and regulations on which to base their determination of adherence to each standard. On some occasions, for certain items on the checklist, 3 or more commissioners verbally expressed that a given standard did not meet the standards as presented or that there were considerable flaws.

It is important to note that Commissioner Harrington made a second motion to put on the record that the commission viewed that the ideal boundaries would include neighboring communities - Pelican, Tenakee Springs, and Gustavus and that borough should eventually include those communities. This motion passed unanimously.

This process is not done yet. We are about halfway through step 4 out of 5 steps. (Procedure chart [04 3 15 LBC petition process chart.pdf](#))

What is next?

(In step 4)

The LBC has 30 days to issue its written decision, no later than 12/12/24. They will adopt the written decision at a public hearing. For more updates sign up to receive LBC emails click here [LBC Notifications](#)

If Gustavus or anyone else decides to file a request for reconsideration ([3 AAC 110.580](#)), they have up to 18 days after the written decision is issued to file for reconsideration

Additionally, [3 AAC 110.620. Judicial review](#), A final decision of the commission made under the Constitution of the State of Alaska, [AS 29.04](#), [AS 29.05](#), [AS 29.06](#), or this chapter may be appealed to the superior court in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act ([AS 44.62](#)).

If petition is approved or amended and approved the process goes to step 5.

(Step 5)

1. Local Action via a special election is completed in proposed municipal area ([3 AAC 110.600](#)) and results are certified and provided to LBC staff.

- a. Per [AS29.05.110](#) LBC shall immediately notify the director of elections. The election shall be held not less than 30 days or more than 90 days after the date of the election order.
  - i. If approved by the voters and results are certified the proposed boundary change becomes effective ([3 AAC 110.630](#))

The City of Gustavus remains in opposition to the petition as presented and is actively evaluating our options. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to email me at [clerk@gustavus-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@gustavus-ak.gov) or check out the LBC website, [2023 City of Hoonah for Incorporation of The Xunaa Borough as a Home Rule Borough, and Dissolution of The City of Hoonah Petition](#)

Take Care,

Liesl Barker

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