

**From:** [Lynne Jensen](#)  
**To:** [Liesl Barker](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [City of Gustavus News] News Xunaa Borough Petition Update  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2024 11:27:02

---

Hello Liesl, Mayor McLaughlin and Council members,  
Thank you for letting us know the information about the LBC decision regarding the Xunaa Borough petition and the possible actions yet to be taken by Gustavus and other affected communities. We also read the article about this Xunaa Borough Petition in the Anchorage Daily News.

George and I have lived in Gustavus for many years, taught at the Gustavus school, served on several committees including the Gustavus Library, the Fire/EMT department, the Gustavus Arts Council and more.

Although we don't live full time in Gustavus now, we still vote in the statewide Alaska and the local Gustavus elections. Covid restrictions, medical issues and caring for my elderly mother have kept us away for the last 5 years. I was thankfully able to spend 3 weeks in Gustavus this summer. George and I try to keep abreast of the issues and activities in Gustavus and to support the various fund raisers in the community. Right now we are back in Illinois helping care for my now 102 year old mom. We very much hope to spend more time in Gustavus next summer.

Below are our thoughts on the Xunaa Borough Petition and how it might affect Gustavus:

1. We urge the Council to file an appeal and request for reconsideration.
2. We would support an appeal to the Superior Court regarding the constitutionality of the decision made by the LBC considering many of the criteria for formation of the Xunaa Borough did not meet their own legal standards.
3. We would appreciate a summary of the pros and cons brought forth from community and Council members for Gustavus and the other affected communities regarding becoming a part of the Xunaa Borough--or not.
4. Through the years, we have been a part of the Gustavus community rightfully not wanting to be a part of a borough, including a Xunaa Borough. But for years the State of Alaska has been advocating for and pressuring the communities in the Unorganized Borough to become part of a borough. Perhaps it is time to reevaluate our resistance to being part of a borough if it would mean we would have a seat at the table and a vote on processes, funding and laws that could adversely affect our community, since we directly border said borough.
5. Another consideration is how the school would be affected if we did join the Xunaa Borough? How would it affect funding, curriculum, school board representation, etc. How would it be affected if we don't join, especially future funding?

These are our thoughts for now. Any additional information would be greatly appreciated as the Council moves forward with this petition process.

Thank you very much.

Lynne and George Jensen

On Nov 15, 2024, at 2:05 PM, City of Gustavus Alaska <[gustavus-ak@municodeweb.com](mailto:gustavus-ak@municodeweb.com)> wrote:

## News Xunaa Borough Petition Update

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.
  1. 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.
    1. If approved by the voters and results are certified the proposed boundary change becomes effective ([3 AAC 110.630](#))

The City of Gustavus is looking into all 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

City Clerk, City of Gustavus, Alaska

P.O. Box 1, Gustavus, AK 99826

Office: (907) 697-2451. Fax: (907) 697-2136

[clerk@gustavus-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@gustavus-ak.gov)

<https://www.gustavus-ak.gov/>

**PUBLIC RECORDS LAW DISCLOSURE:** This e-mail and responses to this email are subject to provisions of the Alaska Statutes and may be made available to the public upon request.

[Unsubscribe](#)