

HAINES BOROUGH

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, August 15, 2017**, there will be held in the Haines Borough, Alaska, an election for the purpose of deciding whether to recall elected officials:

The following three questions will be on the ballot: (They are published here in full per HB Charter 16.03)

PROPOSITION #1

"Shall Tresham Gregg be recalled from the office of borough assembly member?" __Yes __No



Grounds for Recall

Violation of the open meeting act (AS 44.62.310). In a Dec.12/2016 email Morphet, Lende, Gregg and Jackson communicating on the 33' harbor extension by email and or phone.

Response from Mr. Gregg

When elected officials make decisions that we don't like, we can choose to not re-elect them when their tenure is up. That's democracy. Recall elections are not for reversing decisions, they're for removing elected officials who have broken the law. State law prohibits the Clerk from evaluating the recall allegations; you are being asked to decide if laws were broken, not whether you agree with every decision made.

Sending emails to other members expressing an opinion is not illegal, no law was broken. No decision was made outside of the open meeting. People are abusing the recall procedure to throw out recent election results that didn't go their way. That's unethical and expensive. Their requests for documents, staff and attorney time, and special election expenses cost this community thousands of dollars, and it divides the community further.

I am happy to talk to anyone in this community on any topic. We may not always agree, but I will keep trying my best to responsibly help manage the Borough's affairs, make our government more efficient, and keep important services happening that benefit people in the Chilkat Valley. Please vote no on this attempted recall.

PROPOSITION #2

"Shall Heather Lende be recalled from the office of borough assembly member?" __Yes __No

Grounds for Recall

1. (HBC 2.06.030) misuse of official position

1/11/17 - EMAIL to the manager, Police Chief Scott complained

"Based on last night's meeting as well as several other encounters(documented) I believe Assembly members Morphet and Lende require direction regarding requesting HBPD to provide the blotter". Coercion of a subordinate in an attempt to affect a personal or financial interest is misuse of her official position. The interest she has is she stand to benefit through her connection with the CVN newspaper and her personal blog.

2. Violation of open meeting act (AS 44.62.310)

12/12/2016 - email Morphet, Lende, Gregg and Jackson communicating on the 33' harbor extension by email and or phone.

More than three assembly members cannot communicate outside of an official meeting about Borough business.

Response from Ms. Lende

Thank you for electing me to the assembly last October. I would like to continue working on your behalf for what's best for our community.

I trust you to know that I would never use my office for personal financial gain. I earn about a 1,000 dollars a year writing obituaries for the Chilkat Valley News and that work is not connected to the police report, which is back in the paper anyway. I also did not conduct public business in private by receiving an email from a fellow assembly member asking me to vote against something I and the assembly voted for. One email from one assembly person to another is not violating any laws. Both charges are baseless, and now moot.

This recall isn't about the charges anyway, and you know that.

The real question is do you want to allow democracy to work in Haines, and let the people we elect serve out our terms, or do you want to encourage special interest groups to hijack elections through this flawed recall process? This election is about the soul of our wonderful town. Please affirm what's true and good about Haines and vote no on the recall.

PROPOSITION #3

"Shall Tom Morphet be recalled from the office of borough assembly member?" __Yes __No

Grounds for Recall

1. (HBC 2.06.030) misuse of official position

1/11/17 - EMAIL to the manager, Police Chief Scott complained

"Based on last night's meeting as well as several other encounters(documented) I believe Assembly members Morphet and Lende require direction regarding requesting HBPD to provide the blotter". Coercion of a subordinate in an attempt to affect a personal or financial interest is misuse of his official position. The interest he has is he stands to benefit through his connection with the CVN newspaper and his personal blog.

2. Violation of open meeting act (AS 44.62.310)

12/12/2016 - email Morphet, Lende, Gregg and Jackson communicating on the 33' harbor extension by email and or phone.

More than three assembly members cannot communicate outside of an official meeting about Borough business.

Response from Mr. Morphet

As someone with a longtime concern for our community, I urge you to vote "no" in today's recall election.

Haines has a history of vigorous civic debate. But the will of the people, as expressed in a legitimate election, should not be undone without substantive cause and careful consideration.

You may not be aware of the grounds for this recall, which do not meet that standard.

With regards to the police blotter, a record of police calls has been provided to the public – not only to the newspaper – for decades. Police had posted it for years on their Facebook page. I continue to support full public access to public records.

While my name was mentioned in an email sent by one fellow assembly member to another, I never received the e-mail in question. The email was not a group e-mail or chain e-mail. It was a single message from one assembly member to another. Neither I nor other assembly members violated the Open Meetings Act.

It's an honor to represent you on the Haines Borough Assembly. With due respect for the electoral process, I ask you to vote "no."

Who may vote in this Election? Registered voters of the Haines Borough within the State of Alaska are eligible to vote in this election provided the registration took place no later than 7/15/17. Voters should be prepared to display identification at the polling place when voting. The polls for this election will be open at 7:00 a.m. on August 15 and will close at 8:00 p.m. on the same day. This is an area-wide Borough election, including the following precincts:

Haines #1 - The polling place is at the ANB/ANS Hall at the corner of 1st Ave & Willard St.

Haines Highway –The polling place is at the Klehini Valley Fire Department on Mosquito Lake Road.

Precinct boundary descriptions are available from the Clerk's office or Alaska Administrative Code 6 AAC 333.545-550.

Posted 7/20/17 by Julie Cozzi, MMC Borough Clerk