



# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

## Office of the Borough Manager

350 East Dahlia Avenue • Palmer, AK 99645

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### MEMORANDUM

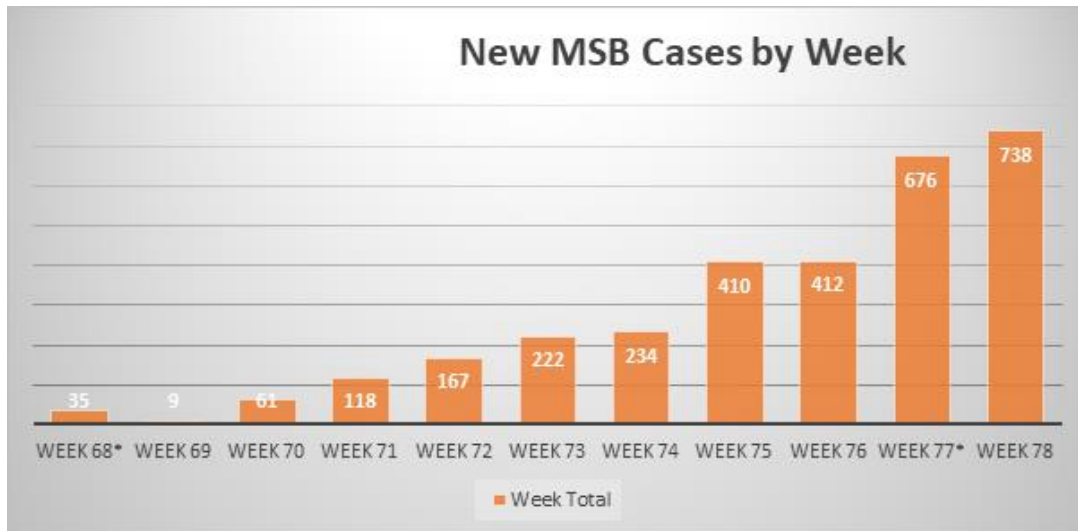
DATE: September 15, 2021  
 TO: Mayor and Assembly  
 FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
 RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**State Redistricting Update:** The State Redistricting Board, at their meeting on September 9, adopted two draft plans for the 40 house districts. To view the draft plans, visit <http://www.akredistrict.org/maps>. Feedback on these proposals can be emailed to [testimony@akredistrict.org](mailto:testimony@akredistrict.org). The State v.1 plan includes sharing a district with Anchorage whereas; the State v.2 plan aligns more closely to Borough boundaries and is similar to the Borough's proposed plan.

The Borough submitted its third party plan with the attached letter on September 14. The Borough plan is available at <https://transparency.matsugov.us/pages/redistricting>. A table comparing the deviations between the State Board's plans and the Borough plan are included below. The final State plan must be adopted no later than November 10, 2021.

Area	Target	Board Composite V.1				Board Composite V.2				Mat-Su Submittal V.1			
		District	All Persons	Difference	Deviation	District	All Persons	Difference	Deviation	District	All Persons	Difference	Deviation
Goose Bay/Big Lake	18,335	V.1 - 25	18,085	-250	-1.4%	V.2 - 25	18,085	-250	-1.36%	MSB V.1 - 12	18,395	60	0.33%
Southern core area	18,335	V.1 - 26	17,955	-380	-2.07%	V.2 - 26	17,955	-380	-2.07%	MSB V.1 - 14	18,509	174	0.95%
Palmer	18,335	V.1 - 27	18,081	-254	-1.4%	V.2 - 27	18,683	348	1.90%	MSB V.1 - 15	18,487	152	0.83%
Houston/NW (Denali)	18,335	V.1 - 28	18,012	-323	-1.76%	V.2 - 28	18,012	-323	-1.76%	MSB V.1 - 11	18,254	-81	-0.44%
Wasilla	18,335	V.1 - 29	17,928	-407	-2.2%	V.2 - 29	17,928	-407	-2.22%	MSB V.1 - 13	18,274	-61	-0.33%
Eastern	18,335	V.1 - 30	18,037	-298	-1.62%	V.2 - 30	18,037	-298	-1.62%	MSB V.1 - 16	18,075	-260	-1.42%

**COVID-19 Update:** New cases are up for the previous week. Vaccinations are holding steady compared to previous weeks. The Borough has 34,445 fully vaccinated.



**Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

**Assembly**

[Landfill fee decreases fail Assembly again | Local News Stories - Frontiersman](#)

**Covid**

[Rural hospitals struggle to transfer COVID-19 Patients as cases hit new high - ADN](#)

**State**

[Alaska redistricting board adopts draft maps for new legislative boundaries - Alaska Public Media](#)

**Economic Development**

[Rent is up, Vacancies down - How pandemic has affected rental the market – KTOO News](#)

**Resource Development**

[EPA moves to protect Bristol Bay, blocking major gold mine – Washington Post](#)

[Weather impedes drilling on Ambler project- Fairbanks Miner](#)

**9/11 Remembrance**

[Mat-Su First Responders gather at Station 6-1 in remembrance of the 20th Anniversary of 9/11 – Frontiersman](#)

**MSB Facebook Posts**

[Live Stream of 9/11 Remembrance gathering at Station 6-1 – 3.4k Views](#)

[Photos of 9/11 gathering at Station 6-1 – 10k reached](#)

[MSB Animal Care visits Maple Springs Senior Living Center – 26k reached](#)

*Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community*

# **ATTACHMENTS**



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September 14, 2021

To the Members of the Alaska State Redistricting Board:

On September 7, 2021 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 21-095 (attached) directing the Borough Manager to develop a State redistricting plan that allocated the MSB six House districts and three Senate districts.

We are requesting that the Board adopt six districts for the MSB: an Eastern MSB district, a Goose Bay/Big Lake district, a Houston/NW district (paired with Denali Borough), a Wasilla district, a Palmer district, and a Southern district in the core area between Palmer and Wasilla. The historical growth of the MSB clearly indicates that populations within MSB districts will very likely grow much faster than other districts around the State. Therefore, within the allowable deviations, the districts within our boundaries should be drawn with a negative deviation. If the Board determines it is necessary to include additional population to areas extending outside the MSB, the Borough supports including residents outside the Borough to the east towards Glennallen, and not towards Anchorage. If the boundaries of the MSB must be crossed to form a House district, the Borough prefers the cross to occur to the east where the district does not extend into a separate municipality or other political boundary.

Residents within the MSB should not be joined into a district which is principally within Anchorage. The Borough prefers that any State plan would leave residents within the Knik River area within an MSB district rather than including them in a district within Chugiak/Eagle River. Knik River area residents do not share shopping, entertainment, or recreational centers with residents of Chugiak/Eagle River. Knik River area residents within the MSB typically do these things within the Borough near Palmer, Wasilla, or our 'core area.' Chugiak/Eagle River residents conduct these activities in Chugiak and Eagle River. These same Knik River area residents are not even in the same school district as residents of Chugiak/Eagle River and therefore do not have the same social settings when it comes to activities like school events, school sports, and friendships formed during educational years. Finally, the Knik River area attracts residents whose socio-economic outlook aligns with the more limited government found within the MSB. Simply put, such a disparate pairing highlights the lack of socio-economic and overall lifestyle integration between the residents of the Knik River area and residents of Chugiak/Eagle River.

According to 2020 US Census data, the Municipality of Anchorage population allows for 15.885 representatives and the MSB population allows for 5.84 representatives requiring additional population to complete both districts. In addition to the Borough plan submittal, we are amenable to the Board's v.2 plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MB", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Brown  
Borough Manager