

Director's Office  
240 Main Street Suite 400  
P.O. Box 110017  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0017  
907-465-4611 907-465-3203  
elections@alaska.gov



STATE OF ALASKA  
Division of Elections  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Elections Offices  
Absentee-Petition 907-270-2700  
Anchorage 907-522-8683  
Fairbanks 907-451-2835  
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February 2, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Meyer, Chair  
Senate State Affairs Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Meyer:

At the January 30, 2018 Senate State Affairs committee hearing on SB 130, the committee asked the cost to the State of conducting a special election for an advisory vote.

**Costs for Conducting a Special Election**

As the Division understood the questions, Senator Wilson asked for the cost difference between an advisory vote at a special election and placing the question on a ballot before voters at a regular scheduled election. For the purpose of estimating the cost of conducting a special election, the division looks at the cost of a Primary election. The total cost for the 2016 Primary Election was \$1,136,790. Alaska Statute 15.58.010 requires that if a ballot proposition is to appear on the ballot then a pamphlet must be sent to each household identified from the official registration list. The Division notes that we did not have a ballot measure pamphlet in the 2016 primary election, and the cost to print and mail those is approximately \$125,000.

The cost to conduct an election held at a time other than when the general or primary election is held is approximately \$1,257,453.

**2016 Primary Election Costs**

Election Worker (EW) Training	30,495
EW & Polling Place Payments	380,433
Election Temps	329,978
Election Expenses	213,326
Primary Voter Pamphlet	4,337
Ballot Transport	14,360
Ballot Printing	163,861
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	\$1,136,790

If a special election to conduct an advisory vote were called to be held with and at the time of the general or primary election, there would be no additional cost to the State.

If you have further questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Josie Bahnke  
Director

Cc: Senate State Affairs Committee Members