

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sponsor Statement SB 192

Article I, Section 22 of the state constitution states, “The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed.”

Senate Bill 192 proposes to strengthen the privacy rights of Alaskans by providing an opt-out provision that ensures confidentiality of their physical and mailing address and increases the fee charged by the Division of Elections for the voter registration list and the list of individuals who voted in an election.

Currently in Alaska, anyone can request a voter registration list from the Division of Elections for a nominal fee of \$20. That list includes a voter’s full name, residence or mailing address, party affiliation, district, precinct, gender, and a 10-year voter history. In some instances, this information is being used to track individuals and placing them in unsafe situations.

This legislation aims to protect all Alaskans, especially vulnerable citizens, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, individuals serving the public such as healthcare providers, law enforcement officers, military service members, judges and court personnel, and elected officials from potential threats, stalking, or even violence. Certain local, state, and federal government agencies will continue to have access to this information to maintain specific programs and services.

Thirty-nine other states have varying forms of protection for their voter information. Alaska state statute allows for a physical address to remain confidential if a separate mailing address is provided, such as a post office box. However, a post office box can still indicate a voter’s community of residence, further hindering some of your constituents and mine from registering and exercising their right to vote to protect their privacy. Senate Bill 192 seeks to address this issue by providing Alaskan voters an opt-out provision to keep their physical and mailing addresses private.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important legislation.