

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Alaska State Capitol
120 4th St., Rm. 104
Juneau, AK 99801
(907) 465-3783



Legislative Information Office
1500 W. Benson Blvd., Rm. 212
Anchorage, AK 99503
Rep.Dan.Saddler@akleg.gov

Representative Dan Saddler

Serving Chugiak-Eagle River & Peters Creek

Sponsor Statement

House Bill 4, Version A

“An Act relating to write-in candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States.”

House Bill 4 would allow Alaska voters to write in candidates for the election of president and vice president of the United States. Many of us will face elections in our lifetimes when we feel that our values and priorities don't align with any of the candidates on the ballot. For elections to the State Legislature and the Congress, Alaskans are given the option to write in a candidate, instead of voting for any of the individuals presented. But for president – the highest office in our nation – there is no write-in option. Alaskans must choose between the candidates available or not vote at all.

In Alaska, we have seen the improbable occur – a write-in candidate winning a federal election. While that is unlikely to happen in an election for president, it is not impossible. But allowing Alaskans to write in candidates for president not only removes a legal impediment to an admittedly unlikely event, but it also offers an opportunity to register dissatisfaction with the options available.

Alaskans should have the choice to vote for whomever they deem fit to serve in office, and this choice should not be limited to the candidates printed on the ballot. HB 4 would direct the Division of Elections to make provisions for voting for write-in candidates for president and vice president, and to tally the votes in the same manner as write-ins for governor and lieutenant governor.

HB 4 would give Alaska voters the same choice to write in a candidate for president as they have for all other federal and state elections.