

Alaska State Legislature



Senator Hollis French

SPONSOR STATEMENT

SJR 19 – Constitutional Amendment: Redistricting Board

Senate Joint Resolution 19 would amend Article VI, Section 8 of the Alaska Constitution, pertaining to the Redistricting Board. This constitutional amendment would transform both the selection process and the composition of the Redistricting Board. The current selection process has consistently resulted in redistricting plans that favor the political party in power at the time. This does Alaskans a disservice.

Instead of an appointed Redistricting Board, SJR 19 would implement a new process of board members being selected by lottery. It would also increase the number of members from five to fourteen. The Redistricting Board would have equal representation from all political parties, consisting of:

- Five who are registered with the largest political party in the state
- Five who are registered with the second largest political party in the state
- Four members who are not affiliated with either of the two largest political parties in the state

The members of the Board would be selected from a pool established by the Division of Elections. The pool of sixty registered voters would consist of fifteen from each of Alaska's four judicial districts. To qualify for the pool, the individual must have voted in the preceding four general elections in Alaska and must not have changed their political affiliation during that time. The pool would be made up of three subdivisions: one-third would be affiliated with the largest political party in the state based on registration, one-third would be affiliated with the second largest political party, and one-third would be unaffiliated with either of the two largest political parties.

From that pool of sixty, the Division of Elections would use a lottery system to select two board members from each judicial district. The eight members chosen by lottery will then select the remaining six members from the pool established in accordance with composition requirements.

The drawing of legislative district boundaries should be as non-partisan as possible. The composition of the Board is the key to this effort. SJR 19 would ensure that the members of the Redistricting Board draw fair, balanced district boundaries that best serve Alaskans.