

# Alaska State Legislature

**Chairman**  
State Affairs Committee

**Member**  
Judiciary Committee  
Energy Special Committee  
Joint Armed Services Special Committee  
Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee

**Finance Subcommittees**  
Administration  
Corrections  
Military and Veterans' Affairs



*A Communication From*  
**REPRESENTATIVE BOB LYNN**  
**District 31 Anchorage**

**E-Mail:** Representative\_Bob\_Lynn@legis.state.ak.us  
"Bob Lynn's Alaska Blog" RepBobLynnBlog.com

**Session:**  
Alaska State Capitol #108  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Phone: (907) 465-4931  
Fax: (907) 465-4316  
Toll Free: (800) 870-4391

**Interim:**  
716 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., #650  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2133

Phone: (907) 269-0205  
Fax: (907) 269-0207

## **Sponsor Statement** **HB 161**

***"An Act requiring that all information in a declaration of candidacy, letter of intent, or nominating petition...is open to public inspection."***

HB 161 makes the information on Division of Elections filing forms for partisan, "no-party," and write-in candidates a matter of public record. If voters are going to evaluate candidates and make an informed choice, they must be allowed to confirm the candidate's name, physical address, and other personal information on the declaration of candidacy. HB 161 makes this information public for all candidates for public office, regardless of the confidentiality preferences they indicated when registering to vote.

In a recent House State Affairs Committee hearing, the Division of Elections testified that "there is no authority for the division to treat a candidate differently from any other voter in regard to having the right to make a residential address confidential." Voters should enjoy any and all confidentiality afforded them by the law. Nothing in HB 161 would change that. Candidates for office, however, should be held to a higher standard of public scrutiny than the average voter.

Candidates for office are already required to disclose personal information above and beyond the average voter. HB 161 takes the common-sense next step and makes this personal information available to the public. I respectfully ask that you join me in supporting this change.

For more information, contact **Thomas Reiker** at **907-465-4965** or **thomas\_reiker@legis.state.ak.us**