



Alaska State Legislature

Senator Anna Fairclough — Senate District M

Sponsor Statement

Senate Bill 63

"An Act relating to contracts for the preparation of election ballots."

Senate Bill 63 is legislation that would require the Alaska Division of Elections to use a competitive proposal process for their ballot printing contract.

While it is of the utmost importance to all Alaskans that our ballots be prepared properly and with attention to all aspects of fair elections, the bidding process is one that is essential to providing an equal opportunity for businesses across Alaska.

SB 63 does not subject the Division of Elections to the procurement code. The bidding proposal process will allow the Division to have control over the evaluating criteria used to award the contract.

Currently, Alaska's election ballots are sole sourced and prepared by one company that has been printing our ballots since 2002. While it may come to be that the company earns the right to continue to prepare the ballots, it is only reasonable to allow others to compete for that business with our state, ensuring the state pays the most competitive and fair amount.

I appreciate your support and consideration of this legislation.