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STATE OF ALASKA
Division of Elections
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

March 12, 2013

The Honorable Wes Keller, Chair
House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol, Room 118
Juneau AK 99801

Dear Representative Keller:

During yesterday's hearing on House Bill 104, committee members posed several questions about the bill. I indicated I would research the answers to those questions and provide a response following the hearing.

Specifically, Representative Foster requested information regarding municipal clerks serving as election officials. For the 2012 elections, the following municipal clerks served as absentee voting officials. The single asterisk means the division hired a worker to assist the clerk's office with this duty. The double asterisk means this location has multiple ballots available and the division hired a worker to assist the clerk's office with this duty.

Angoon, Barrow (North Slope Borough), Bethel, Coffman Cove, Cold Bay, Cordova*, Craig, Denali Borough, Dillingham, False Pass, Galena, Gustavus, Haines, Homer**, Hoonah, Houston, Hydaburg, Seward, Seldovia, Kasaan, Kake, Klawock, Ketchikan City, Ketchikan Borough*, Kenai**, Kenai Peninsula Borough**, Kodiak*, Kotzebue, (Northwest Arctic Borough), McGrath, Metlakatla Community, Naknek (Bristol Bay Borough), Nenana, Pelican, Petersburg*, Pilot Point, St. Mary's, St. Paul, Sand Point, Sitka*, Skagway, Tenakee Springs, Thorne Bay, Unalakleet, Unalaska, Valdez, Whittier, Wrangell*, Yakutat.

Also attached for your information is a list of all absentee voting locations used for the 2012 general election. There were 17 locations with ballots for all 40 house districts. There were seven locations with ballots for more than one district and there were 71 locations with single district ballots.

Representative Gruenberg requested information about the number of extended absentee ballot applications the division had for the 2012 elections. These would have been applications received between January 1, 2008 and December 21, 2011. There were 2,687 voters with extended ballot applications through the 2012 general election. Of that number, 1,612 had either an undeliverable address or simply did not return a voted ballot.

Representative Gruenberg also posed questions regarding the purpose of Section 2 of the bill. Alaska law allows voters residing indefinitely outside the United States that do not have intent to return to Alaska to participate in federal elections.

Currently a voter must have been domiciled in Alaska prior to leaving the United States. These voters may or may not have been qualified registered voters in Alaska. Voters in this status do not have to provide a residence in Alaska nor do they have to claim intent to return.

The division has been contacted by young adults who are United States citizens who were born overseas, lived overseas their whole life, that have turned 18 years of age, do not intend to return to Alaska but wish to vote in federal elections. The proposed change to the current law would allow this person to register as a federal only voter in Alaska due to their parent(s)/guardian(s) having been domiciled in Alaska prior to leaving the United States. Currently, voters in this scenario are not allowed to register and vote because they do not have a "home" state to claim because they have not ever been domiciled in the United States.

Alaska law also allows for voters, who may turn 18 years of age while overseas, to register to vote and participate in all elections (local, state and federal) who have intent to return and who can provide all the required information to register to vote for all elections i.e., residence address, etc.

It is important to note that when the division is contacted by voters in this group, the division asks them questions to determine if they wish to participate in all elections or federal elections only. In nearly all cases, the voters only wish to participate in federal elections, typically only the President/Vice President race. When a voter indicates that they wish to participate in all elections, the division assists them by explaining the requirements to register to vote to participate in all elections.

Currently we have 294 people registered as inactive/overseas voters and in 2012, 193 requested a ballot.

If there are further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gail Fenumiai
Director

cc: House Judiciary Committee members