

Mead Treadwell

Treadwell Development

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January 25, 2016

The Honorable Bob Lynn, Chairman
House State Affairs Committee
120 4th Street, RM 3
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chairman Lynn,

I'm writing today in favor of amendments to Senate Bill 9, which would enable the state Division of Elections to greatly improve the accuracy of Alaska's voter registration list and help prevent voter fraud. The amendments would enable the Division of Elections to identify voters who have moved to another address in Alaska, voters who have moved to other states, voters who have died, and voters with duplicate registrations within our own state database.

In addition, individuals in Alaska who are not yet registered to vote could be identified and receive information on how to register.

As a former Lieutenant Governor I'm keenly aware of how badly Alaska needs a more accurate voter registration list. We have all witnessed the Division processing and counting tens of thousands of questioned ballots after Election Day, our most obvious sign that our system can't keep up with the mobility of Alaska voters. An accurate voter list is the bedrock of a smooth election. Accurate voter rolls result in fewer problems at the polls for both voters and elections officials, lines at the polls that are as short as possible, and a reduction in provisional and questioned ballots. Accurate rolls also help shield our state from possible voter fraud, such as double voting.

The amendments in Senate Bill 9 would enable the state Division of Elections to join a multi-state cooperative called the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). Alaska's neighboring states of Washington and Oregon are two of the 16 current members of ERIC and other states are scheduled to join soon. One of the benefits of ERIC is that it is owned and controlled by the member states, not the federal government. The states control all operations, policies and budget setting. Alaska, like the other member states, would have a seat on ERIC's Board of Directors.

Member states of ERIC benefit by matching their voter registration and motor vehicle licensing data against the data from other member states. In addition, all member states' data is matched against the Social Security Administration Death Index and National Change of Address data from the U.S. Postal Service. The matching is accomplished in a state-of-the-art

and secure environment that utilizes proper procedures and technological safeguards, such as the anonymization of personal data before it ever leaves a state's control.

The identification of voters whose registrations are out of date would enable the Division of Elections to reach out to voters and encourage them to update their registrations, clean "dead wood" off the list, and save money for the state and for political campaigns, which for decades have needlessly wasted money by sending mail or trying to contact voters who no longer live at the address listed with the state.

This improvement to our election process in Alaska is long overdue. We finally have an opportunity to make our voter registration list as accurate as possible. Please join me in supporting these amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mead Treadwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a stylized "T".

Mead Treadwell
Alaska Lt. Governor, 2010-2014

CC: Sen. Peter Micciche