



ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REP. MATT CLAMAN

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Invited Testimony

FROM: Rep. Matt Claman, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee

DATE: October 16, 2020

RE: Topics and Questions for Joint Judiciary Hearing on October 16, 2020

1. What are the procedures for counting absentee ballots and early voting ballots?
 - a. If a voter requests an absentee ballot, but then votes in-person instead, is the in-person ballot always considered a "questioned" ballot?
 - b. How many people requested absentee ballots, but then voted in-person in November, 2018?
 - c. Can a voter vote early in-person at any regional election office (even if it is not your region)? If so, are those ballots counted at the same time as other early voting ballots or with the absentee ballots?
2. How many drop boxes for absentee ballots set up around the state?
 - a. How many drop boxes in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and the Mat-Su?
 - b. Which communities have drop boxes in rural Alaska?
 - c. Will there be opportunities to add drop boxes before November 3?
 - d. Has the Division partnered with local government for drop boxes and locations (municipalities, boroughs, and cities)?
3. What is the schedule for counting absentee ballots and early voting ballots?
 - a. Are early in-person ballots counted on election day?
 - b. What is the last day to vote early in-person and have the ballot counted on election day?
 - c. Is there a recommendation for when a voter should put an absentee ballot in the mail?
4. What is the history, if any, of voter fraud in Alaska?
5. What steps is the Division taking to prevent voter fraud in 2020?
6. What steps is the Division taking to increase the availability of early in-person voting?
 - a. What is the number of early voting locations state-wide?
 - b. What is the relationship, if any, between the number and location of early voting locations in Alaska and settlement of the earlier lawsuit about voting options in rural Alaska?
7. How long has Alaska counted absentee ballots after election day and what is the reason to count ballots after election day?
8. Why did the community of Mertarvik not receive primary ballots?

- a. How is the Division addressing this issue in Mertarvik for the general election?
 - b. If there is potential for this issue to arise in other communities for the general election, how is the Division addressing this potential issue?
9. The status of the three existing 2020 lawsuits related to the general election:
- a. Mailing of absentee ballot applications to seniors.
 - b. Party identification on the general election ballot.
 - c. Second signature requirement for absentee ballots.
 - d. Any 2020 lawsuits that are not listed above.
10. How is the Division planning to spend federal pandemic relief funds specific to the general election?
- a. Is there an option to have pre-paid postage for ballot return envelopes?
11. Communications with the public:
- a. Has the Division hired additional staff to do voter communication?
 - b. What steps is the Division taking to ensure transparency and knowledge about changes in election administration and oversight?
12. How is the Division communicating information to let voters know that:
- a. The USPS will deliver their ballot to the Division of Elections, even if it has insufficient postage.
 - b. Witness signatures are no longer required.
 - How many absentee ballots did the Division reject for lacking the witness signature in the primary election?
13. During the primary election, what COVID-19 protection measures did the Division implement (masks, social distancing, handwashing/sanitizer, etc.) to protect election workers, volunteers, and observers as they monitored poll stations and counted ballots?
- a. Will the Division employ the same procedures for the 2020 general election?
 - b. Will the Division employ any additional procedures for the 2020 general election?
14. The Division has historically allowed observers to watch the counting of absentee ballots.
- a. Why didn't the Division allow for in-person or virtual ballot count observers following the primary election?
 - b. Will the Division allow in-person or virtual ballot count observers following the general election? If not, why?