



Representative Chris Tuck

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

House Bill 115: Absentee Voting

Sponsor Statement

[House Bill 115](#) would give Alaskans the option to receive absentee ballots by mail for future state elections.

Currently, the Permanent Absentee Voter List is limited to Alaskans that reside in remote areas without reasonable access to an in-person polling place, disabled voters who ask to be designated a permanent absentee voter, and voters whose permanent residence is an institution serving the aged or persons with a disability.

House Bill 115 would preclude the Division of Elections from requiring a voter who chooses to receive an absentee ballot for all future elections to reapply for an absentee ballot unless the voter has not voted an absentee ballot for a period of four years or the voter's previous absentee ballot was returned to the division as undeliverable.

Since the 1960s, absentee voting has been legal in most states as a way for eligible voters to cast a ballot without being at their normal designated polling place on Election Day. The federal Voting Rights Act of 1970 included protections for absentee voters. Currently, eight states and the District of Columbia allow permanent absentee voting.

House Bill 115 would give voters the option to always receive an absentee ballot without having to fill out an application. This simple change to Alaska's absentee voting system would make absentee voting in Alaska more convenient for those who prefer the ease of casting a ballot through the mail.

Please join me in support of House Bill 115, which will strengthen our representative democracy by making it easier for Alaskans to cast a vote.

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