

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 08, 2021 1:41 PM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: SB39

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Scott, I'm just now getting a chance to comment on SB39. I hope I'm not too late. Please squeeze this in, if you can - thanks!

In the interest of time, let me succinctly add my objection to changes to Alaska's fine voting process and procedures. I've lived in Fairbanks for nearly 45 years and I've always been confident in how simple and straight-forward voting has always been in Alaska, regardless of party. At various times I've been either a Republican, an Independent or a Democrat. I've always been treated by personnel at the Division of Elections with respect. I've voted early, on time and by mail, and been grateful for the flexibility given the circumstances of my life. Never have I felt my vote to be in jeopardy. Until now with SN39. Please do not monkey with a system that clearly works well for all.

Sarah Keller

[REDACTED]
[Fairbanks, AK 99712](#)
[REDACTED]

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: Mary [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: SB 39

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Greetings Senator Kawasaki,

Thank you for providing my written testimony to the full committee considering SB39.

I do not know why election reform is being considered in Alaska when there has been no evidence of voter fraud or election irregularities.

Covid provided a unique situation that tested the ability of our election system to nimbly respond to voters' needs. I thought the system worked well and offered both safe and secure ways to deliver our ballots to be counted.

Anything system put into place that makes voting more difficult for any or all of the voting public should be soundly discouraged. We want people to be involved in their governance not disenfranchised. Voting provides each individual an opportunity to have a say. It gives people a sense of participation in the governing process and offers them some sense of ownership. These are all necessary for the healthy functioning of our government. Please make voting more available not less.

All the best,

Mary Calmes

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712

Mary

Sent from my iPhone

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: Putt Clark <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 2:39 PM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Senate Bill 39

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hello, Scott! I'm doing what you mentioned in your emailer: type up my letter for you (or your aides) to forward on to the Judiciary Committee (or whichever one it should go to):

To the Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

American elections have proven again and again, that they are safe and almost entirely free of fraud (what has occurred is infinitesimal by percentage) . This legislation will begin the erosion of American's freedoms and guarantee to vote. It has been studied and this past election cycle was found to be the most secure and one of the highest in integrity. Those who are suddenly jumping on the anti-voting crackdown are the very same who have actually benefited from our voting methods. Congressional Republicans actually increased their numbers. The same goes for our state.

The integrity of Alaska's elections is sound as well. In the past 16 years, there have been a total of 5 attempts by individuals to influence elections. One of them tried voting 3 different times. So the grand total is three different individuals who acted badly. The last time one of these three attempted to vote was in 2013. And, the first person who got in trouble didn't even actually try to vote. This person was trying to influence a ballot initiative and was turned in by one of their fellow ballot initiative members.

Our elections are safe and they run well. The existing ballot machines and polls work well. Don't fix something that isn't broken. You will likely break it.

And, it might come back to bite you.

Please vote this legislation down, and do not pass it out of committee. It's dangerous and short-sighted.

Thank you and respectfully,

Putt Clark
Fairbanks

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: Mary Ver Hoef <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 9:19 AM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: Oppose Senate Bill 39

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Dear All Alaskan Senators:

I am writing from Fairbanks to ask you all to OPPOSE SB 39. Our democracy depends on the right and ability for citizens to vote: participation was high and our elections certified as efficient and safe. SB 39 only would curtail, hinder and weaken voter participation.

We must keep the ability to vote fair and accessible and easy for all Alaskans.

Our recent elections have all been safe, fair and well run. There is NO NEED FOR CHANGE!

Keep Vote by Mail, without a complicated certification. This is useful for both urban and rural Alaskans. Do not add extra computer certification - our system is safe and working well; more complication invites problems. SB 39 also creates extra burdens for rural Alaskans in small communities.

Extended voting hours and early voting options are very important for Alaskans - with travel and weather delays frequently impacting out election days.

The Alaskan voting process is EXCELLENT, id does not need any tampering!

VOTE NO ON SB 39.

Thank you,
Mary Ver Hoef
Fairbanks, Alaska

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: jo.bennett907 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Cc: Rep. Zack Fields; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Senate Bill 39, oppose

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Senator Kawasaki,

Although I'm not a Fairbanks resident, I've contacted your office in the past and now receive emails. Thank you. I have a few words in regards to Senate Bill 39.

Senate Bill 39 is not needed and will create more hurdles to voting, especially by mail. The 2020 election was fair and secure. Many Alaska voters exercised their right to vote. Claims of fraud are manufactured in an attempt to stir up fear.

SB 39 is nonsense and irresponsible for the legislature to be spending time and energy on. A more prudent use of legislator's energy at this time would better be directed towards our fiscal status. It's past time to reinstate a state income tax. Out of state workers are not paying their fair share. It's time for a seasonal sales tax, excluding food, prescriptions, hygiene items, and exempting school supplies during the months of August and September.

I urge the legislature to exercise prudence by addressing fiscal concerns, and cease attacking voting rights. I oppose SB 39.

Very truly yours,

Jo Bennett

Sent from my Galaxy

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: Laurie Hueffer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 6:51 AM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: SB 39 - Voting

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
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Senator Kawasaki,

Thank you for your offer to ensure testimony on Senate Bill 39 will be heard.

I do not support Senate Bill 39 by Senator Shower (R-Wasilla). I find the bill to be controversial and I have many concerns. I do not agree with any changes that would make voting, especially voting by mail, more difficult in Alaska. I do not believe security in Alaska is an issue and do not support the use of a blockchain electronic voting system with its two-factor authentication and the chance of making voting more difficult. I would like to ensure support continues for every voice to be heard and to see continued record-breaking voter turnout statewide.

I do believe in the freedom to choose our leaders and the ability of Alaskans to participate in American democracy without undue hindrance. I do not support restricting or otherwise suppressing the right to vote in any way. Therefore, I do not support SB 39.

Sincerely,
Laurie Hueffer
Fairbanks, AK

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Laurie Hueffer
[REDACTED]

Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: Scott Chesney <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 6:15 AM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: RE: SB39

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
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Senator Kawasaki:

Thanks for offering to accept testimony regarding SB39. My comments will be short and to the point. SB39, is a poorly thought out "solution" in search of a non-problem. The "uncertainty" cited by the bill's sponsor is a result of a constant barrage of lies and misdirection originating from Republican leaders. Election fraud has been negligible, and what fraud has occurred has been shown time and time again to have resulted from actions by Republican operatives.

Solving a non-problem with blockchain ballot tracking is asking for trouble. Experts in both cybersecurity and voting see blockchains as needlessly complicated, and no more secure than other online ballots. An article in the August 16, 2018 Scientific American examines the issue in detail. Given the State of Alaska's propensity to underfund infrastructure, can the bill's proponents say with a straight face that it's a good idea to crank up a complex and unproven system, unused in any other U.S jurisdiction here? I think not.

Add to that the abuse of the fraud hotline which will be certain to occur. What an easy way to harass voters and candidates of an opponent? No to mention a waste of time and money as well as further undermining citizens' confidence in the electoral process.

An unproven solution to a non-problem made possible by a complicated, expensive technology, coupled with an easy-to-use intimidation and harassment engine: what's not to love?

SB39 should progress no further.

Scott Chesney
[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99708



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Sen. Scott Kawasaki

From: Karl Monetti <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, May 06, 2021 3:22 PM
To: Sen. Scott Kawasaki
Subject: SB39

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Scott,
Please distribute this to the proper legislators for review prior to the hearing Friday, May 7. Thanks
Karl

Dear Senators

Regarding SB39, a bill to alter current election laws.

I do not see a need for this legislation as there were no problems with the 2020 election, or any previous elections I can recall in my last 50 years of voting in Alaska. This bill would make it more difficult for many voters to cast their ballots and the purpose of the bill seems to explicitly do just that in order that fewer people of lower means (who often vote more Democratic than Republican) would be heard.

I am an independent voter who has voted for Republican candidates several times in the past, but it is obvious from the nation-wide efforts by Republican-led state legislatures to restrict voting laws in the name of protecting against voter fraud that this is just another of that ilk. There was no significant voter fraud in the 2020 election. In fact it was deemed by the experts as the least fraudulent, safest election in American history. The fact Republicans did not like (and seem intent on refusing to accept) the outcome of that election is no reason to change voting laws.

Republicans should be ashamed of themselves for having first been set up by Donald Trump's incessant reiteration of his lies about a rigged election, then played

like puppets for the last four years, and now being cowed by the spectre of Mr. Trump's purported ability to destroy their political careers. Well, if Republicans do feel that way, perhaps they should just resign and we can elect some with a backbone and integrity who will run on actual issues instead of just obstructing the plans of others. Changing laws to make voting more difficult is a spineless effort to win back support by limiting access to the polls.

Please do not pass this law.

Thank you,
Karl Monetti
North Pole
[REDACTED]

Thank you for your offer to be sure my SB 39 testimony is taken into account. I work during the Senate Judiciary hearing; plus after going through the whole bill, I think my comments would take longer than 2 minutes to read. I include it here.

Heather Koponen

Respectfully acknowledging that I am on unceded territory of the first people of this land - the Chena and Tanana Native people.

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Mr. Chair and Senators of the Judiciary Committee.

I write to testify about SB 39 "Ballot Custody/Tampering; Voter Reg; Mail.

My name is Heather Koponen, from Fairbanks North Star Borough, and I represent myself.

For a society that claims to be bringing democratic voting to countries halfway around the world, it is sad to see efforts to make it more difficult to vote in our own country and state.

1. Inclusion of tribal identification cards for voter ID is a good amendment.
2. While cleaning up some wording in current voting statute, it primarily addresses problems that don't exist.
3. Proposed use of digital multi-factor voter authentication technology is unnecessary and unwise, as it very likely can be used to make voting difficult, and will inevitably be hack-able: Witness the current Court system paralysis. Fraudulent voting is historically next to non-existent; which sharply contrasts with the rampant efforts to disenfranchise legitimate voters.
4. Proposed Sec. 24.AS 15.15.490 reads like coercion and is not an appropriate avenue for addressing any of the voter issues listed.

(1) should be deleted; (2) should be a request for data updates; (3) should be deleted, since a voter should definitely get forwarded election information and should be able to vote if a student, or serving elsewhere without becoming an official resident elsewhere, or if at a different address within the state; (4) updated municipal voter registration records should be shared with the state.

5. Sec. 15.20.068 Application for absentee ballot appears to forbid the provision of absentee ballot to groups of voters as happened in fall 2020 due to the pandemic. As this did not give rise to fraudulent voting, this section is unnecessary and appears to be inserted to make voting more difficult. This section also appears to prohibit the chain-of-custody mechanism by which I have helped disabled family and friend get their votes counted.

6. With our U. S. Postal Service being severely undermined, such that delivery of mail not infrequently takes longer than a week within and between Alaska communities, changing the requirement for ballots to be received by the seventh day is unreasonable. Officials don't take elected positions for some time after the elections anyway.

7. Starting to process absentee ballots early is good.

8. 15.20.203(b) 7 should be deleted - making voting more difficult. Delete (9) as well.

9. Notifying voters if their ballots have been rejected is good.

10. Requiring 4 hours of election fraud instruction for police would be expensive and unmerited.

11. If an **audit of the master voter registry** is merited, its criteria and methods must be open to and amendable by public process, any voter whose registration is questioned must be contacted by several means and given the chance to update the registration, and the results of the audit must be made public.

Such an audit could be abused to disenfranchise legitimate voters.

Thank you for your attention.

Heather Koponen

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On Thursday, May 6, 2021, 2:04:50 PM AKDT, Sen. Kawasaki <sen.scott.kawasaki@akleg.gov> wrote: