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From: H <h.oclaray@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:04 PM

To: House Finance <House.Finance@akleg.gov>; House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB66

Committee Members, as a lifelong Alaska resident, I have serious concerns regarding HB66, "an Act relating to voting, voter qualifications, and voter registration; relating to poll watchers; relating to absentee ballots and questioned ballots; relating to election worker compensation". I'm reaching out to ask you to consider these matters carefully before you have an opportunity to discuss this bill with fellow lawmakers or cast a committee or Floor vote. It is absolutely vital to preserve the integrity of our elections and continue to preserve public confidence in a transparent and predictable process. This is particularly important in a year when 59 of Alaska's legislative seats are up for election!

Over the past two years we have seen horrendous abuses of power in local elections. We must not enable these acts and we must take swift action to prevent such misdeeds from propagating in State elections.

Please consider pushing for amendments to HB66 or introducing a new bill to expressly disallow unsolicited ballot mailings, unmanned ballot drop boxes, vote-by-mail elections, and excessive handling/transportation of ballots.

The first defense of a secure election is the official ballot itself.

Mass mailing ballots to unchecked voter rolls creates an unreasonable and increased opportunity for election fraud. I myself received several ballots for several people unknown to me that either have never lived at my address or have not resided here for at least three years (prior to my purchase).

The next defense is verification of residency, identity, and eligibility and we must continue to insist that voters be required to present acceptable identification before receiving an official ballot.

From what I could tell, HB66 does not currently seek to change this at this time, though we must remain vigilant.

The next defense is the secure handling of the ballots. Recently courts in other jurisdictions have ruled unmanned ballot drop boxes are not authorized. This should become permanent, explicit law in Alaska. Such boxes are unsecure; open to voter intimidation, electioneering, and tampering; and collection, counting, and tracking are unclear or outright unavailable. Similarly, elections conducted primarily through the USPS are insecure and we saw many ballots arrive late or without required postmarks. This disqualified hundreds, if not thousands, of ballots, negating Alaskans' right to be heard.

Finally, excessively handling or transporting ballots is inefficient, unnecessary, and unacceptable. The City and Borough of Juneau, for instance, inexplicably began flying ballots almost 600 miles to Anchorage for tabulation rather than scanning them onsite upon collection in Juneau as has been the norm for decades. Many different hands transfer cargo and the opportunity for misdirection, delay, loss, or tampering is high. There is no reason a voter should be denied the right to see their ballot scanned in person, especially in the State's capital city where resources and technology are more than adequate. Further, voters should have a way to track their ballot to confirm that it was received and tabulated as the voter marked it. If the USPS can scan millions of pieces of mail daily, our elections can figure out a

way to preserve an image of our ballots. In addition, ballot retention for recounts, verification, and quality control must be robustly enforced.

The chain of custody must be preserved and the entire process must be transparent and verifiable. Our very democratic republic depends on it.

Heather O'Claray
Juneau, AK

From: H <h.oclaray@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022 1:01 PM

To: Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins <Rep.Jonathan.Kreiss-Tomkins@akleg.gov>

Subject: HB66

Rep. Kreiss-Tomkins, as a lifelong Alaska resident, I have serious concerns regarding HB66 to amend our election laws. I'm reaching out to ask you to consider these matters carefully before you have an opportunity to discuss this bill with fellow lawmakers or cast a committee or Floor vote. It is absolutely vital to preserve the integrity of our elections and continue to preserve public confidence in a transparent and predictable process. This is particularly important in a year when 59 of Alaska's legislative seats are up for election!

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The next defense is verification of residency, identity, and eligibility and we must continue to insist that voters be required to present acceptable identification before receiving an official ballot. From what I could tell, HB66 does not currently seek to change this at this time, though we must remain vigilant.

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