My dear Mr. President:

The attached Constitutional Article entitled "Suffrage and Elections" has been unanimously approved by the Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Apportionment.

Section 1 sets forth the present suffrage qualifications of the 50 year old Act of Congress with two changes: first, the voting age is lowered one year to twenty (20); second, the literacy test is somewhat relaxed to a requirement that qualified voters be able to "read or speak the English language as prescribed by the legislature." This leaves the test of ability to the legislative branch.

The Committee strongly believes that the present Alaskan tested and tried voting law (38-1-2 and 38-1-8 ACLA 1949) with its many decisions should be preserved, hence adopted Section 1 in the form chosen. To depart from the Act of Congress would create uncertainty and provoke needless litigation.

Section 2 is not unusual and is self-explanatory. The Committee believes that permanent registration should be required in urban areas, i.e. municipalities with population over 2,500, leaving the matter in other areas for legislative decision.
Section 3 disenfranchises those convicted of felonies involving moral turpitude, leaving the matter of restoration of civil rights to the responsible agencies of government.

Section 4 preserves the present law.

Respectfully submitted,

John S. Hellenthal
Chairman
Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Apportionment
Constitutional Convention of Alaska

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 1

Introduced by Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Apportionment

ARTICLE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

RESOLVED, that the following be agreed upon as part of the Alaska State Constitution.

Qualifications

Section 1. Every citizen of the United States, who shall have attained the age of 20 years, who is an actual and bona fide resident of Alaska, and who has been such resident continuously during the entire year immediately preceding the election, and who has been such resident continuously for thirty days next preceding the election in the election district in which he votes, and who is able to read or speak the English language as prescribed by the Legislature, unless incapacitated from complying therewith by physical disability only, and who is not barred from voting by any other provision of law, shall be qualified to vote in any State or local election. This section shall not apply to any citizen who legally voted at the general election of November 4, 1924.
Further
Mandatory and Permissive Qualifications

Section 2. The Legislature shall establish a system of permanent voter registration in municipalities with populations over 2,500, and may provide for voting precincts within election districts; it shall provide for absentee voting; it shall prescribe the method of voting at all elections; it shall provide that contested elections be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

Disqualification

Section 3. No person judicially determined to be of unsound mind and no person convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, unless pardoned and restored to his civil rights, shall be qualified to vote in any State or local election.

Elections

Section 4. General elections shall be held on the second Tuesday in October and every second year thereafter on the same day, but the Legislature is empowered to change said date.
Constitutional Convention of Alaska

COMMITTEE PROPOSAL NO. 1

Introduced by Committee on Suffrage, Elections and Apportionment

ARTICLE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

RESOLVED, that the following be agreed upon as part of the Alaska State Constitution.

Qualifications

1. Section 1. Every citizen of the United States, who shall have attained the age of 19 years, who is an actual and bona fide resident of Alaska, and who has been such resident continuously during the entire year immediately preceding the election, and who has been such resident continuously for thirty days next preceding the election in the election district in which he votes, and who is able to read or speak the English language as prescribed by the Legislature, unless incapacitated from complying therewith by physical disability only, and who is not barred from voting by any other provision of law, shall be qualified to vote in any State or local election.
Further Mandatory and Permissive Qualifications

Section 2. The Legislature may establish a system of permanent voter registration, and may provide for voting precincts within election districts; it shall provide for absentee voting; it shall prescribe the method of voting at all elections; it shall provide the manner of determining contested elections which shall include the right of appeal to a court of competent jurisdiction.

Disqualification

Section 3. No person convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, unless pardoned and restored to his civil rights, and no person judicially determined to be of unsound mind, until the disability is removed, shall be qualified to vote in any State or local election.

Elections

Section 4. General elections shall be held on the second Tuesday in October of every even numbered year but the Legislature is empowered to change said date.

Section 5. Secrecy of voting shall be preserved.
ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STYLE AND DRAFTING

Hon. William A. Egan, President
Alaska Constitutional Convention

Dear President Egan:

Your Committee on Style and Drafting herewith presents its redraft of the Article on Suffrage and Elections for consideration by the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

George Sundborg, Chairman
R. Rolland Armstrong
Edward V. Davis
Victor Fischer
Mildred R. Hermann
James J. Hurley
Maurice T. Johnson
George M. McLaughlin
Katherine D. Nordale
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF ALASKA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STYLE AND DRAFTING

RESOLVED, that the following be agreed upon as part of the Alaska State Constitution:

ARTICLE V

SUFFRAGE AND ELECTIONS

Qualified Voters

1. Section 1. Every citizen of the United States who
2. is at least nineteen years of age, qualified to vote
3. under this article and not barred by any other provision
4. of law may vote in any state or local election. He
5. shall have been, immediately preceding the election, for
6. one year a resident of Alaska and for thirty days a
7. resident of the election district in which he seeks to
8. vote. He shall be able to read or speak the English
9. language as prescribed by law, unless prevented by
10. physical disability.

Disqualifications

11. Section 2. No person may vote who has been con-
12. victed of a felony involving moral turpitude unless his
13. civil rights have been restored. No person may vote who
14. has been judicially determined to be of unsound mind
15. unless the disability has been removed.

Article No. 5
Methods of Voting; Election Contests

Section 3. Methods of voting, including absentee voting, shall be prescribed by law. Secrecy of voting shall be preserved. The procedure for determining election contests, with right of appeal to the courts, shall be prescribed by law.

Voting Precincts; Registration

Section 4. The legislature may provide a system of permanent registration of voters and may establish voting precincts within election districts.

General Elections

Section 5. General elections shall be held on the second Tuesday in October of every even numbered year, but the month and day may be changed by law.

Special Voting Provision (Transitional)

Section 6. Citizens who legally voted in the general election of November 4, 1924, and who fulfill the residence requirements for voting, shall be entitled to vote notwithstanding the provisions of Article V, Section 1 of this Constitution.