

310.1X - CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
C/P No. 1 - Suffrage & Elections
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Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/1
December 5, 1955

ALASKA CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
SUFFRAGE, ELECTIONS, AND APPORTIONMENT

Hon. William A. Egan
President, Alaska Constitutional Convention

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	1	Section 1. Every citizen of the United States,
and	2	who shall have attained the age of 20 years, who
Residence .	3	is an actual and bona fide resident of Alaska,
	4	and who has been such resident continuously
	5	during the entire year immediately preceding
	6	the election, and who has been such resident
	7	continuously for thirty days next preceding the
	8	election in the election district in which he
	9	votes, and who is able to read or speak the
	10	English language as prescribed by the Legislature,
	11	unless incapacitated from complying therewith
	12	by physical disability only, and who is not
	13	barred from voting by any other provision of law,
	14	shall be qualified to vote in any State or local
	15	election. This section shall not apply to any
	16	citizen who legally voted at the general election
	17	of November 4, 1924.

Further	1	Section 2. The Legislature shall establish a
Mandatory and	2	system of permanent voter registration in munici-
Permissive	3	palties with populations over 2,500, and may
Qualifications	4	provide for voting precincts within election
	5	districts; it shall provide for absentee voting;
	6	it shall prescribe the method of voting at all
	7	elections; it shall provide that contested
	8	elections be determined by a court of competent
	9	jurisdiction.
Disqualifi-	10	Section 3. No person judicially determined to be
cation	11	of unsound mind and no person convicted of a
	12	felony involving moral turpitude, unless pardoned
	13	and restored to his civil rights, shall be
	14	qualified to vote in any State or local election.
Elections	15	Section 4. General elections shall be held on
	16	the second Tuesday in October and every second
	17	year thereafter on the same day, but the
	18	Legislature is empowered to change said date.

F I R S T E N R O L L E D C O P Y

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/1/Enrolled
December 19, 1955

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
and
Residence

1 Section 1. Every citizen of the United States,
2 who shall have attained the age of 19 years,
3 who is an actual and bona fide resident of
4 Alaska, and who has been such resident con-
5 tinuously during the entire year immediately
6 preceding the election, and who has been such
7 resident continuously for thirty days next pre-
8 ceding the election in the election district in
9 which he votes, and who is able to read or speak
10 the English language as prescribed by the Legis-
11 lature, unless incapacitated from complying
12 therewith by physical disability only, and who
13 is not barred from voting by any other provi-
14 sion of law, shall be qualified to vote in any
15 State or local election.

1 Those citizens who legally voted in the general
2 election of November 4, 1924, and meet the resi-
3 dence requirements of this section, shall not be
4 deprived of their voting rights by any provision
5 of this section of the Constitution.

Further Mandatory 6 Section 2. The Legislature may establish a sys-
and Permissive 7 tem of permanent voter registration, and may
Qualifications 8 provide for voting precincts within election
9 districts; it shall provide for absentee voting;
10 it shall prescribe the method of voting at all
11 elections; it shall provide the manner of deter-
12 mining contested elections which shall include
13 the right of appeal to a court of competent
14 jurisdiction.

Disqualifica- 15 Section 3. No person convicted of a felony in-
tion 16 volving moral turpitude, unless pardoned and re-
17 stored to his civil rights, and no person judi-
18 cially determined to be of unsound mind, until
19 the disability is removed, shall be qualified
20 to vote in any State or local election.

Elections 21 Section 4. General elections shall be held on
22 the second Tuesday in October of every even num-
23 bered year but the Legislature is empowered to
24 change said date.

25 Section 5. Secrecy of voting shall be preserved.

Constitutional Convention
Committee Proposal/1/Enrolled
Style and Drafting
January 23, 1956

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
Article/5
January 23, 1956

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.

Disquali-
fications

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.

Methods of Voting; Election Contests 1 Section 3. Methods of voting, including absentee
2 voting, shall be prescribed by law. Secrecy of voting
3 shall be preserved. The procedure for determining
4 election contests, with right of appeal to the courts,
5 shall be prescribed by law.

Voting Precincts; Registration 6 Section 4. The legislature may provide a system
7 of permanent registration of voters and may establish
8 voting precincts within election districts.

General Elections 9 Section 5. General elections shall be held on the
10 second Tuesday in October of every even numbered year,
11 but the month and day may be changed by law.

Special Voting Provision (Transitional) 12 Section 6. Citizens who legally voted in the
13 general election of November 4, 1924, and who fulfill
14 the residence requirements for voting, shall be entitled
15 to vote notwithstanding the provisions of Article V,
16 Section 1 of this Constitution.