

# Ballot Initiative 25USCV

An initiative to require that only United States citizens may be qualified voters in Alaska

AN INITIATIVE TO:

REQUIRE THAT ONLY UNITED STATES CITIZENS MAY BE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN ALASKA ELECTIONS.

A BILL BY INITIATIVE  
For an Act Entitled

"An Act requiring that only United States citizens may be qualified to vote in Alaska elections"

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

**\*Section 1. AS 15.05.010 is amended to read:**

**Sec. 15.05.010. Voter qualification.** Only a person who

- (1) is a citizen of the United States;
- (2) is 18 years of age or older;
- (3) has been a resident of the state and of the house district in which the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election; and
- (4) has registered before the election as required under AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction may vote at any election.

###

## 25USCV - Statement of Costs

### Agency Cost Summary

Agency	Cost
Office of the Lieutenant Governor	\$15,000
Office of the Lieutenant Governor – Division of Elections	\$99,050
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$114,050</b>

### Estimate of Costs to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Division of Elections

As required by AS 15.45.090(a)(3), the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Division of Elections have prepared the following statement of costs to implement the proposed ballot initiative.

#### **Lieutenant Governor**

Under Alaska Statute 15.45.195, at least 30 days before the election at which an initiative is to appear on the ballot, the lieutenant governor or a designee of the lieutenant governor shall hold two or more public hearings concerning the initiative in each judicial district of the state. Each public hearing under this section shall include the written or oral testimony of one supporter and one opponent of the initiative.

Estimated cost of travel for Lt. Governor and one staff member **\$15,000**

#### **Division of Elections**

The minimum cost to the Division of Elections associated with certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition, excluding legal costs to the state and the costs to the state of any challenge to the validity of the petition, is estimated to be \$99,050.

Six temporary employees will be required to review signatures for 2,520 hours at an estimated cost of \$58,804 and certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition estimated for 504 hours will cost an estimated \$23,639. Printing service expenses associated with certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition will require \$1,605 for the printing of voter booklets.

Estimated cost of translating the ballot measure language for audio and sample ballots, an Official Election Pamphlet pro statement, Official Election Pamphlet con statement, and Official Election Pamphlet neutral summary into languages required by the Toyukak Settlement and Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, will require an estimated \$15,002.

#### **Estimate by Category**

Petition Review	\$82,443
Petition Printing Services	\$1,605
Language Translations of Initiative Text	\$15,002
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,050</b>



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Law**

CIVIL DIVISION

1031 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Main: 907.269.5100  
Fax: 907.276.3697

October 3, 2025

The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor  
P.O. Box 110015  
Juneau, AK 99811-0015

Re: *25USCV Ballot Measure Application Review*  
AGO No. 2025103188

Dear Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom:

You asked us to review an initiative application for a proposed bill entitled:

An Act requiring that only United States citizens may be qualified to vote in Alaska elections.

We review initiatives to ensure they meet constitutional and statutory requirements, without considering the merits of any initiative. This application is in the proper form, and the proposed bill and application fulfill the constitutional and statutory provisions governing initiatives. We recommend that you certify this application.

**I. The proposed bill**

The bill proposed by this initiative has one section that amends AS 15.05.010, the statute that prescribes voter qualifications. It currently provides:

A person may vote at any election who

- (1) is a citizen of the United States;
- (2) is 18 years of age or older;
- (3) has been a resident of the state and of the house district in which the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election; and
- (4) has registered before the election as required under AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction.

While it does not use the usual format for proposed legislation, the proposed bill would amend this statute to begin with "Only a person who . . ." and end with "may vote at any election."

## II. Analysis

Under AS 15.45.070, the lieutenant governor must review an initiative application within 60 calendar days of receipt and “certify it or notify the initiative committee of the grounds for denial.” The Division of Elections received the application for 25USCV on September 9, 2025. Sixty calendar days later is November 8, 2025.

In evaluating an initiative application, the lieutenant governor must determine whether it is in the “proper form.”<sup>1</sup> Under AS 15.45.080, the lieutenant governor must deny certification if “(1) the proposed bill to be initiated is not confined to one subject or is otherwise not in the required form; (2) the application is not substantially in the required form; or (3) there is an insufficient number of qualified sponsors.” This means the lieutenant governor must decide whether the application complies with “the legal procedures for placing an initiative on the ballot, and whether the initiative contains statutorily or constitutionally prohibited subjects which should not reach the ballot.”<sup>2</sup> This requires consideration of both the form of the application and the form of the proposed bill.

### A. Form of the application

The form of an initiative application is prescribed by AS 15.45.030, which requires that an application include the

- (1) proposed bill;
- (2) printed name, the signature, the address, and a numerical identifier of not fewer than 100 qualified voters who will serve as sponsors; each signature page must include a statement that the sponsors are qualified voters who signed the application with the proposed bill attached; and
- (3) designation of an initiative committee consisting of three of the sponsors who subscribed to the application and represent all sponsors and subscribers in matters relating to the initiative; the designation must include the name, mailing address, and signature of each committee member.

The 25USCV application includes the proposed bill and the requisite statement on each signature page. It also designates an initiative committee of three sponsors, who provided their information. We understand the Division of Elections has reviewed the sponsor signatures and determined that the application contains the signatures and addresses of 138 qualified voters, satisfying the 100-sponsor requirement.

---

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Const. art. XI, § 2.

<sup>2</sup> *McAlpine v. Univ. of Alaska*, 762 P.2d 81, 87 n.7 (Alaska 1988).

## **B. Form of the proposed bill**

The form of a proposed bill is prescribed by AS 15.45.040, which requires that (1) the bill be confined to one subject; (2) the subject be expressed in the title; (3) the bill contain an enacting clause that states, “Be it enacted by the People of the State of Alaska”; and (4) the bill include no prohibited subjects.<sup>3</sup> The lieutenant governor may deny certification if a proposed bill does not meet these requirements or if “controlling authority establishes its unconstitutionality.”<sup>4</sup>

The bill proposed by 25USCV meets these requirements. The bill is confined not just to a single subject but a single statute addressing voter qualification, which is not a prohibited subject for initiatives. This subject is expressed in the title and the bill includes the requisite enacting language.

The proposed bill’s requirement that only qualified people—in particular, only United States citizens—vote in elections is also constitutional. Indeed, the Alaska Constitution and current statute dictate that only United States citizens may vote in Alaska’s elections. The constitution provides that “Every citizen of the United States . . . may vote in any state or local election.”<sup>5</sup> The Alaska Supreme Court has affirmed that “[t]he plain meaning of this language limits the voting privilege to citizens of the United States.”<sup>6</sup> Grammatically, the existing language in AS 15.05.010, which states, “A person may vote at any election who . . . is a citizen of the United States,” means that a person who is *not* a United States citizen may *not* vote.<sup>7</sup> Thus, the bill proposed by 25USCV would not change the qualifications to vote.

## **III. Proposed ballot title and summary**

We have prepared a ballot title and summary to assist you in complying with AS 15.45.090 and AS 15.45.180, as is this office’s standard practice. Under AS 15.45.090(a)(2), petitions for a certified initiative must include “an impartial summary of the subject matter of the bill.” Under AS 15.45.180(a), the lieutenant governor may also have to prepare a ballot proposition, including a “true and impartial

---

<sup>3</sup> Under article XI, section 7 of the Alaska Constitution and AS 15.45.010, a proposed bill may not dedicate revenue; make or repeal appropriations; create courts, define their jurisdiction, or prescribe their rules; or enact local or special legislation.

<sup>4</sup> *Kohlhaas v. State*, 147 P.3d 714, 717 (Alaska 2006) (quoting *Kodiak Island Borough v. Mahoney*, 71 P.3d 896, 900 (Alaska 2003)); *State v. Vote Yes for Alaska’s Fair Share*, 478 P.3d 679, 690 n.58 (Alaska 2021).

<sup>5</sup> Alaska Const. art. V, § 1.

<sup>6</sup> *Park v. State*, 528 P.2d 785, 786 (Alaska 1974).

<sup>7</sup> *See id.* (interpreting AS 15.05.010 to exclude non-citizens from voting).

summary of the proposed law,” and a ballot title. The ballot title must “indicate the general subject of the proposition” in 25 words or less, and the word count of the summary must be less than 50 times the number of sections in the proposed bill.<sup>8</sup> The proposition must adhere to the readability policy described in AS 15.80.005 and ask whether the proposed bill should become law.<sup>9</sup>

The bill proposed by 25USCV has one section, which would allow a ballot summary of up to 50 words. Below is a ballot title with five words and a ballot summary with 45 words. Using the readability formula described in AS 15.80.005(c), the summary has a score of 63.77, which exceeds the target score of 60. We submit this ballot title and summary for your consideration:

### **An Act Addressing Voter Qualification**

Alaska law requires that someone must be a United States citizen and meet other requirements to vote. This act would specify that only those who are United States citizens and meet the other requirements may vote. This act would not change the requirements to vote.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

This initiative application is in the proper form and meets the applicable constitutional and statutory requirements. We recommend that you certify the application and notify the sponsors of your decision. You may then begin to prepare a petition under AS 15.45.090.

Please contact us if we can further assist you on this matter.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN J. COX  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:   
Claire C. Keneally  
Assistant Attorney General

---

<sup>8</sup> AS 15.45.180(a). “Section” here means “a provision of the proposed law that is distinct from other provisions in purpose or subject matter.” *Id.*

<sup>9</sup> AS 15.45.180(b).



Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom  
STATE OF ALASKA

October 3, 2025

The Honorable John B. Coghill Jr.  
P.O. Box 58003  
Fairbanks, AK 99711

Dear Senator Coghill:

On September 9, 2025, I received your application for the following initiative that you entitled:

***"An Act requiring that only United States citizens may be qualified to vote in Alaska elections."***

I forwarded the application to the Division of Elections for verification of signatures and to the Department of Law for legal review.

The Division of Elections determined that 138 of the 153 signatures submitted were those of qualified voters. Therefore, the application has a sufficient number of sponsors to qualify for circulation of a petition under AS 15.45.030. The petition statistics report prepared by the Division of Elections is enclosed.

The Department of Law concluded that the proposed bill is in the proper form and therefore recommends that I certify this initiative application. A copy of the Department of Law opinion regarding the application is enclosed.

Consequently, I hereby certify your initiative application under Article XI of the Alaska Constitution and under the provisions of AS 15.45. I further certify that the proposed bill to be initiated is in the required form, that the application is substantially in the required form, and that there are a sufficient number of qualified sponsors. Your official certificate is enclosed.

The Division of Elections will prepare and print sequentially numbered petition booklets to allow full circulation throughout the state. Each petition will contain (1) a copy of the proposed bill; (2) an impartial summary of the subject matter of the bill; (3) a statement of minimum costs to the state associated with certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition; (4) an estimate of the cost to the state of implementing the proposed law; (5) the statement of warning prescribed in AS 15.45.100; (6) sufficient space for the personal information and signatures of each person signing the petition; and (7) other specifications that I decide would ensure proper handling

and control. As soon as the booklets are available, they will be delivered to the Division of Elections office of your choice. You will also be provided with instructions and training for booklet distribution and accounting. These instructions must be followed.

The initiative petition must be filed within one year from the date notice is given that the petition booklets are ready for delivery. The petition must be signed by qualified voters (1) equal in number to 10 percent of those who voted in the preceding general election; (2) resident in at least three-fourths of the house districts of the state; and (3) who, in each of those house districts, are equal in number to at least seven percent of those who voted in the preceding general election in the house district. Based on the 2024 General Election, you will need to gather a total of 34,098 signatures from qualified voters consistent with the foregoing requirements.

If you have questions or comments about the ongoing initiative process, please contact April Simpson in my office at (907) 465-4081.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nancy Dahlstrom", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor

Enclosures

cc: Stephen J. Cox, Attorney General  
Thomas Flynn, Assistant Attorney General  
Claire Keneally, Assistant Attorney General  
Carol Beecher, Director of Elections

STATE OF ALASKA  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

# CERTIFICATE

I, NANCY DAHLSTROM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY, under the provisions of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Alaska and under the provisions of AS 15.45, the initiative application for *"An Act requiring that only United States citizens may be qualified to vote in Alaska elections."* which was received on September 9, 2025, and known as 25USCV.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that the proposed bill to be initiated is in the required form, that the application is substantially in the required form, and that there is a sufficient number of qualified sponsors.

In accordance with AS 15.45.090, I shall prepare a sufficient number of sequentially numbered petitions to allow full circulation throughout the state.



**IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed**

**hereto the Seal of the State of Alaska, at Juneau, the Capital,**

3<sup>rd</sup>

October

This ..... 2025 ..... day of .....,

A. D. ....

Handwritten signature of Nancy Dahlstrom in cursive.

.....  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Office of the Lieutenant Governor

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
Office of the Director

240 Main Street, Suite 400  
PO Box 110017  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0017  
Main: 907.465.4611  
Fax: 907.465.3202  
elections@alaska.gov

### Memorandum

TO: The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor

FROM: <sup>CB</sup>Carol Beecher  
Director

DATE: September 22, 2025

SUBJECT: 25USCV

The Division of Elections reviewed the sponsor signatures submitted in the application for the above referenced initiative petition.

We have determined that 138 of the 153 signatures submitted to be those of qualified voters. The application has a sufficient number of sponsor signatures to qualify for circulation of a petition under AS 15.45.030(2).

Attached is a public copy of the report listing the status of each sponsor for this petition application.

Attachment: 25USCV Application Petition Signers Report

cc: Michaela R. Thompson, Division Operations Manager  
Hyun Jun Jang, Absentee and Petition Manager  
Thomas Flynn, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Law

**NANCY DAHLSTROM**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
lt.governor@alaska.gov



550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Main: 907.269.7460

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

March 16, 2026

The Honorable John Coghill  
P.O. Box 58003  
Fairbanks, AK 99711

Re: 25USCV Notice of Proper Filing

Dear Senator Coghill:

I have reviewed your petition for the initiative entitled "An Act requiring that only United States citizens may be qualified to vote in Alaska elections" and have determined that the petition was properly filed. My notice of proper filing is enclosed. Specifically, the petition was signed by qualified voters from all 40 house districts equal in number to at least 10 percent of those who voted in the preceding general election; with signatures from at least 30 house districts matching or exceeding seven percent of those who voted in the preceding general election in the house district. The Division of Elections verified 34,944 voter signatures, which exceeds the 34,098 signature requirement based on the 2024 general election. A copy of the Petition Statistics Report prepared by the Division of Elections is enclosed.

With the assistance of the attorney general, I have prepared the following ballot title and proposition that meets the requirements of AS 15.45.180:

**An Act Addressing Voter Qualification**

Alaska law requires that someone must be a United States citizen and meet other requirements to vote. This act would specify that only those who are United States citizens and meet the other requirements may vote. This act would not change the requirements to vote.

Should this initiative become law?

This ballot proposition will appear on the election ballot of the first statewide general, special, or primary election that is held after (1) the petition has been filed; (2) a legislative session has convened and adjourned; and (3) a period of 120 days has expired since the adjournment of the legislative session. Barring an unforeseen special election or adjournment of the current legislative session occurring on or before April 20, 2026, this proposition will be scheduled to appear on the general election ballot on the November 3, 2026, general election. If a majority of the votes cast on the initiative proposition favor its adoption, I shall so certify and the proposed law will be enacted. The act becomes effective 90 days after certification.

Please be advised that under AS 15.45.210, this petition will be void if I, with the formal concurrence of the attorney general, determine that an act of the legislature that is substantially the same as the proposed law was enacted after the petition was filed and before the date of the election. I will advise you in writing of my determination in this matter.

Please also be advised that under AS 15.45.240, any person aggrieved by my determination set out in this letter may bring an action in the superior court to have the determination reversed within 30 days of the date on which notice of the determination was given.

If you have questions or comments about the ongoing initiative process, please contact my staff, April Simpson, at (907) 465-4081.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Dahlstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor

Enclosures

cc: Stephen J. Cox, Attorney General  
Thomas Flynn, Chief Assistant Attorney General  
Carol Beecher, Director, Division of Elections



Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom  
STATE OF ALASKA

## NOTICE OF PROPER FILING

I, NANCY DAHLSTROM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, under the provisions of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Alaska and under the provisions of AS 15.45, hereby provide notice that the initiative petition for *"An Act requiring that only United States citizens may be qualified to vote in Alaska elections."* which was received on September 9, 2025, and known as 25USCV, was properly filed.

I have determined that the initiative sponsors have timely filed the petition and that the petition is signed by qualified voters (1) equal in number to 10 percent of those who voted in the preceding general election; (2) resident in at least three-fourths of the house districts in the state; and (3) who, in each of the house districts, are equal in number to at least seven percent of those who voted in the preceding general election in the house district.

In accordance with AS 15.45.190, the Director of the Division of Elections shall place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot of the first statewide general, special, or primary election that is held after a period of 120 days has expired since the adjournment of the legislative session. Barring any unforeseen special election or adjournment of the current legislative session on or before April 20, 2026, this proposition is scheduled to appear on the general election ballot on the November 3, 2026 general election.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed hereto the Seal of the State of Alaska, at Anchorage, Alaska,

This 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Dahlstrom".

NANCY DAHLSTROM, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**NANCY DAHLSTROM**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
lt.governor@alaska.gov




550 W 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
Main: 907.269.7460

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Carol Beecher, Director  
Division of Elections

FROM: Nancy Dahlstrom   
Lieutenant Governor

CC: Stephen J. Cox, Attorney General  
Department of Law

Thomas Flynn, Chief Assistant Attorney General  
Department of Law

DATE: March 16, 2026

RE: 25USCV Ballot Proposition

---

The initiative 25USCV has been properly filed. Under AS 15.45.190, please place the ballot title and proposition on the 2026 General Election ballot, unless the legislature adjourns on or before April 20, 2026, in which case place it on the 2026 Primary Election ballot.

After the legislative session I will determine, with the formal concurrence of the Attorney General, under AS 15.45.210, if any act of the legislature is substantially the same as the proposed law in 25USCV. I will advise you of my determination in this matter.

Thank you

PETITION TYPE : INITIATIVE

PETITION ID : 25USCV

PETITION NAME : THIS IS AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT ONLY UNITED STATES CITIZENS MAY QUALIFY TO VOTE  
IN ALASKA ELECTIONS

REQUIRED SIGNATURES	34098	(A) ADDRESS NOT PROVIDED	37
		(D) DUPLICATE SIGNATURE	2631
NUMBER OF QUALIFIED	34944	(E) NO SIGN DATE PROVIDED	244
(Q) QUALIFIED	34919	(F) NO ID PROVIDED	942
(H) INACTIVE QUALIFIED	25	(I) INACTIVE NOT QUALIFIED	378
		(J) NOT IN JURISDICTION	
NUMBER OF UNQUALIFIED	14235	(K) SIGNED BEFORE REGISTERED	65
		(O) INVALID BOOKLET	4766
TOTAL SIGNATURES	49179	(P) PRINT NAME NO SIGNATURE	32
		(R) NOT REGISTERED	4962
		(W) SIGNER WITHDREW	6
		(Y) SIGN DATE AFTER BOOK CERT	172

DISTRICT	# SIG REQUIRED	QUALIFIED
01	607	721
02	677	124
03	782	897
04	653	1019
05	567	726
06	844	1018
07	678	1397
08	761	1283
09	836	941
10	619	883
11	695	940
12	600	1165
13	534	1055
14	525	1338
15	657	952
16	682	1327
17	546	1264
18	339	487
19	355	1145
20	513	1093
21	638	1089
22	386	1038
23	752	1011
24	713	1088
25	737	1407
26	664	932
27	624	853
28	653	869
29	740	976
30	727	941
31	496	582
32	413	447
33	623	1060
34	706	765
35	686	720
36	680	360
37	311	223
38	286	239
39	302	178
40	235	238
97	0	153