

## Ballot Initiative 24ESEG

Repeal the open primary and ranked choice general elections

AN INITIATIVE TO:

REPEAL A NONPARTISAN AND OPEN TOP FOUR PRIMARY ELECTION SYSTEM AND RANKED-CHOICE GENERAL ELECTION SYSTEM; AND TO REESTABLISH A PARTISAN POLITICAL PRIMARY AND CHANGE NECESSARY APPOINTMENT PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN ELECTION BOARDS AND WATCHERS AND THE ALASKA PUBLIC OFFICES COMMISSION; REESTABLISH SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTIONS; REPEAL AND AMEND INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURE GROUP REQUIREMENTS.

A BILL BY INITIATIVE

For an Act Entitled

“An Act to repeal a nonpartisan and open top four primary election system and ranked-choice general election system; and to reestablish a partisan political primary and change necessary and related appointment procedures; reestablish special runoff elections; and repeal and amend independent expenditure group requirements.

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

**\*Sec. 1.** AS 15.10.120(c) is amended to read:

1. (c) An election supervisor shall appoint one nominee of the political party or political group with the largest number of registered voters at the time of the preceding gubernatorial election of which the Governor is a member and one nominee of the political party or political group that received the second largest number of registered voters at the time of votes statewide in the preceding gubernatorial election. However, the election supervisor may appoint a qualified person registered as a member of a third political party or political group or as a nonpartisan or undeclared voter if a party district committee or state party central committee of the party or group with the largest number of registered voters of which the Governor is a member the political party or political group with that received the second largest number of registered voters at the time of votes statewide in the preceding gubernatorial election fails to present the names prescribed by (b) of this section by April 15 of a regular election year or at least 60 days before a special primary election,

the election supervisor may appoint any qualified individual registered to vote.

**\*Sec. 2.** AS 15.10.170 is amended to read:

**Sec. 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers.** The precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party district committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party chairperson where neither a precinct nor a party district committee exists, may appoint one or more persons as watchers in each precinct and counting center for any election. Each candidate not representing a political party may appoint one or more watchers for each precinct or counting center in the candidate's respective district or the state for any election. Any organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes an initiative, referendum, or recall may have one or more persons as watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director. A state party chairperson, a precinct party committee, a party district committee, or a candidate not representing a political party or organization or organized group may not have more than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct or counting center. A watcher must be a United States citizen. The watcher may be present at a position inside the place of voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election officials taken from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted and the results certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to present written proof showing appointment by the precinct party committee, the party district committee, the organization or organized group, or the candidate the watcher represents that is signed by the chairperson of the precinct party committee, the party district committee, the state party chairperson, the organization or organized group, or the candidate representing no party.

(a) In addition to the watchers appointed under (a) of this section, in a primary election or, special primary election or special election under AS 15.40.140, or special runoff election under AS 15.40.141, each candidate may appoint one watcher in each precinct and counting center.

**\*Sec. 3.** AS 15.13.020(b) through AS 15.13.020(d) is amended to read:

- (b) The governor shall appoint two members of each of the two political parties or political groups with the largest number of registered voters at the time of whose candidate for Governor received the highest number of votes in the most recent preceding general election at which a governor was elected. The two appointees from each of these two parties or groups shall be chosen from a list of four names to be submitted by the central committee of each party or group.
- (c) The four members selected under (b) of this section shall, by a majority vote, nominate to the governor an individual to serve as the fifth member of the commission. The governor shall either appoint the nominee to the commission, or shall reject the nominee and request those four members to nominate another individual to serve as the fifth member of the commission.
- (d) Members of the commission serve staggered terms of five years, or until a successor is appointed and qualifies. The terms of no two members who are members of the same political party may expire in consecutive years. A member may not serve more than one term. However, a person appointed to fill the unexpired term of a predecessor may be appointed to a successive full five-year term.

**\*Sec. 4.** AS 15.13.040(s) is repealed.

**\*Sec. 5.** AS 15.13.070(g) is repealed.

**\*Sec. 6.** AS 15.13.074(b) is amended to read:

- 1. A person or group may not make a contribution anonymously, using a fictitious name, or using the name of another.

**\*Sec. 7.** AS 15.13.074(c) is amended to read:

- 1. A person or group may not make a contribution
  - (1) to a candidate or an individual who files with the commission the document necessary to permit that individual to incur certain election-related expenses as authorized by AS

15.13.100 when the office is to be filled at a general election before the date that is 18 months before the general election;

- (2) to a candidate or an individual who files with the commission the document necessary to permit that individual to incur certain election-related expenses as authorized by AS 15.13.100 for an office that is to be filled at a special election or municipal election before the date that is 18 months before the date of the regular municipal election or that is before the date of the proclamation of the special election at which the candidate or individual seeks election to public office; or
- (3) to any candidate later than the 45th day
  - (A) after the date of the primary election if the candidate was on the ballot and was not nominated at the primary election; or
  - (B) after the date of the general election, or after the date of a municipal or municipal runoff election.

**\*Sec. 8.** AS 15.13.090(c) is amended to read:

1. (c) To satisfy the requirements of (a)(1) of this section and, if applicable, (a)(2)(C) of this section, a communication that includes a print or video component must have the following statement or statements placed in the communication so as to be easily discernible; the second statement is not required if the person paying for the communication has no contributors or is a political party:

This communication was paid for by (person's name and city and state of principal place of business). The top contributors of (person's name) are (the name and city and state of residence or principal place of business, as applicable, of the largest contributors to the person under AS 15.13.090(a)(2)(C)).

**\*Sec. 9.** AS 15.13.090(g) is repealed.

**\*Sec. 10.** AS 15.13.110(f) is amended to read:

1. During the year in which the election is scheduled, each of the following shall file the campaign disclosure reports in the manner and at the times required by this section:

(1) a person who, under the regulations adopted by the commission to implement AS 15.13.100, indicates an intention to become a candidate for elective state executive or legislative office;

(2) a person who has filed a nominating petition under AS 15.25.140 - 15.25.200 to become a candidate at the general election for elective state executive or legislative office;

(3) a person who campaigns as a write-in candidate for elective state executive or legislative office at the general election; and

(4) a group or nongroup entity that receives contributions or makes expenditures on behalf of or in opposition to a person described in (1) - (3) of this subsection, except as provided for certain independent expenditures by nongroup entities in AS 15.13.135(a).

**\*Sec. 11.** AS 15.13.110(k) is repealed.

**\*Sec. 12.** AS 15.13.390(a) is amended to read:

1. A person who fails to register when required by AS 15.13.050(a) or who fails to file a properly completed and certified report within the time required by AS 15.13.040, 15.13.060(b) - (d), 15.13.110(a)(1), (3), or (4), (e), or (f) is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$50 a day for each day the delinquency continues as determined by the commission subject to right of appeal to the superior court. A person who fails to file a properly completed and certified report within the time required by AS 15.13.110(a)(2) or 15.13.110(b) is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 a day for each day the delinquency continues as determined by the commission subject to right of appeal to the superior court. A person who violates a provision of this chapter, except a provision requiring registration or filing of a report within a time required as otherwise specified in this section, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$50 a day for each day the violation continues as determined by the commission, subject to right

of appeal to the superior court. An affidavit stating facts in mitigation may be submitted to the commission by a person against whom a civil penalty is assessed. However, the imposition of the penalties prescribed in this section or in AS 15.13.380 does not excuse that person from registering or filing reports required by this chapter.

**\*Sec 13.** AS 15.13.400(3) is amended to read:

1. “communication” means an announcement or advertisement disseminated through print or broadcast media, including radio, television, cable, and satellite, the Internet, or through a mass mailing, excluding those placed by an individual or nongroup entity and costing \$500 or less and those that do not directly or indirectly identify a candidate or proposition, as that term is defined in AS 15.13.065(c);

**\*Sec. 14.** AS 15.13.400(4) is amended to read:

1. (4) “contribution”

(A) means a purchase, payment, promise or obligation to pay, loan or loan guarantee, deposit or gift of money, goods, or services for which charge is ordinarily made, and includes the payment by a person other than a candidate or political party, or compensation for the personal services of another person, that is rendered to the candidate or political party, and that is made for the purpose of

- (i) influencing the nomination or election of a candidate;
- (ii) influencing a ballot proposition or question; or
- (iii) supporting or opposing an initiative proposal application filed with the lieutenant governor under AS 15.45.020;

(B) does not include

- (i) services provided without compensation by individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a political party, candidate, or ballot proposition or question;
- (ii) ordinary hospitality in a home;
- (iii) two or fewer mass mailings before each election by each political party describing the party's slate of candidates for election, which may include photographs, biographies, and information about the party's candidates;
- (iv) the results of a poll limited to issues and not mentioning any candidate, unless the poll was requested by or designed primarily to benefit the candidate;

- (v) any communication in the form of a newsletter from a legislator to the legislator's constituents, except a communication expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or a newsletter or material in a newsletter that is clearly only for the private benefit of a legislator or a legislative employee;
- (vi) a fundraising list provided without compensation by one candidate or political party to a candidate or political party;
- or
- (vii) an opportunity to participate in a candidate forum provided to a candidate without compensation to the candidate by another person and for which a candidate is not ordinarily charged;

**\*Sec. 15.** AS 15.13.400(6) is amended to read:

2. (6) “expenditure”

(A) means a purchase or a transfer of money or anything of value, or promise or agreement to purchase or transfer money or anything of value, incurred or made for the purpose of

(i) influencing the nomination or election of a candidate or of any individual who files for nomination at a later date and becomes a candidate;

(ii) use by a political party;

(iii) the payment by a person other than a candidate or political party of compensation for the personal services of another person that are rendered to a candidate or political party;

(iv) influencing the outcome of a ballot proposition or question; or

(v) supporting or opposing an initiative proposal application filed with the lieutenant governor under AS 15.45.020;

(B) does not include a candidate's filing fee or the cost of preparing reports and statements required by this chapter;

(C) does not include any goods or services which are ordinarily available to the general public at no charge;

(D) includes an express communication and an electioneering communication, but does not include an issues communication;

**\*Sec. 16.** AS 15.13.400(18) through AS 15.13.400(19) are repealed.

**\*Sec. 17.** AS 15.15.005 is repealed.

**\*Sec. 18.** AS 15.15.025 is repealed.

**\*Sec. 19.** AS 15.15.030(5) is amended to read:

1. (5) The names of the candidates and their party designations shall be placed in separate sections on the state general election ballot under the office designation to which they were nominated. If a candidate is registered as affiliated with a political party or political group. The party affiliation, if any, shall be designated after the name of the candidate. upon request of the candidate. If a candidate has requested designation as nonpartisan or undeclared, that designation shall be placed after the name of the candidate. If a candidate is not registered as affiliated with a political party or political group and has not requested to be designated as nonpartisan or undeclared, the candidate shall be designated as undeclared. The lieutenant governor and the governor shall be included under the same section. Provision shall be made for voting for write-in and no-party candidates within each section. Paper ballots for the state general election shall be printed on white paper.

**\*Sec. 20.** AS 15.15.030(14) – (17) are repealed.

**\*Sec. 21.** AS 15.15.060(e) is repealed.

**\*Sec. 22.** AS 15.15.350(c) – (g) are repealed.

**\*Sec. 23.** AS 15.15.360(a) is amended to read:

1. (a)The election board shall count ballots according to the following rules:
  1. A voter may mark a ballot only by filling in, making “X” marks, diagonal, horizontal, or vertical marks, solid marks, stars, circles, asterisks, checks, or plus signs that are clearly spaced in the oval opposite the name of the candidate, proposition, or question that the voter desires to designate. [IN A GENERAL ELECTION, A VOTER MAY MARK A BALLOT THAT REQUIRES THE VOTER TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF RANKED PREFERENCE BY THE USE OF NUMERALS THAT ARE CLEARLY SPACED IN ONE OF THE OVALS

OPPOSITE THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE THAT THE VOTER DESIRES TO DESIGNATE.]

2. A failure to properly mark a ballot as to one or more candidates does not itself invalidate the entire ballot.
3. If a voter marks fewer names than there are persons to be elected to the office, a vote shall be counted for each candidate properly marked.
4. (5) The mark specified in (1) of this subsection shall be counted only if it is substantially inside the oval provided, or touching the oval so as to indicate clearly that the voter intended the particular oval to be designated.
5. (6) Improper marks on the ballot may not be counted and do not invalidate marks for candidates properly made.
6. (7) An erasure or correction invalidates only that section of the ballot in which it appears.
7. (8) A vote marked for the candidate for President or Vice-President of the United States is considered and counted as a vote for the election of the presidential electors.

**\*Sec. 24.** AS 15.15.370 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.15.370. Completion of ballot count; certificate.** When the count of ballots is completed, and in no event later than the day after the election, the election board shall make a certificate in duplicate of the results. The certificate includes the number of votes cast for each candidate, for and against each proposition, yes or no on each question, and any additional information prescribed by the director. The election board shall, immediately upon completion of the certificate or as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits, send in one sealed package to the director one copy of the certificate and the register. In addition, all ballots properly cast shall be mailed to the director in a separate, sealed package. Both packages, in addition to an address on the outside, shall clearly indicate the precinct from which they come. Each board shall,

immediately upon completion of the certification and as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits, send the duplicate certificate to the respective election supervisor. The director may authorize election boards in precincts in those areas of the state where distance and weather make mail communication unreliable to forward their election results by telephone or radio. The director may authorize the unofficial totaling of votes on a regional basis by election supervisors, tallying the votes as indicated on duplicate certificates. To ensure adequate protection, the director shall prescribe the manner in which the ballots, registers, and all other election records and materials are thereafter preserved, transferred, and destroyed.

**\*Sec. 25.** AS 15.15.450 is amended to read:

**1. Sec. 15.15.450. Certification of state ballot counting review.**

Upon completion of the state ballot counting review the director shall certify the person receiving the largest number of votes for the office for which that person was a candidate as elected to that office and shall certify the approval of a justice or judge not rejected by a majority of the voters voting on the question. The director shall issue to the elected candidates and approved justices and judges a certificate of their election or approval. The director shall also certify the results of a proposition and other question except that the lieutenant governor shall certify the results of an initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment.

**\*Sec. 26.** AS 15.20.081(h) is amended to read:

1. (h) Except as provided in AS 15.20.480, an absentee ballot returned by mail from outside the United States or from an overseas voter qualifying under AS 15.05.011 that has been marked and mailed not later than election day may not be counted unless the ballot is received by the election supervisor not later than the close of business on the

1. 10th day following a primary election or special primary election under AS 15.40.140; or

2. 15th day following a general election, special runoff election, or special election, other than a special primary election described in (1) of this subsection.

**\*Sec. 27.** AS 15.20.190(a) is amended to read:

1. Thirty days before the date of an election, the election supervisors shall appoint, in the same manner provided for the appointment of election officials prescribed in AS 15.10, district absentee ballot counting boards and district questioned ballot counting boards, each composed of at least four members. At least one member of each board must be a member of the same political party of which the governor is a member, and at least one member of each board must be a member of the political party whose candidate for governor received the second largest number of votes in the preceding gubernatorial election. The district boards shall assist the election supervisors in counting the absentee and questioned ballots and shall receive the same compensation paid election officials under AS 15.15.380.

**\*Sec. 28.** AS 15.20.203(i) is amended to read:

1. (i) The director shall mail the materials described in (h) of this section to the voter not later than
  1. 10 days after completion of the review of ballots by the state review board for a primary election, or for a special election under AS 15.40.140 that is followed by a special runoff election;
  2. 60 days after certification of the results of a general election, special runoff election, or special election other than a special primary election described in (1) of this subsection.

**\*Sec. 29.** AS 15.20.203{j) is amended to read:

1. (j) The director shall make available through a free access system to each absentee voter a system to check to see whether the voter's ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted. The director shall make this information available through the free access system not less than

1. 10 days after certification of the results of a primary election, or a special primary election under AS 15.40.140 that is followed by a special runoff election; and
2. 30 days after certification of the results of a general or special election, other than a special primary election described in (1) of this subsection.

**\*Sec. 30.** AS 15.20.207(i) is amended to read:

1. (i) The director shall mail the materials described in (h) of this section to the voter not later than
  1. 10 days after completion of the review of ballots by the state review board for a primary election, or for a special primary election under AS 15.40.140 that is followed by a special runoff election;
  2. 60 days after certification of the results of a general or special election, other than a special primary election described in (1) of this subsection.

**\*Sec. 31.** AS 15.20.207(k) is amended to read:

1. (k) The director shall make available through a free access system to each voter voting a questioned ballot a system to check to see whether the voter's ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted. The director shall make this information available through the free access system not less than
  1. 10 days after certification of the results of a primary election, or a special election under AS 15.40.140 that is followed by a special runoff election; and
  2. 30 days after the certification of the results of a general or special election, other than a special election described in (1) of this subsection.

**\*Sec. 32.** AS 15.20.211(d) is amended to read:

1. (d) The director shall mail the materials described in (c) of this section to the voter not later than

1. 10 days after completion of the review of ballots by the state review board for a primary election, or for a special election under AS 15.40.140 that is followed by a special runoff election;
2. 60 days after certification of the results of a general or special election, other than a special election described in (1) of this subsection.

**\*Sec. 33.** AS 15.20.211(f) is amended to read:

1: (f) The director shall make available through a free access system to each voter whose ballot was subject to partial counting under this section a system to check to see whether the voter's ballot was partially counted and, if not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted. The director shall make this information available through the free access system not less than

1. 10 days after certification of the results of a primary election, or a special election under AS 15.40.140 that is followed by a special runoff election; and
2. 30 days after the certification of the results of a general or special election, other than a special election described in (1) of this subsection.

**\*Sec. 34.** AS 15.25.010 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.25.010. Provision for primary election.** Candidates for the elective state executive and state and national legislative offices shall be nominated in a primary election by direct vote of the people in the manner prescribed by this chapter. The director shall prepare and provide a primary election ballot for each political party. A voter registered as affiliated with a political party may vote that party's ballot. A voter registered as nonpartisan or undeclared rather than as affiliated with a particular political party may vote the political party ballot of the voter's choice unless prohibited from doing so under AS 15.25.014. A voter registered as affiliated with a political party may not vote the ballot of a different political party unless permitted to do so un

**\*Sec. 35.** AS 15.25.014 is reenacted to read:

**1. 15.25.014. Participation in primary election selection of a political party's candidates.**

(a) Not later than 5:00 p.m., Alaska time, on September 1 of the calendar year before the calendar year in which a primary election is to be held, a political party shall submit a notice in writing to the director stating whether the party bylaws expand or limit who may participate in the primary election for selection of the party's candidates for elective state executive and state and national legislative offices. A copy of the party's bylaws expanding or limiting who may participate in the primary election for selection of the party's candidates, documentation required under (b) of this section, and other information required by the director, must be submitted along with the notice. The notice, bylaws, documentation, and other information required by the director shall be provided by the party's chairperson or another party official designated by the party's bylaws.

(b) Once a political party timely submits a notice and bylaws under (a) of this section and the director finds that the party has met the requirements of this chapter and other applicable laws, the director shall permit a voter registered as affiliated with another party to vote the party's ballot if the voter is permitted by the party's bylaws to participate in the selection of the party's candidates and may not permit a voter registered as nonpartisan or undeclared to vote a party's ballot if the party's bylaws restrict participation by nonpartisan or undeclared voters in the party's primary. However, for a subsequent primary election, the party shall timely submit another notice, bylaws, documentation, and other information under (a) of this section if the party's bylaws regarding who may participate in the primary election for selection of the party's candidates change.

(c) Party bylaws required to be submitted under (a) of this section must be precleared by the United States Department of Justice under 42 U.S.C. 1973c (sec. 5, Voting Rights Act of 1965) before submission. Documentation of the preclearance must accompany the bylaws submitted under (a) of this section.

**\*Sec. 36.** AS 15.25.030(a) is amended to read:

a. (a) A member of a political party who seeks to become a candidate of the party in the primary election shall execute and file a declaration of candidacy. The declaration shall be executed under oath before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments and must state in substance

1. the full name of the candidate;
2. the full mailing address of the candidate;
3. if the candidacy is for the office of state senator or state representative, the house or senate district of which the candidate is a resident;
4. the office for which the candidate seeks nomination;
5. the political party or political group with whom the candidate is registered as affiliated. or whether the candidate would prefer a nonpartisan or undeclared designation placed after the candidate's name on the ballot of which the person is a candidate for nomination;
6. the full residence address of the candidate, and the date on which residency at that address began;
7. the date of the primary election or special primary election at which the candidate seeks nomination;
8. the length of residency in the state and in the district of the candidate;
9. that the candidate will meet the specific citizenship requirements of the office for which the person is a candidate;
10. that the candidate is a qualified voter as required by law;
11. that the candidate will meet the specific age requirements of the office for which the person is a candidate; if the candidacy is for the office of state representative, that the candidate will be at least 21 years of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular

session of the legislature convened after the election; if the candidacy is for the office of state senator, that the candidate will be at least 25 years of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; if the candidacy is for the office of governor or lieutenant governor, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the first Monday in December following election or, if the office is to be filled by special election under AS 15.40.230 – 15.40.310, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the date of certification of the results of the special election; or, for any other office, by the time that the candidate, if elected, is sworn into office;

12. that the candidate requests that the candidate's name be placed on the primary or special primary election ballot;
13. that the required fee accompanies the declaration;
14. that the person is not a candidate for any other office to be voted on at the primary or general election and that the person is not a candidate for this office under any other declaration of candidacy or nominating petition;
15. the manner in which the candidate wishes the candidate's name to appear on the ballot;
16. that the candidate is registered to vote as a member of the political party whose nomination is being sought.

**\*Sec. 37.** AS 15.25.056 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.056. Nomination by party petition where incumbent dies or is disqualified or incapacitated.**

(a) If an unopposed incumbent candidate for renomination dies, becomes disqualified from holding the office the candidate is seeking, or is certified as being incapacitated between June 1 of the election year and that date which is more than 54 days before the date of the primary election, the candidate's place on the ballot may be filled by party petition. The petition shall state that the political party requests the name of the proposed candidate replace that of

the incumbent on the primary election ballot and shall be accompanied by a declaration of candidacy from the person named in the petition. The petition must be received by the director not later than 14 days after the death, disqualification, or certification of incapacity of the incumbent or 52 days before the primary election date, whichever time is earlier.

(b) The method for certifying an incumbent candidate for nomination as being incapacitated, the method for selecting the person who is to be named in the party petition, and the method for placing the name of the person selected on the primary nomination ballot are the same as those prescribed in AS 15.25.110 and 15.25.130 relating to filling vacancies of party nominees in a general election.

(c) The death, disqualification, or certification of incapacity of the incumbent within 52 days before or on the primary election date does not affect the counting and review of the ballots. If the result of the counting and review discloses that the candidate, if the candidate had lived, would have been nominated, the candidate shall be declared nominated. The vacancy may be filled by party petition as provided in AS 15.25.110 - 15.25.130.

**\*Sec. 38.** AS 15.25.060 is repealed and reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.25.060. Preparation and distribution of ballots; appropriate ballot.**
2. (a) The primary election ballots shall be prepared and distributed by the director in the manner prescribed in this section. The director shall prepare and provide a primary election ballot for each political party that contains all of the candidates of that party for elective state executive and state and national legislative offices and all of the ballot titles and propositions required to appear on the ballot at the primary election. The director shall print the ballots on white paper and place the names of all candidates who have properly filed in groups according to offices. The order of the placement of the names for each office shall be as provided for the general election ballot. Blank spaces may not be provided on the ballot for the writing or pasting in of names. The director shall also prepare and print a separate primary election ballot including only the ballot titles and propositions required to appear on the ballot.

3. (b) A voter may vote only one primary election ballot. A voter may vote a political party ballot only if the voter is registered as affiliated with that party, is allowed to participate in the party primary under the party's bylaws, or is registered as nonpartisan or undeclared rather than as affiliated with a particular political party and the party's bylaws do not restrict participation by nonpartisan or undeclared voters in the party's primary. For the purpose of determining which primary election ballot a voter may use, a voter's party affiliation is considered to be the affiliation registered with the director as of the 30th day before the primary election. If a voter changes party affiliation within the 30 days before the primary election, the voter's previous party affiliation shall be used for the determination under this subsection.
4. (c) If a voter is not voting in person and has requested an absentee ballot or special needs ballot but has not indicated a choice of ballot, the director shall provide the voter with the ballot listing the candidates of the political party or group with which the voter is affiliated, as determined under (b) of this section.

**\*Sec. 39.** AS 15.25.100 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.100. Placement of candidates on general election ballot.** The director shall place the name of the candidate receiving the highest number of votes for an office by a political party on the general election ballot.

**\*Sec. 40.** AS 15.25.105(a) is amended to read:

(a) If a candidate does not appear on the primary election ballot or is not successful in advancing to the general election and wishes to be a candidate in the general election, the candidate may file as a write-in candidate. Votes for a write-in candidate may not be counted unless that candidate has filed a letter of intent with the director stating

1. (1) the full name of the candidate;
2. (2) the full residence address of the candidate and the date on which residency at that address began;
3. (3) the full mailing address of the candidate;

4. (4) the name of the political party or political group of which the candidate is a member, if any;
5. (5) if the candidate is for the office of state senator or state representative, the house or senate district of which the candidate is a resident;
6. (6) the office that the candidate seeks;
7. (7) the date of the election at which the candidate seeks election;
8. (8) the length of residency in the state and in the house district of the candidate;
9. (9) the name of the candidate as the candidate wishes it to be written on the ballot by the voter;
10. (10) that the candidate meets the specific citizenship requirements of the office for which the person is a candidate;
11. (11) that the candidate will meet the specific age requirements of the office for which the person is a candidate; if the candidacy is for the office of state representative, that the candidate will be at least 21 years of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; if the candidacy is for the office of state senator, that the candidate will be at least 25 years of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; if the candidacy is for the office of governor or lieutenant governor, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the first Monday in December following election or, if the office is to be filled by special election under AS 15.40.230 - 15.40.310, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the date of certification of the results of the special election; or, for any other office, by the time that the candidate, if elected, is sworn into office;
12. (12) that the candidate is a qualified voter as required by law; and
13. (13) that the candidate is not a candidate for any other office to be voted on at the general election and that the candidate is not a

candidate for this office under any other nominating petition or declaration of candidacy.

**\*Sec. 41.** AS 15.25.105(b) is amended to read:

1. (b) If a write-in candidate is running for the office of governor, the candidate must file a joint letter of intent together with a candidate for lieutenant governor. Both candidates must be of the same political party or group.

**\*Sec. 42.** AS 15.25.110 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.110. Filling vacancies by party petition.** If a candidate of a political party nominated at the primary election dies, withdraws, resigns, becomes disqualified from holding the office for which the candidate is nominated, or is certified as being incapacitated in the manner prescribed by this section after the primary election and 64 days or more before the general election, the vacancy may be filled by party petition. The central committee of any political party or any party district committee may certify as being incapacitated any candidate nominated by their respective party by presenting to the director a sworn statement made by a panel of three licensed physicians, not more than two of whom may be of the same political party, that the candidate is physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent that would in the panel's judgment prevent the candidate from active service during the term of office if elected. The director shall place the name of the person nominated by party petition on the general election ballot. The name of a candidate disqualified under this section may not appear on the general election ballot.

**\*Sec. 43.** AS 15.25.120 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.120. Requirements for party petition.** Party petitions for the nomination of candidates shall state in substance that the political party desires and intends to support the named candidate for the named office and requests that the name of the proposed candidate be placed on the general election ballot. The petition may be filed not later than 64 days before the date of the general election.

**\*Sec 44.** AS 15.25.130 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.130. Selection of nominees for party petition.** The nominees of political parties by party petition may be selected for statewide offices by the state party central committee or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws, and the petition for statewide offices shall be signed by the state chairperson of the political party or, in the absence of the state chairperson, by any two members of the state party central committee. The nominees of political parties by party petition may be selected for district-wide offices by the respective party district committee or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws, and the petition for district-wide offices shall be signed by the chairperson of the party district committee, or in the absence of the chairperson, by any two members of the party district committee, or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws. The petition may be delivered in person, or by mail, facsimile, or other reliable electronic transmission.

**\*Sec 45.** AS 15.25.140 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.140. Provision for no-party candidate nominations.** Candidates not representing a political party are nominated by petition.

**\*Sec 46.** AS 15.25.150 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.150. Date of filing petition.** A candidate seeking nomination by petition shall submit the information required under AS 15.25.180(a)(1) - (8) and (11) - (17) to the director in the time and manner specified in AS 15.25.040. The full petition with voter signatures shall be filed with the director by actual physical delivery in person at or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the day of the primary election in the year in which a general election is held for the office, or by actual physical delivery to the director by registered or certified mail return receipt requested which is postmarked at or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the day of the primary election in the year in which a general election is held for the office, and received not more than 15 days after that time. If the postmark is illegible, a dated receipt from the post office where dispatched shall be acceptable as evidence of mailing.

**\*Sec 47.** AS 15.25.160 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.160. Required number of signatures for statewide office.** Petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of governor,

lieutenant governor, United States senator, and United States representative shall be signed by qualified voters of the state equal in number to at least one percent of the number of voters who cast ballots in the preceding general election.

**\*Sec 48.** AS 15.25.170 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.170. Required number of signatures for district-wide offices.** Petition for the nomination of candidate for the office of state senator or state representative shall be signed by qualified voters of the house or senate district in which the proposed nominee desires to be a candidate equal in number to at least one percent of the district in the proceeding general election. A nominee petition may not contain less than 50 signatures for any district. (

**\*Sec 49.** AS 15.25.180 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.180. Requirements for petition.**

(a) The petition must state in substance

(1) the full name of the candidate;

(2) the full residence address of the candidate and the date on which residency at that address began;

(3) the full mailing address of the candidate;

(4) the name of the political group, if any, supporting the candidate;

(5) if the candidacy is for the office of state senator or state representative, the house or senate district of which the candidate is a resident;

(6) the office for which the candidate is nominated;

(7) the date of the election at which the candidate seeks election;

(8) the length of residency in the state and in the district of the candidate;

(9) that the subscribers are qualified voters of the state or house or senate district in which the candidate resides;

(10) that the subscribers request that the candidate's name be placed on the general election ballot;

(11) that the proposed candidate accepts the nomination and will serve if elected, with the statement signed by the proposed candidate;

(12) the name of the candidate as the candidate wishes it to appear on the ballot;

(13) that the candidate is not a candidate for any other office to be voted on at the primary or general election and that the candidate is not a candidate for this office under any other nominating petition or declaration of candidacy;

(14) that the candidate meets the specific citizenship requirements of the office for which the person is a candidate;

(15) that the candidate will meet the specific age requirements of the office for which the person is a candidate; if the candidacy is for the office of state representative, that the candidate will be at least 21 years of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; if the candidacy is for the office of state senator, that the candidate will be at least 25 years of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; and if the candidacy is for the office of governor or lieutenant governor, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the first Monday in December following election or, if the office is to be filled by special election under AS 15.40.230 - 15.40.310, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the date of certification of the results of the special election; or, for any other office, by the time that the candidate, if elected, is sworn into office;

(16) that the candidate is a qualified voter; and

(17) if the candidacy is for the office of the governor, the name of the candidate for lieutenant governor running jointly with the candidate for governor.

(b) A person filing a nominating petition under this section, other than a person subject to AS 24.60 who is filing a petition for a state legislative office, shall simultaneously file with the director a statement of income sources and

business interests that complies with the requirements of AS 39.50. A person who is subject to AS 24.60 and is filing a nominating petition for state legislative office shall simultaneously file with the director a disclosure statement that complies with the requirements of AS 24.60.200.

(c) An incumbent public official, other than a legislator, who has a current statement of income sources and business interests under AS 39.50 on file with the Alaska Public Offices Commission, or an incumbent legislator who has a current disclosure statement under AS 24.60.200 on file with the Alaska Public Offices Commission, is not required to file a statement of income sources and business interests or a disclosure statement with the nominating petition under (b) of this section.

**\*Sec 50.** AS 15.25.185 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.185. Eligibility of candidate.** The provisions of AS 15.25.042 and 15.25.043 apply to determinations of a candidate's eligibility when a candidate seeks nomination by petition under AS 15.25.140 - 15.25.200.

**\*Sec. 51.** AS 15.25.190 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.190. Placement of names on general election ballot.** The director shall place the names and the political group affiliation of persons who have been properly nominated by petition on the general election ballot.

**\*Sec. 52.** AS 15.25.200 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.25.200. Withdrawal of candidate's name.** If a candidate nominated by petition dies or withdraws after the petition has been filed and 64 days or more before the general election, the director may not place the name of the candidate on the general election ballot.

**\*Sec. 53.** AS 15.30.010 is amended to read:

**1. Sec. 15.30.010. Provision for selection of electors.** Electors of President and Vice President of the United States are selected by election at the general election in presidential election years.

**\*Sec. 54.** AS 15.40.140 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.140. Condition of calling special primary election and special election.** When a vacancy occurs in the office of United States senator or United States representative, the governor shall, by proclamation, call a special election under AS 15.40.142(a). However, if the vacancy occurs on a date that is less than 60 days before or is on or after the date of the primary election in the general election year during which a candidate to fill the office is regularly elected, the governor may not call a special election.

**\*Sec. 55.** AS 15.40.141 is reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.141. Condition of calling special runoff election.**
2. (a) If no candidate in a special election called under AS 15.40.140 receives over 50 percent of the votes cast for the office, the governor shall, by proclamation, call a special runoff election under AS 15.40.142(b).
3. (b) In a special runoff election called under (a) of this section, the director shall place the names of the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes and the second greatest number of votes in the special election on the special runoff election ballot.

**\*Sec. 56.** AS 15.40.142 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.40.142. Time of calling the special election and the special runoff election.**

(a) Except as provided in (c) of this section, if a special election is called under AS 15.40.140, it shall be held on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days after the date the vacancy occurs.

(b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, a special runoff election under AS 15.40.141 shall be held on the first Tuesday that is not a state holiday occurring not less than 60 days after the special election.

(c) In an election year in which a candidate for the vacant office is not regularly elected, and the vacancy occurs on a date that is not less than 60, nor more than 90, days before the date of

(1) the primary election, the special election shall be held on the date of the primary election with any subsequent special runoff election under AS 15.40.141 to be held on the date of the general election; or

(2) the general election, the special election shall be held on the date of the general election with any subsequent special runoff election under AS 15.40.141 to be held on the first Tuesday that is not a state holiday occurring not less than 60 days after the special and general election.

**\*Sec. 57.** AS 15.40.150 is reenacted to read:

**1. Sec. 15.40.150. Condition for holding special election with primary.**

If the vacancy occurs on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days before the date of the primary election, the governor shall, by proclamation, call the special election to be held on the date of the primary election.

**\*Sec. 58.** AS 15.40.160 is amended to read:

- 1. Sec. 15.40.160. Proclamation.** The governor shall issue the proclamation calling the special primary election and special election at least 50 days before the [(1)] special primary election; and (2) if a special runoff election is required under AS 15.40.141(a), special runoff election.

**\*Sec. 59.** AS 15.40.165 is amended to read:

- 1. Sec. 15.40.165. Term of elected senator.** At the special election, or, as provided by AS 15.40.141, at the special runoff election, a United States senator shall be elected to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. The person elected shall take office on the date the United States Senate meets, convenes, or reconvenes following the certification of the results of the special election or special runoff election by the director.

**\*Sec. 60.** AS 15.40.170 is amended to read:

- 1. Sec. 15.40.170. Term of elected representative.** At the special election, or as provided by AS 15.40.141, at the special runoff election, United States representative shall be elected to fill the remainder of the

unexpired term. The person elected shall take office on the date the United States house of representatives meets, convenes, or reconvenes following the certification of the results of the special election or special runoff election by the director.

**\*Sec. 61.** AS 15.40.190 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.190. Requirements of petition for no-party candidates.** Petitions for the nomination of candidates not representing a political party shall be signed by qualified voters of the state equal in number to at least one percent of the number of voters who cast ballots in the preceding general election and shall state in substance that which is required for nomination petitions by AS 15.25.180.

**\*Sec. 62.** AS 15.40 .200 is reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.200. Requirements of party petition.** Petitions for the nomination of candidates of political parties shall state in substance that the party desires and intends to support the named candidate for the office of United States senator or United States representative, as appropriate, at the special election and requests that the name of the candidate nominated be placed on the ballot.

**\*Sec. 63.** AS 15.40.210 is reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.210. Selection of party nominees.** The nominees of political parties may be selected by the state convention or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws, and the petition shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the state convention, or if the nominees are selected by the party central committee, the petition shall be signed by the chairperson of the central committee or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws.

**\*Sec. 64.** AS 15.40.220 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.220. General provisions for conduct of the special primary election and special runoff election.** Unless specifically provided otherwise, all provisions regarding the conduct of the general election shall govern the conduct of the special election and the special

runoff election of the United States senator or United States representative, including provisions concerning voter qualifications; provisions regarding the duties, powers, rights, and obligations of the director, of other election officials, and of municipalities; provision for notification of the election; provision for payment of election expenses; provisions regarding employees being allowed time from work to vote; provisions for the counting, reviewing, and certification of returns; provision for running as, voting for, and counting ballots for a write-in candidate; provisions for the determination of the votes and of recounts, contests, and appeal; and provision for absentee voting.

**\*Sec. 65.** AS 15.40.230 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.230. Condition and time of calling special primary election and special election.** When a person appointed to succeed to the office of lieutenant governor succeeds to the office of acting governor, the acting governor shall, by proclamation, call a special election to be held on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days after the date the vacancy in the office of the governor occurred. However, if the vacancy occurs on a date that is less than 60 days before or is on or after the date of the primary election in years in which a governor is regularly elected, the acting governor shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term and may not call a special election.

**\*Sec. 66.** AS 15.40.240 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.240. Conditions for holding special election with primary or general election.** If the vacancy occurs on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days before the date of the primary election in years in which a governor is regularly elected or if the vacancy occurs on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days before the date of the primary election or general election in election years in which a governor is not regularly elected, the acting governor shall, by proclamation, call the special election to be held on the date of the primary election or general election.

**\*Sec. 67.** AS 15.40.250 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.250. Proclamation of special election.** The acting governor shall issue the proclamation at least 50 days before the election.

**\*Sec. 68.** AS 15.40.280 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.280. Requirements of petition for no-party candidates.** Petitions for the nomination of candidates not representing a political party shall be signed by qualified voters of the state equal in number to at least one percent of the number of voters who cast ballots in the preceding general election, shall include nominees for the office of governor and lieutenant governor, and shall state in substance that which is required for nomination petitions by AS 15.25.180.

**\*Sec. 69.** AS 15.40.290 is reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.290. Requirements of party petition.** Petitions for the nomination of candidates of political parties shall state in substance that the party desires and intends to support the named candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor at the special election and requests that the names of the two candidates nominated be placed on the ballot.

**\*Sec. 70.** AS 15.40.300 is reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.300. Selection of party nominees.** The nominees of political parties may be selected by state convention or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws, and the petition shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the state convention, or, if the nominees are selected by the party central committee, the petition shall be signed by the state chairperson of the political party or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws.

**\*Sec. 71.** AS 15.40.310 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.310. General provisions for conduct of special election.** Unless specifically provided otherwise, all provisions regarding the conduct of the general election shall govern the conduct of the special election of the governor and lieutenant governor, including provisions concerning voter qualifications; provisions regarding the duties,

powers, rights, and obligations of the director, of other election officials, and of municipalities; provision for notification of the election; provision for payment of election expenses; provisions regarding employees being allowed time from work to vote; provisions for the counting, reviewing, and certification of returns; provisions for the determination of the votes and of recounts, contests, and appeal; and provision for absentee voting.

**\*Sec. 72.** AS 15.40.330 is amended to read:

**1. Sec. 15.40.330. Qualification and confirmation of appointee.**

1. The appointee shall meet the qualifications of a member of the legislature as prescribed in art. II, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, shall be a member of the same political party as that which nominated the predecessor in office, and shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the legislature who are members of the same political party which nominated the predecessor in office and of the same house as was the predecessor in office. If the predecessor in office was not nominated by a political party or if no other member of the predecessor's political party is a member of the predecessor's house of the legislature, the governor may appoint any qualified person. If the appointee is not a member of a political party, the appointment is not subject to confirmation. If the appointee is a member of a political party, the appointment is subject to confirmation as provided by this section for the confirmation of political party appointees.
2. (b) A member of a political party is a person who supports the political program of a party. The filing for office of a candidate as an independent or no-party candidate does not preclude a candidate from being a member of a political party. Recognition of an independent or no-party candidate as a member of a party caucus of members of the legislature at the legislative session following the election of the independent or no-party candidate is recognition of that person's party membership at the time filings were made by party candidates for the preceding general election.

**\*Sec. 73.** AS 15.40.380 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.380. Conditions for part-term senate appointment and special election.** If the vacancy is for an unexpired senate term of more than two years and five full calendar months, the governor shall call a special election by proclamation and the appointment shall expire on the date the state senate first convenes or reconvenes following the certification of the results of the special election by the director.

**\*Sec. 74.** AS 15.40.390 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.390. Date of special election.** The special election to fill a vacancy in the state senate shall be held on the date of the first general election held more than three full calendar months after the senate vacancy occurs.

**\*Sec. 75.** AS 15.40.400 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.400. Proclamation of special election.** The governor shall issue the proclamation calling the special election at least 50 days before the election.

**\*Sec. 76.** AS 15.40.440 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.440. Requirements of petition for no-party candidates.** Petitions for the nomination of candidates not representing a political party shall be signed by qualified voters equal in number to at least one percent of the number of voters who cast ballots in the proposed nominee's respective house or senate district in the preceding general election. A nominating petition may not contain less than 50 signatures for any district, and must state in substance that which is required in petitions for nomination by AS 15.25.180.

**\*Sec. 77.** AS 15.40.450 is reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.450. Requirements of petition by political party.** Petitions for the nomination of candidates of political parties shall state in substance that the party desires and intends to support the named candidate for the office of state senator at the special election and requests that the name of the candidate be placed on the ballot.

**\*Sec. 78.** AS 15.40.460 is reenacted to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.460. Selection of political party nominees.** The nominees of political parties may be selected by the respective party district committee or by any other manner as provided by the party bylaws, and the petition shall be signed by the chairperson of the party district committee or by any other party official designated by the party bylaws.

**\*Sec. 79.** AS 15.40.470 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.40.470. General provision for conduct of the special election.** Unless specifically provided otherwise, all provisions regarding the conduct of the general election shall govern the conduct of the special election of state senators, including provisions concerning voter qualifications; provisions regarding the duties, powers, rights, and obligations of the director, of other election officials, and of municipalities; provision for notification of the election; provision for payment of election expenses; provisions regarding employees being allowed time from work to vote; provisions for the counting, reviewing, and certification of returns; provisions for the determination of the votes and of recounts, contests, and appeal; and provision for absentee voting.

**\*Sec. 80.** AS 15.45.190 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.45.190. Placing proposition on ballot.** The lieutenant governor shall direct the director to place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot of the first statewide general, special, special runoff, 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.

**\*Sec. 81.** AS 15.45.420 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.45.420. Placing proposition on ballot.** The lieutenant governor shall direct the director to place the ballot title and proposition

on the election ballot for the first statewide general, special, special runoff, or primary election held more than 180 days after adjournment of the legislative session at which the act was passed.

**\*Sec. 82.** AS 15.58.010 is amended to read:

1. **Sec. 15.58.010. Election pamphlet.** Before each state general election, and before each state primary, special, or special runoff election at which a ballot proposition is scheduled to appear on the ballot, the lieutenant governor shall prepare, publish, and mail at least one election pamphlet to each household identified from the official registration list. The pamphlet shall be prepared on a regional basis as determined by the lieutenant governor.

**\*Sec. 83.** AS 15.58.020(a)(13) is repealed.

**\*Sec. 84.** AS 15.58.020(b) is amended to read:

1. (b) Each primary, special, or special runoff election pamphlet shall contain only the information specified in (a)(G) and (a)(9) of this section for each ballot measure scheduled to appear on the primary, special, or special runoff election ballot.

**\*Sec. 85.** AS 15.58.020(c) is repealed.

**\*Sec. 86.** AS 15.58.030(b) is amended to read:

1. (b) No later than July 22 of a year in which a state general election will be held, an individual who becomes a candidate for the office of United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, state senator, or state representative under AS 15.25.030 or 15.25.180 may file with the lieutenant governor a photograph and a statement advocating the candidacy. An individual who becomes a candidate for the office of United States senator, United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, state senator, or state representative by party petition filed under AS 15.25.110 may file with the lieutenant governor a photograph and a statement advocating the candidacy within 10 days of becoming a candidate.

**\*Sec. 87.** AS 15.80.010(9) is amended to read:

1. (9) “federal election” means a general, special, special runoff, or primary election held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating, or electing a candidate for the office of President, Vice-President, presidential elector, United States senator, or United States representative;

**\*Sec. 88.** AS 15.80.010(27) is amended to read:

1. (27) “political party” means an organized group of voters that represents a political program and
  - A. that nominated a candidate for governor who received at least three percent of the total votes cast for governor at the preceding general election or has registered voters in the state equal in number to at least three percent of the total votes cast for governor at the preceding general election;
  - B. if the office of governor was not on the ballot at the preceding general election but the office of United States senator was on that ballot, that nominated a candidate for United States senator who received at least three percent of the total votes cast for United States senator at that general election or has registered voters in the state equal in number to at least three percent of the total votes cast for United States senator at that general election; or
  - C. ] if neither the office of governor nor the office of United States senator was on the ballot at the preceding general election, that nominated a candidate for United States representative who received at least three percent of the total votes cast for United States representative at that general election or has registered voters in the state equal in number to at least three percent of the total votes cast for United States representative at that general election;

**\*Sec. 89.** AS 15.80.010(46) is repealed.

**\*Sec.90.** AS 39.50.020(b) is amended to read:

1. (b) A public official or former public official other than an elected or appointed municipal officer shall file the statement with the Alaska Public

Offices Commission. Candidates for the office of governor and lieutenant governor and, if the candidate is not subject to AS 24.60, the legislature shall file the statement under AS 15.25.030 or 15.25.180. Municipal officers, former municipal officers, and candidates for elective municipal office, shall file with the municipal clerk or other municipal official designated to receive their filing for office. All statements required to be filed under this chapter are public records.

**\*Sec. 91.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

TRANSITION; VOTER EDUCATION AS TO CHANGES MADE TO RETURN TO A TRADITIONAL VOTING SYSTEM.

For a period of not less than two calendar years immediately following the effective date of this Act, the director of elections shall, in a manner reasonably calculated to educate the public, inform voters of the changes made to the state's election systems in this Act.

## 24ESEG - Statement of Costs

### Multi Agency Cost Summary

#### Agency

Alaska Public Offices Commission	\$6,975
Office of the Lieutenant Governor	\$15,000
Office of the Lieutenant Governor – Division of Elections	\$2,608,983
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,630,958</b>

#### Estimate of Costs to the Alaska Public Offices Commission

As required by AS 15.45.090(a)(4), the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) has prepared the following statement of costs to implement the proposed ballot initiative.

The proposed initiative seeks to repeal provisions of Ballot Measure 2 passed by voters in the 2020 state general election. If passed the initiative would repeal certain reporting requirements for persons engaged in independent expenditure activities and their contributors; and certain identifier requirements for political communications.

Approximately 60 programming hours will be required to design, test, and deploy changes to the agency's online filing program. Estimated Cost: ~\$3,975

Approximately 30 staff hours will be required to revise, publish notice, and adopt regulations needed to implement the measure. Estimated Cost: ~\$3,000

Estimated cost to amend APOC's online filing program and adopt new regulations     **\$6,975**

#### 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 has 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 and LIO services 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 \$2,608,983.

#### Estimate by Category

Personal Services	\$81,626
Printing Services	\$1,505
Voter Education	\$2,500,000
<u>Language Assistance</u>	<u>\$25,852</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,608,983</b>

## 24ESEG - Statement of Costs

### Analysis of Fiscal Impact of Ballot Initiative

#### **Initiative Petition Review**

Personal Services: Six temporary employees to review signatures for 2,520 hours.

Estimated cost: \$57,312

Certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition estimated for 504 hours.

Estimated cost: \$24,314.

Printing Services: Printing service expenses associated with certification of the initiative application and review of initiative petition.

Printing of voter booklets: \$1,505

#### **Public Education Campaign**

A public education campaign will need to take place to inform candidates, voters, and election workers of the changes to the primary and general election processes.

Estimated cost: \$2,500,000

#### **Language Assistance**

Estimated cost of translating the ballot measure language for audio and sample ballots and, 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.

Estimated cost: \$25,852

**TOTAL all categories: \$2,630,958**



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

February 14, 2025

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

Re: *24ESEG Ballot Measure Application Review*  
AGO No. 2025200007

Dear Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom:

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

An Act to repeal a nonpartisan and open top four primary election system and ranked-choice general election system; and to reestablish a partisan political primary and change necessary and related appointment procedures; reestablish special runoff elections; and repeal and amend independent expenditure group requirements. (24ESEG).

We review initiatives to ensure they meet all constitutional and statutory requirements, without considering the merits of any initiative. Like 22AKHE, an initiative that failed to pass in the 2024 general election, this initiative would in effect reverse many provisions of 19AKBE, an initiative that passed in the 2020 general election. Because this initiative is like these previous initiatives, the application is in the proper form, and both the proposed bill and the application comply with 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 91 sections. Precisely what the bill would change is not entirely clear because it does not follow the usual format for proposed legislation, where text to be added is bold and underlined, text to be deleted is in brackets

and all capital letters, and statutes are not simply “reenacted.”<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, we have done our best to understand the intent of each section as though it followed the legislative drafting conventions. If this initiative were to pass, the Revisor of Statutes would have the authority to consolidate the proposed bill into the Alaska Statutes without changing the meaning of any law.<sup>2</sup>

The proposed bill appears to be a repeal of most of 19AKBE. It would eliminate open, non-partisan primary elections and ranked-choice general elections, reinstate partisan primaries and single-choice general elections, and also reverse several changes to campaign finance disclosure requirements.

**Section 1** purports to amend AS 15.10.120(c) but includes both the text deleted and added by 19AKBE without any indication what would be deleted or added by the proposed bill. We suspect the sponsors intended to reinstate the previous requirements for election board members. If so, the election supervisor would appoint one nominee from the political party of which the governor is a member and one nominee from the political party that received the second largest number of votes for governor.

**Section 2** would reverse 19AKBE’s changes to the poll watcher statute by allowing candidates not representing political parties to appoint one poll watcher. It would also make conforming changes to account for the return of special runoff elections.

**Section 3** would reinstate the requirements for certain appointees to the Alaska Public Offices Commission. As before 19AKBE, the governor would appoint two members of each of the two political parties whose candidate for governor received the highest number of votes.

**Section 4** would repeal AS 15.13.040(s), the statute that defines “director” and “officer” as those words appear in AS 15.13.040(e).

**Section 5** would repeal AS 15.13.070(g), which limits contributions to a joint campaign for governor and lieutenant governor to \$1,000 annually for an individual and \$2,000 annually for a group.

**Section 6** would amend AS 15.13.074(b) to remove limits and disclosure requirements relating to dark money and true sources.

**Section 7** would make conforming changes necessitated by the return of partisan primaries.

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<sup>1</sup> See AS 24.08.060(a); *Manual of Legislative Drafting*, 18-19 (2023).

<sup>2</sup> See AS 01.05.031.

**Section 8** would remove the requirement that the paid-for-by disclaimers in a broadcast, cable, satellite, internet, or other digital communication.

**Section 9** would repeal AS 15.13.090(g), the subsection requiring an additional disclaimer on certain advertisements funded by an outside-funded entity.

**Section 10** would make conforming changes necessitated by the reenactment of the nominating petition process.

**Section 11** would repeal AS 15.13.110(k), the disclosure requirement for certain contributions that exceed \$2,000 annually.

**Section 12** would amend AS 15.13.390(a) to remove fines for certain disclosure violations.

**Section 13** would not change existing law.

**Section 14** would make conforming changes necessitated by the reversion back to a partisan primary system.

**Section 15** intends to amend the definition of “expenditure,” codified at AS 15.13.400(7), not (6). The definition would expressly exclude “goods or services which are ordinarily available to the general public at no charge.” This does not reverse a change made by 19AKBE.

**Section 16** would repeal AS 15.13.400(18), the definition of “publicly funded entity” and AS 15.13.400(19), the definition of “true source” as those terms are used in AS 15.13.

**Section 17** purports to repeal AS 15.15.005, but this statute does not exist. 19AKBE identified a section providing for nonpartisan, open primaries as AS 15.15.005, but that section is now codified at AS 15.15.025.

**Section 18** would repeal AS 15.15.025, providing for nonpartisan, open primaries.

**Section 19** purports to amend AS 15.15.030(5) but also includes both the text deleted and added by 19AKBE. Presumably, this section would reinstate the party designation requirements, where a candidate’s party affiliation, if any, would be placed after the candidate’s name on the ballot.

**Section 20** would repeal AS 15.15.030(14) and (15), requiring statements on the ballot about candidates' designated affiliations and AS 15.15.030(16) and (17), concerning the design of ranked-choice general election ballots.

**Section 21** would repeal AS 15.15.060(e), requiring a statement at polling places about candidates' designated affiliations.

**Section 22** would repeal AS 15.15.350(c), (d), (e), (f), and (g), providing for ranked-choice general elections.

**Section 23** would reverse the changes to the ballot counting requirements that had been necessitated by ranked-choice voting. Voters would no longer rank candidates in a general election.

**Sections 24-25** would make conforming changes to the precinct ballot count and election certification processes.

**Section 26** would make conforming changes to account for the return of special runoff elections and the repeal of nonpartisan primary elections.

**Section 27** would reinstate the requirements for district absentee ballot counting board members. The election supervisor would appoint one nominee from the political party of which the governor is a member and one nominee of the political party that received the second largest number of votes for governor.

**Sections 28-33** would make conforming changes to account for the return of special runoff elections and the repeal of nonpartisan primary elections.

**Sections 34-35** would reinstate partisan primary elections in their prior form, including the requirements that political parties preclear their bylaws with the Department of Justice and submit them to the Division of Elections.

**Section 36** would reinstate the requirements for declarations of candidacy to account for partisan primaries, in which the governor and lieutenant governor would run separately.

**Section 37** would reinstate the party petition process to replace an unopposed incumbent who dies or is disqualified or incapacitated.

**Section 38** would reenact the prior process for the distribution of primary ballots.

**Section 39** would reenact the prior process for placing political party nominees on the general election ballot.

**Section 40** would reinstate the requirement that write-in candidates state their political party or group membership, if any, in their letters of intent.

**Section 41** would reinstate the requirement that joint write-in candidates for governor and lieutenant governor must be of the same political party.

**Sections 42-52** would reinstate the party petition process to replace a nominee who has died, withdrawn, resigned, or become disqualified or incapacitated.

**Section 53** would make conforming changes required by the repeal of ranked-choice voting.

**Sections 54-64** would reinstate the special election and special runoff election processes to fill a vacancy in the office of United States senator or representative.

**Sections 65-71** would reinstate the special election process to fill a vacancy in the office of governor.

**Section 72** would reinstate the requirements and confirmation process for appointees to fill vacancies in the state legislature.

**Sections 73-79** would reinstate the special election process to fill a vacancy in the state senate if more than two years and five months remain in the term.

**Sections 80-82** would make conforming changes to account for the return of special runoff elections.

**Section 83** would repeal AS 15.58.020(a)(13), which requires a statement about open primaries and ranked choice voting in the general election pamphlet.

**Section 84** would make conforming changes to account for the return of the special runoff elections.

**Section 85** would repeal AS 15.58.020(c), which requires a statement about open primaries and ranked choice voting in the primary or special primary election pamphlet.

**Section 86** would make conforming changes to account for the return of the party petition process.

**Section 87** would make conforming changes to account for the return of special runoff elections.

**Section 88** would restore a prior definition of “political party” to allow parties to qualify based on votes cast for their nominated candidate or voters registered to their party.

**Section 89** would repeal AS 15.80.010(46) defining “voter registration agency.” The sponsors may have intended to repeal AS 15.80.010(34) defining “ranked-choice voting.”

**Section 90** would make a conforming change to account for the return of the party petition process.

**Section 91** would add a new section of uncodified law requiring the director of elections for two years to make efforts to inform voters of the changes made to the state’s elections process under this initiative bill.

## 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 24ESEG on December 16, 2024. Sixty calendar days later is February 14, 2025.

In evaluating an initiative application, the lieutenant governor must determine whether it is in the “proper form.”<sup>3</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>4</sup> This requires consideration of both the form of the proposed bill and the form of the application.

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<sup>3</sup> Alaska Const. art. XI, § 2.

<sup>4</sup> *McAlpine v. Univ. of Alaska*, 762 P.2d 81, 87 n.7 (Alaska 1988).

### A. 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 includes no prohibited subjects. The lieutenant governor may deny certification if a proposed bill does not meet these requirements or if “controlling authority establishes its unconstitutionality.”<sup>5</sup> The bill proposed by 24ESEG meets all four of these requirements and it is not clearly unconstitutional under existing authority.

First, the bill is confined to one subject: election reform. The proposed bill would largely reverse 19AKBE by repealing the open, nonpartisan primary, the ranked-choice general election, and the campaign finance disclosure provisions. The Lieutenant Governor, on advice from this office, initially denied the application for 19AKBE because the proposed bill contained three subjects (open primary, ranked-choice voting, and campaign finance disclosure) and was therefore not confined to one subject.<sup>6</sup> The Alaska Supreme Court reversed, holding that all three topics were confined to the subject of election reform.<sup>7</sup> Because the bill proposed by 24ESEG includes the same three topics, it complies with the single-subject rule.

Second, the proposed bill includes a title that expresses the subject. The title specifies the bill’s changes to primary and general elections and alludes to campaign finance requirements. To the extent the title does not specify the changes to campaign finance disclosure requirements, bill titles should be construed liberally in favor of validity.<sup>8</sup>

Third, the proposed bill includes the requisite enacting language.

Fourth, the bill does not include any prohibited subjects. 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

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<sup>5</sup> *Kohlhaas v. State, Off. of Lieutenant Governor*, 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>6</sup> 2019 Op. Alaska Att’y Gen. (Aug. 29), 2019 WL 4239852, at \*10.

<sup>7</sup> *Meyer v. Alaskans for Better Elections*, 465 P.3d 477, 498 (Alaska 2020).

<sup>8</sup> *Griffin v. Sheldon*, 78 F. Supp. 466, 469 (D. Alaska 1948), *rev’d on other grounds*, 174 F.2d 382 (9th Cir. 1949).

prescribe their rules; or enact local or special legislation. As with 19AKBE, the bill proposed by 24ESEG does not include any of the prohibited subjects.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, the proposed bill is not clearly unconstitutional under existing authority. While the lieutenant governor’s certification decision does not involve a comprehensive, pre-election review of the constitutionality of a proposed bill, the lieutenant governor may reject a bill if it “proposes a substantive ordinance where controlling authority establishes its unconstitutionality.”<sup>10</sup> This is a high bar; examples of clearly unconstitutional bills include a bill that would mandate school segregation based on race and a bill that would call for Alaska’s secession from the United States.<sup>11</sup>

A return to party primaries, single-choice elections, and previous disclosure requirements is not clearly unconstitutional. The proposed bill would reenact the primary and general election processes as they existed before 19AKBE. Those election processes have not been held unconstitutional.<sup>12</sup> The proposed bill would also reinstate disclosure requirements that had not been subject to successful constitutional challenges.

## **B. 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

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<sup>9</sup> See 2019 Op. Alaska Att’y Gen. (Aug. 29), 2019 WL 4239852, at \*7.

<sup>10</sup> *Kohlhaas*, 147 P.3d at 717 (quoting *Kodiak Island Borough*, 71 P.3d at 900); *Pebble P’ship ex rel. Pebble Mines Corp. v. Parnell*, 215 P.3d 1064, 1077 (Alaska 2009) (permitting “pre-election review of initiatives where the initiative is clearly unconstitutional or clearly unlawful”); *Vote Yes for Alaska’s Fair Share*, 478 P.3d at 690–91.

<sup>11</sup> *Kohlhaas*, 147 P.3d at 717–18 (quoting *Kodiak Island Borough*, 71 P.3d at 900).

<sup>12</sup> See, e.g., *State v. Alaska Democratic Party*, 426 P.3d 901, 904–05 (Alaska 2018).

- (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 24ESEG application includes the proposed bill and the requisite statement on each signature page, even though the titles are the pages may vary. The application also designates an initiative committee of three sponsors, who provided their information. With respect to the number of qualified sponsors, we understand the Division of Elections has reviewed the sponsor signatures and determined that the application contains the signatures and addresses of 220 qualified voters. The application, therefore, includes the requisite number of qualified sponsors and it is in the proper form.

### III. Conclusion

This initiative application is in the proper form. Both the proposed bill and the application comply with the constitutional and statutory provisions governing the use of the initiative. We therefore recommend that you certify the initiative application and notify the initiative committee of your decision. You may then begin to prepare a petition under AS 15.45.090.

Please contact us if we can be of further assistance to you on this matter.

Sincerely,

TREG TAYLOR  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:

 for

Thomas Flynn  
Chief Assistant Attorney General



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

March 11, 2026

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

Re: *24ESEG Updated Ballot Title*  
AGO No. 2025200007

Dear Lieutenant Governor Dahlstrom:

The Attorney General's office proposes the following updated ballot title for the initiative 24ESEG. Below is the updated title with 16 words, along with the same summary with 203 words. Because the summary is unchanged from our prior proposed version, the readability score remains 55.96 under the formula described in AS 15.80.005(c). This is below the target score of 60, but the Alaska Supreme Court has upheld ballot summaries with lower scores.<sup>1</sup> We submit this updated ballot title along with the proposed summary for your consideration:

**An Act Restoring Political Party Primaries, Ending Ranked-Choice General Elections, and Repealing Recent Campaign Finance Laws**

This act would get rid of open primary elections, where all candidates appear on one ballot. It would also get rid of ranked-choice general elections. It would bring back political party primaries and single-choice general elections. It would also repeal certain campaign finance rules that were added by a 2020 ballot measure.

Elections would occur as they did before open primaries and ranked choice voting. In the primary election, voters would choose a party's ballot, unless prohibited by the party's bylaws. They would only vote for candidates on that ballot. The winning candidate from each primary would be the party's

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<sup>1</sup> See *Pebble P'ship ex rel. Pebble Mines Corp. v. Parnell*, 215 P.3d 1064, 1082–84 (Alaska 2009).

nominee. In the general election, voters would vote for only one candidate in each race. The candidate with the most votes would win. Party petitions, special runoff elections, and other processes would return.

This act would also repeal campaign finance rules that were passed in 2020. It would remove the limits on donations to joint campaigns for governor and lieutenant governor. It would remove limits and disclosure rules under current law, including for digital ads, out-of-state donations, undisclosed donations, and the true source of donations. It would change the meaning of a campaign expenditure and remove some fines.

Should this initiative become law?

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

Sincerely,

STEPHEN J. COX  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:



Thomas Flynn  
Chief Assistant Attorney General



Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom  
STATE OF ALASKA

February 14, 2025

Ken McCarty  
P.O. Box 771777  
Eagle River, AK 99577

Judy Eledge

Bernadette Wilson

Dear 24ESEG Committee Members:

On December 16, 2024, I received your application for the following initiative that you entitled:

***“An Act to repeal a nonpartisan and open top four primary election system and ranked-choice general election system; and to reestablish a partisan political primary and change necessary and related appointment procedures; reestablish special runoff elections; and repeal and amend independent expenditure group requirements.”***

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 220 of the 229 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: Treg Taylor, Attorney General  
Thomas Flynn, 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 to repeal a nonpartisan and open top four primary election system and ranked-choice general election system; and to reestablish a partisan political primary and change necessary and related appointment procedures; reestablish special runoff elections; and repeal and amend independent expenditure group requirements.”* which was received on December 16, 2024 and known as 24ESEG.

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,  
This ..... 14<sup>th</sup> ..... day of ..... February .....  
2025  
A. D. ....

*Nancy Dahlstrom*  
.....  
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

Date: February 3, 2025

To: The Honorable Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor

From: *CB*  
Carol Beecher, Director  
Division of Elections

Subject: **24ESEG**

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

We have determined that 220 of the 229 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: 24ESEG – Application Petition Signers Report

cc: Michaela R. Thompson, Division Operations 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**

December 31, 2025

Ken McCarty



Judy Eledge



Bernadette Wilson



Re: 24ESEG Notice of Proper Filing

Dear 24ESEG Committee Members:

I have reviewed your petition for the initiative entitled "An Act to repeal a nonpartisan and open top four primary election system and ranked-choice general election system; and to reestablish a partisan political primary and change necessary and related appointment procedures; reestablish special runoff elections; and repeal and amend independent expenditure group requirements" 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 42,837 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 Restoring Political Party Primaries, Single-Choice General Elections, and Campaign Finance Rules**

This act would get rid of open primary elections and ranked-choice general elections. It would bring back political party primaries and single-choice general elections. It would also bring back campaign finance rules.

Elections will occur as they did before open primaries and ranked choice voting. In the primary election, voters will choose a party's ballot. They will vote for one candidate in each race and the winning candidate will be the party's nominee. In the general election, voters will select one candidate in each race. The candidate with the most votes will win. Party petitions, special runoff elections, and other parts of the prior election system would return.

Campaign finance rules would also return to the way they were in the prior election system. This act would remove the limits on donations to joint campaigns for governor and lieutenant governor. It would remove limits and disclosure rules under current law, including for digital ads, out-of-state donations, undisclosed donations, and the true source of donations. It would remove some fines and change the meaning of a campaign expenditure.

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 upcoming 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,



Nancy Dahlstrom  
Lieutenant Governor

Enclosures

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

**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 11, 2026

Ken McCarty

Judy Eledge

Bernadette Wilson

Re: 24ESEG Ballot Title and Summary

Dear 24ESEG Committee Members:

The Lieutenant Governor, with the assistance of the Attorney General and pursuant to AS 15.45.180 and AS 15.45.190, has revised the proposed ballot title for 24ESEG. The Lieutenant Governor has directed the Director of the Division of Elections to place the following ballot title and summary on the ballot for the first statewide general, special, or primary election held at least 120 days after adjournment of the current legislative session.

**An Act Restoring Political Party Primaries, Ending Ranked-Choice  
General Elections, and Repealing Recent Campaign Finance Laws**

This act would get rid of open primary elections, where all candidates appear on one ballot. It would also get rid of ranked-choice general elections. It would bring back political party primaries and single-choice general elections. It would also repeal certain campaign finance rules that were added by a 2020 ballot measure.

Elections would occur as they did before open primaries and ranked choice voting. In the primary election, voters would choose a party's ballot, unless prohibited by the party's bylaws. They would only vote for candidates on that ballot. The winning candidate from each primary would be the party's nominee. In the general election, voters would vote for only one candidate in each race. The candidate with the most votes would win. Party petitions, special runoff elections, and other processes would return.

This act would also repeal campaign finance rules that were passed in 2020. It would remove the limits on donations to joint campaigns for governor and lieutenant governor. It would remove limits and disclosure rules under current law, including for digital ads, out-of-state donations, undisclosed donations, and the true source of donations. It would change the meaning of a campaign expenditure and remove some fines.

Should this initiative become law?

24ESEG – Ballot Title and Summary

March 11, 2026

Page 2

I have included a copy of the Attorney General Opinion dated March 11, 2026, for your review. Please let me know if the Lieutenant Governor's Office may be of further assistance.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "April Simpson".

April Simpson  
Regulations and Initiatives Coordinator  
Office of the Lt. Governor

Enclosures

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

PETITION TYPE : INITIATIVE

PETITION ID : 24ESEG

PETITION NAME : AN ACT TO REPEAL A NONPARTISAN AND OPEN TOP FOUR PRIMARY ELECTION SYSTEM AND RANKED-CHOICE GENERAL ELECTION SYSTEM

REQUIRED SIGNATURES	34098	(A)	ADDRESS NOT PROVIDED	21
		(D)	DUPLICATE SIGNATURE	3141
NUMBER OF QUALIFIED	42837	(E)	NO SIGN DATE PROVIDED	5
(Q) QUALIFIED	42795	(F)	NO ID PROVIDED	573
(H) INACTIVE QUALIFIED	42	(I)	INACTIVE NOT QUALIFIED	192
		(J)	NOT IN JURISDICTION	
NUMBER OF UNQUALIFIED	5458	(K)	SIGNED BEFORE REGISTERED	74
		(O)	INVALID BOOKLET	
TOTAL SIGNATURES	48295	(P)	PRINT NAME NO SIGNATURE	25
		(R)	NOT REGISTERED	1398
		(W)	SIGNER WITHDREW	1
		(Y)	SIGN DATE AFTER BOOK CERT	28

DISTRICT	# SIG REQUIRED	QUALIFIED
01	607	1212
02	677	175
03	782	1277
04	653	954
05	567	875
06	844	1310
07	678	1958
08	761	2003
09	836	1126
10	619	841
11	695	950
12	600	896
13	534	854
14	525	844
15	657	1292
16	682	1057
17	546	816
18	339	342
19	355	612
20	513	745
21	638	1031
22	386	667
23	752	1370
24	713	1718
25	737	1656
26	664	1754
27	624	1766
28	653	1681
29	740	1863
30	727	1842
31	496	1008
32	413	613
33	623	1972
34	706	1146
35	686	1028
36	680	1162
37	311	144
38	286	69
39	302	77
40	235	82
97	0	49