



SB 52 Election Ballot Deadline

Sponsor: Senator Shelley Hughes

Legislative Aide: Eleilia Preston

Overview

Purpose of the legislation: To require all ballots be received and counted on election day which will bolster voter confidence, election integrity, and the perceived credibility of Alaska nationally.

What Does it Do?

A Shift Toward Efficiency

Ballot Tabulation Deadline

All ballots must be counted and tabulated by 11:59 p.m. on election night.

Ballot Security

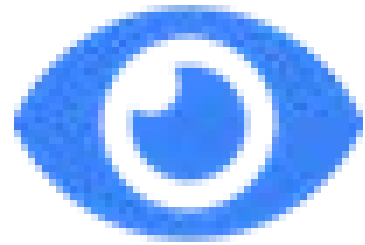
Ballots that are delayed for delivery because of weather or mechanical issues must be monitored by a video recording device.

Early Voting Adjustments

Early voting timeline will be revised for early voting to accommodate the new counting deadline.

Handling Ballots Under Adverse Conditions

Ensuring Election Integrity in Challenging Scenarios



Transparent Storage

Ballots delayed by weather or mechanical issues must be stored in transparent containers.



Continuous Video Monitoring

Stored ballots are monitored using video recording for added security.



First-Day Delivery Post-Resolution

Delayed ballots must be delivered at the earliest opportunity.

Current Challenges in Ballot Handling

- **Delayed Vote Counts:** Existing laws allow delays in ballot counting, reducing public trust in results.
- **Adverse Weather Impact:** Alaska's remote areas and extreme weather often hinder timely ballot transport.
- **Transparency Concerns:** Inconsistent storage and transport methods lead to doubts about ballot security.

The Journey of the Ballot

Absentee Ballots

Civilian Ballots -- Day #10
Overseas Ballots -- Day #15 } Counted on Day
#7, #10, and #15

Early Vote Ballots

Early Ballots -- Same Day (except final days)

Question Ballots

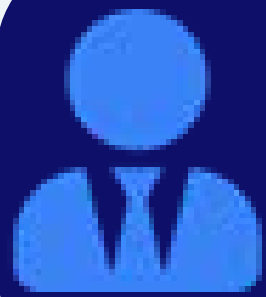
Ongoing

Certification Ballots

Election results are certified on Day #**16** -- Day #**22**

Side Note: Early voters that cast a ballot after the register is printed function as absentee ballots.

Current Methods



Postmark Requirement -- All absentee ballots must be postmarked and received by day 10 (domestic) or 15 (overseas) on or before election day.



Election Counting and Reporting -- Currently there are no statutes for counting deadling election results to be completed and reported to the public.



Security Measures -- Currently there is not a protocol for handling undeliverable, completed ballots post-election.

Thirty-Two states require
Absentee Ballots
to be in by Election Day



Clarifying Information

Tabulations: Tabulation is the term used for running an algorithm program to determine the winner of the rank choice election for the general election.

Effects of SB 52



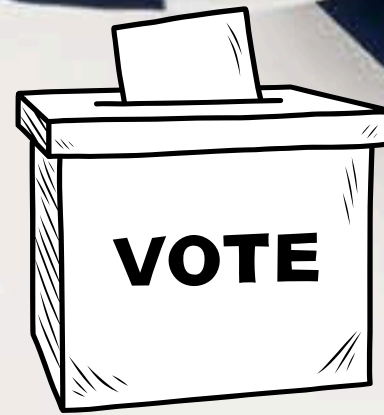
Clear Deadlines: 11:59 p.m. ballot receipt and count deadline eliminates confusion and delays.



Consistent Procedures: New rules provide consistent handling and reporting of ballots.



Public Trust: Reinforces voter confidence in Alaska's electoral process.



Thank You

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