

## Joe Hayes

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**From:** Susan A [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 29, 2025 3:11 PM  
**To:** Senate State Affairs  
**Cc:** Sen. Robert Myers  
**Subject:** SB70

Susan Allmeroth  
Two Rivers  
Strongly oppose  
Add ballot curing instead

There are several potential problems with these suggestions, particularly for remote, rural voters and those serving in the military. Let's break them down:

REAA elections every other year:

- Problem: For rural and remote voters, reducing the frequency of REAA elections could be problematic. In areas where voter turnout is low and elections are spaced further apart, voters might feel disconnected or disengaged from the electoral process. Additionally, if local issues arise that require immediate attention, waiting two years for an election might delay necessary responses.

Repealing Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) through PFD:

- Problem: AVR through the PFD is particularly important for rural voters in Alaska, where access to registration services can be limited. Removing this system could lead to a decrease in voter registration, especially in remote areas where people might not have easy access to government offices or the internet. Military personnel who may be deployed or stationed far from their home state could also lose a streamlined method of voter registration.

Postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for absentee ballots:

- Problem: While the suggestion to provide postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for absentee ballots is generally beneficial, there could be challenges ensuring that remote and rural voters are still able to effectively access these materials in a timely manner. The logistical difficulties of mailing materials to rural areas with fewer postal services could delay ballots and potentially affect the integrity of the voting process.

Voting by mail in communities of 750 or fewer:

- Problem: Allowing elections by mail for smaller communities (750 or fewer people) may be an efficient way to streamline voting, but it could also disenfranchise those who lack reliable mail delivery or face other challenges in remote areas (such as those serving in the military abroad). Furthermore, some remote communities may not have the resources to effectively manage a mail-in system, leading to issues with miscommunication or lost ballots.

Ending early voting five days before Election Day:

- Problem: Reducing the window for early voting could disproportionately affect those who live in remote areas, including rural voters and military personnel, who may have to travel long distances or deal with unpredictable weather or logistical challenges. Additionally, military personnel might have unpredictable schedules or be stationed far away, making the shorter early voting period less accessible.