

Joe Hayes

From: Amos _ [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 2:48 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Senate Bill 64

7155 E Shorewood Dr
Wasilla, AK 99654

March 11, 2025

Senate State Affairs Committee: senate.State.Affairs@akleg.gov

To the State Affairs Committee:

I wish to make two comments on Senate Bill #64: Elections.

First, I have voted by mail for many years, but each year I am required to fill out a new application and mail it in order to continue voting by mail. It would be more efficient and less costly for the government to create a recurring absentee voter list.

Second, I should not have to pay to vote, yet I am still required to pay for postage to send in my mail ballot. Ballots should be sent out to voters prepaid.

Sincerely yours,

David Zimmer

Wasilla, AK

Joe Hayes

From: Claire Pywell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 9:12 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: Support for SB 64

Dear Committee Members:

As a civically engaged Alaskan, I take pride in our state's democracy and believe we should be a leader in voter participation. That's why I strongly support SB 64. Ensuring every vote counts—by allowing ballot curing, protecting special needs ballots, and eliminating unnecessary barriers like the witness signature requirement—is a step toward a fairer system.

Please support SB 64 and help keep Alaska at the forefront of voter participation.

Best,

Claire Pywell

[REDACTED]

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Claire Pywell

[REDACTED]

Joe Hayes

From: Mary Corcoran <mary@deltajunction.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 3:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Cc: Senate Rules
Subject: Public Testimony SB64

To Senate State Affairs Committee Chair Kawasaki, Vice chair Bjorkman and Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB64 "An Act relating to elections; relating to voters..."

I have cast many absentee by-mail ballots and urge you to support this bill. The right to vote is extremely important to Alaskans. This bill continues to define the rules around this right without restricting it.

Preregistration for minors to vote is a huge plus to increase the numbers and knowledge of voters. Actually it is a no-brainer if we want to boost the political competency of the public.

I also support the following and much more contained in this bill:

- ballot curing
- designated language in election materials
- same day voter registration under the conditions in the bill
- remove the witness signature requirement on absentee by-mail ballots
- prepaid envelopes accompanying absentee ballots
- recurring automatic absentee ballot until a voter removes that preference
- notice to absentee ballots voters that their votes have been counted

Thank you for your work and crafting this bill.

Sincerely,
Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction

Joe Hayes

From: Larri Spengler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 2:14 PM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: yes on SB 64

Greetings:

Please support Alaskan voters and elections and pass SB 64!

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

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Larri Irene Spengler
[REDACTED]
Juneau, Alaska [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Joe Hayes

From: Jeanie Cole <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 10:22 AM
To: Senate State Affairs
Subject: SB 64 Written Testimony

Please support this important voting bill. This bill will improve voting access, especially in rural areas. Some aspects I believe are important include:

- Establishing a process for "ballot curing" so that voters have the opportunity to fix honest mistakes made on mail ballots: I have voted by mail a couple of times, and it is really easy to make a simple mistake. I think I signed in the wrong place once and had to cross it out and sign in another place. I was very concerned that my ballot might be thrown out. People shouldn't lose their vote due to simple mistakes.
- Eliminating the witness signature requirement: This requirement has caused hundreds of ballots to be thrown out in past elections, despite the fact that these signatures are never verified. It can be difficult to get a witness if you live alone and since they are not verified, the signature is essentially meaningless.
- Appointing a rural community liaison: This seems like a good idea. Having a person in each community to provide help to residents and a conduit to election officials would help prevent voting errors and rejection of ballots.
- Sending prepaid envelopes out with mail ballots: This would probably help with turnout. Since you wouldn't have to hunt up a stamp. We have very low turnout on some of our elections. I think making it easier to vote is important.
- Allowing voters to register up until Election Day: I don't have strong feelings on this one since we are automatically registered through the PFD application. But there might be people who fall through the cracks so this would provide another avenue. I certainly trust the Department of Elections to do a good job registering people even on short notice.
- Preventing special needs ballots from being thrown out because of mistakes made by election officials: I am not aware of this issue. However, everyone's vote should be protected and count.

I believe we have very accurate and safe elections in Alaska and the rest of the US. I don't believe there had been any significant fraud. I also support the use of Dominion (or other companies) voting machines. The Fairbanks NSB recently voted not to renew the contract with Dominion. Had I known it was on the assembly agenda, I would have spoken in favor of keeping the contract. I also support early voting, please keep this option in place. I always vote early.

Also I LOVE ranked choice voting. Since I often vote for the minority candidate, this allows me to give them a vote of confidence, while still voting for a second choice for the other party candidate (of which there are usually more than one) who I feel would best represent my beliefs. Please quit trying to eliminate ranked choice.

Sincerely
Martha Cole
3190 Gabes Way
Fairbanks, AK 99712

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March 12, 2025
State of Alaska
Senate State Affairs Committee

Members of the Senate State Affairs Committees;

On behalf of the Alaska Broadcasters Association, we would request that language to protect broadcasters from any harm from broadcasting any AI generated political content be returned into the SB 64. If the language is unacceptable, we would like to submit the following language to be added to SB 64 to protect broadcasters in Alaska. We respectfully submit the following:

“Under Alaska law, any qualified political advertisement created, originally published, or originally distributed by a person, corporation, committee, or other entity must clearly and conspicuously state: “This message was generated in whole or substantially by artificial intelligence.” ”

“A candidate whose voice or likeness appears in synthetic media distributed without the required disclosure within 60 days of an election may seek to enjoin distribution of the media and bring an action for general or special damages against the party distributing the media. A federally licensed broadcast station subject to federal law prohibiting censorship of electioneering communications by a legally qualified candidate is exempt from liability.”

“Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and must be imprisoned for not more than 90 days or fined not more than \$500, or both. For a second offense occurring within five years of a previous conviction, the violator is guilty of a felony and must be imprisoned not more than five years or fined not more than \$1,000, or both.”

Thank you for your consideration in the matter.

Matt Wilson
Alaska Broadcasters Association
Legislative Liaison

