



Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4311 • www.muni.org/assembly

Assembly Chair

March 20, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee,

In my role as Chair of the Anchorage Assembly, I am writing in support of SB 64, "An Act relating to elections." The Assembly has not taken an official position on SB 64, but the bill includes measures that support the Municipality's goals for election reform outlined in our 2025 Legislative Program.

Anchorage's request for election reform is for the state to amend Alaska Statute Title 15 to clean up voter rolls and simplify the process to initiate the cancelation of voter registration when a voter registers in another state. SB 64 accomplishes this goal through several means:

- Sec. 1. cleans up some language to clarify residency requirements.
- Sec. 12. AS 15.07.130(a)(3) adds provisions to set what qualifies as establishing residence in another state that would allow the Division to remove someone from the voter rolls.
- Sec. 13. AS 15.07.130(b) clarifies the process for the Division to put a voter on the inactive registration list.
- Sec. 15. AS 15.07.133 adds a new section to require the Division to develop a process to allow a voter to cancel their registration.

Alaska has a robust and successful registration process, however, it can currently take eight years to remove a voter from the rolls if voters are not proactive. And the rolls are over-inflated. Anchorage supports a process keeps the rolls more accurate. This is important because, while Anchorage maintains its own election system, like all communities in Alaska, it relies on the State for its voter registration list. As a result:

- Outdated voter rolls mean that Anchorage unnecessarily spends money to mail ballots to people who have long since left the state, which leads to artificially low voter turnout counts, ballots being sent to incorrect locations, and large numbers of returned ballots – **up from 15,812 in the 2022 regular election to 20,120 in 2024.**

- **Alaska's existing eight-year timeline is one of the longest in the country**, according to records kept by the National Conference of State Legislatures, and the six-year timeline is still longer than the four-year minimum in federal law.¹
- The Alaska Division of Elections listed 584,508 registered voters who were at least 20 years old at the start of July 2023. **That's 108% of the estimated 20-and-over population in July 2023** (the percentage estimate is based on people are 20 and older because people aged 18 and 19 are lumped together with younger teenagers in population estimates, making it impossible to easily include them in the calculation).²

I believe that SB 64 will make significant progress in attaining Anchorage's goal for more accurate voter lists. That being said, I offer one caveat that the language regarding same day voter registration in Sec. 42 may need to be tightened up to close gaps, such as voters with properties in multiple Alaskan jurisdictions changing their registration back and forth throughout the year to vote in multiple local elections that can be held in April, May, October, and November, as well as special elections. I suggest this area be explored further with election experts.

I thank the Senate Rules Committee for putting this bill forward and I thank the Senate State Affairs committee for taking the time to work on this bill and make improvements. It is very important that we all work together to ensure that Alaskans have full access to participate in elections and that our elections are transparent, accurate and secure.

I urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Constant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christopher" and the last name "Constant" clearly legible.

Anchorage Assembly Chair Christopher Constant

¹ <https://alaskabeacon.com/2024/02/03/alaska-house-votes-to-advance-bill-that-would-trim-state-voter-rolls-more-quickly/>

² <https://alaskabeacon.com/2024/02/03/alaska-house-votes-to-advance-bill-that-would-trim-state-voter-rolls-more-quickly/>