



- The Division of Elections (DOE) is administering the voter approved Ballot Measure 1- PFD Automatic Voter Registration (15PFVR). The law includes goals to help register Alaskan voters, enhance accuracy of voter rolls, and save the state money. The DOE is seeking legislative fixes to clarify and streamline the DOE's role in administering the law. The proposed amendments would allow for "opt-out" of voter registration during the PFD application process, while retaining the law's intent.
- Under the current law for PFD Automatic Voter Registration (AVR), the DOE must mail an opt-out notice to: (1) PFD applicants who are not currently registered to vote; and (2) voters whose residence address on their PFD application is different than their voter record address. The law became effective March 1, 2017, and the DOE targeted PFD applications received in March 2017. The notification informs these applicants that the information on their PFD application will be used to update their voter registration or register them unless they "opt-out" within 30 days. Of the data received from PFD, about 48% of PFD applicants were sent an opt-out notice.
- The State could save money if the opt-out process was included with the actual PFD application process – just like voter registration at DMV has been since 1994. When Alaskans apply for a new or updated driver's license, the voter has the option to register to vote or update their voter registration. This has worked well at the DMV since 1994 and is a cost-efficient method for updating voter records for DOE through the DMV registration process. Our PFD voter registration process could be similar to the DMV voter registration process by updating the law to allow opt-out during the application process and eliminating the "opt-out" notice.

The DOE is preparing for full implementation during the PFD application cycle in 2018 and anticipates receiving a large quantity of data from PFD in early April. Upon receipt, the DOE will prepare this data to send the 30 day "opt-out" notice as currently required by law. After the 30-day period, the DOE will begin processing registrations to meet the statutory deadlines related to the Primary Election.

Since 2015 and prior to voter approval of PFD Automatic Voter Registration, the DOE has made several technological advancements to improve access, efficiency, and accuracy of voter registration rolls:

- The DOE has fully implemented an online voter registration (OLVR) process making registering to vote or updating an existing voter registration easy and efficient. When the 15PFVR petition was being circulated, OLVR was not yet available. Since being implemented, 45,000+ voters have used the OLVR system to either register or update their existing voter registration.

- The DOE has fully automated the process of receiving voter registration information electronically from DMV when Alaskans update their driver's license. When 15PFVR was being circulated, the DMV registration process was not automated, and registrations were sent to DOE on paper applications. Since implementation, 56,000+ voters have either registered or updated their existing voter registration through DMV electronic process.
- In May 2016, enactment of SB 9 allowed the DOE to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). ERIC is a bipartisan, independent non-profit owned, managed and funded by participating states. Founded in 2012 by 7 states, ERIC now has 20 member states including Washington D.C. ERIC's mission is to help state election officials improve the accuracy of their voter rolls, register more eligible citizens, reduce costs, and improve efficiencies in the voting process. Using sophisticated and secure data matching technology processes, ERIC analyzes state voter registration records to determine voters who've moved within a state and not updated their voter registration, voters who've moved from one ERIC member state to another, voters who have died, duplicate voter records and records that need to be updated. In 2017, ERIC identified approximately 95,000 Alaskan records that need to be updated. Following a mailer to these individuals, the result will be more accurate voter rolls and for those who moved, ensuring voter participation. Through Alaska's membership with ERIC, the DOE contacted approximately 90,000 eligible but unregistered voters before the 2016 General Election.

ASK: Support legislation that would make changes to the PFD Automatic Voter Registration law by allowing Alaskans to “opt-out” of voter registration or changes to their voter information during the PFD application process. This legislation would save an estimated \$200,000 annually in mailing costs and provide for a mechanism by which voter registration transactions performed by DOE are fully automated and reduce paper transactions.