



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Administration

PAULA VRANA, COMMISSIONER

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May 8, 2025

The Honorable Andrew Gray  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 118  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Gray,

In advance of the May 9, 2025 House Judiciary Committee Presentation on Legal Implications of Prosecuting American Nationals in Alaska's Election, your office submitted some questions to be answered by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The questions and responses are below.

**What procedures does the DMV follow to verify someone's citizenship status when registering them to vote during a driver's license or ID application?**

An applicant must provide proof of Identity and Lawful status at the time of initial application for a driver's license or identification card.

**Do you request or verify proof of U.S. citizenship?**

Yes, this is verified by using the identity and lawful status documents the applicant provides.

**Are DMV staff trained to distinguish between U.S. citizens and U.S. nationals—such as those born in American Samoa?**

DMV staff are trained to distinguish between U.S. Citizens and U.S. Nationals based on the proof of identity and lawful status documents presented. That question is also specifically asked on the DMV application.

**What documentation would someone born in American Samoa typically provide, and how is that processed by the DMV during a voter registration?**

Someone born in American Samoa typically provides a birth certificate from American Samoa.

**Does the voter registration form used at the DMV include a clear statement that only U.S. citizens—not U.S. nationals—are eligible to vote in Alaska elections?**

The voter registration eligibility information printed on DMV's applications is following The National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and approved by Division of Elections (DOE).

**Are there any warnings, in plain language, that explain that possession of a U.S. passport does not guarantee eligibility to vote?**

No there is not. DOE is responsible for making the final determination of voter eligibility.

**Has the DMV ever flagged or referred a registration for further review due to unclear citizenship status? If so, what happens next?**

Not to the knowledge of current DMV staff. The DMV has a requirement for all document issuance to ensure that no credential is issued without clear proof of lawful status and identification. If there was a case of unclear citizenship status, then no credential would be issued, and no opportunity would be provided for someone to register to vote.

**If someone falsely attests to being a citizen—knowingly or unknowingly—how would the DMV detect that? Or would the application proceed by default?**

It would be detected based on the documentation provided to us. An original birth certificate, a certificate of citizenship, a certificate of birth abroad, a certificate of naturalization, or a US passport is required to prove citizenship status.

**Were any of the individuals now facing charges registered through the DMV, and if so, has your agency reviewed whether procedural errors occurred on your end?**

DMV is not aware if any of these individuals registered through the DMV, however DMV continually audits for accuracy and addresses errors as needed.

**What steps has the DMV taken or will take to prevent future incidents where people may register to vote without understanding they are ineligible?**

DMV works closely with DOE to ensure all applications and signage meets their approval and adhere to NVRA procedures. All DMV staff attend initial and refresher trainings yearly on voter registration procedures.

Please let us know if the committee has any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Paula Vrana  
Commissioner

cc: Forrest Wolfe, Legislative Liaison, DOA  
Jordan Shilling, Director, Governor's Legislative Office