From: Libby Dalton

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:57 AM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

Nothing in this bill provides for better election security. Everything weakens election security.

Voting should be same day, in person and with state issued photo ID.

Absentee ballot process currently in place works, (one time request, not continual). Witness signature required is a MUST! And ballots need to be received by the day voting ends.

Libby Dalton Slane Fairbanks D35 From: Sheylyn Cato

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 10:36 AM

To: House Finance **Subject:** NO on SB 64

We need secure elections, not more ways to feel less confident in how things are run. We need to get rid of mail in voting and go back to same day in person voting! If someone needs to request a mail in ballot ahead of time that's one thing but I have little faith in our elections, especially when you mail all ballots to our bloated and incorrect voter roll. I find it insane how everything in this state is being run...so disappointing!

Sheylyn Cato Eagle River From: Francesca A

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 11:38 AM

To: House Finance **Subject:** No to SB 64

I do not support SB 64.

I do not support same day registration.

I do not support mail in voting. Everyone can apply for an absentee ballot if they wish to mail in their ballot. I do not support any election bills that set up the potential for abuse and fraud.

Clean up the voter rolls. Do not automatically enroll PFD applications to voter registration. Not all that get enrolled are eligible to vote creating potential for fraud.

No on SB 64

Francesca Allegrezza

Sent from my iPhone

From: Desi Terry

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 11:39 AM

To: House Finance Cc: Desiree Terry

Subject: OPPOSE SB 64! Listening today and want to share about Special needs voters!

Ive been listening to the discussion about SB 64!

I want to share some observations I made in the past election....I was a poll watcher for the 2024 for District 25 at the Train Depot in Palmer.

Several Special Needs Voters had a very difficult time with the Rank Choice Voting!

A particular voter made 3 attempts and on the 3rd was advised by the Chair that she could have her help fill out her ballot, they sat for more than 20mins filling out her ballot together.

There were several other special needs voters who had more to fill out more than one and one voter just became frustrated and left!

Take a que from President Trump! Secure our Elections! We need to have voter ID, one day voting and counted in the precincts, this will allow us as citizens to be able to trust the Elections. Without measures to ensure that the elections are fair and honest, we the people are not being served. As it is now RCV is unauditable and convoluted enabling cheating and mistrust to run rampant.

Desiree Terry Palmer AK From: Alice Fay

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 11:40 AM

To: House Finance

Subject: HB 64

I do not support and please vote NO Sent from my iPhone

From: Alice Fay

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 11:41 AM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

Correction vote NO Support for SB 64 Sent from my iPhone From: Eileen Becker

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 12:10 PM

To: Michael Jones

Cc: Charlie Franz; Rep. Sarah Vance; House Finance; Elaine Bramer; Laura Heckert; Waynette

Coleman; George Hall; Mary Lambe; Renee Eidem; Becky Woods; Douglas O'Brien; Mary Hutchison; Gayle Claus; Kathy Toms; Leonard Miller; Hope Casseri; Claire O'Donnell;

Michael Jones

Subject: Re: SB64

Testimony for SB 64 is Thursday at 1:30. Just received update Eileen Sent from my iPhone

On May 14, 2025, at 5:19 PM, Michael Jones <mljhea9@gmail.com> wrote:

Honorable Representative Vance, I too attempted to testify on SB 64 today, with the same results as Charlie Franz.

I similarly oppose SB 64, and I did leave a message with your office encouraging you to vote against it when it comes up for vote.

Mr. Franz lays out many concerns with the Bill, particularly within the theme of "removing barriers to voting". The actions proposed in this theme actually increase the risk of fraud and reduce election integrity.

Additionally, the provision on page 18 of the Bill, lines 1-4, lays out that an absentee ballot would be accepted if a tracking barcode can verify the ballot was MAILED ON OR BEFORE election day. We should be requiring absentee ballots to be RECEIVED BY election day. In NO WAY should an absentee ballot be MAILED ON election day. In fact, given the time required for mail delivery from the Division of Elections, to the Voter, then back to the Division of Elections, it's difficult to support the logic that any absentee ballots should be issued by the Division of Elections within 7 days of election day.

This bill should not make it out of the House Finance Committee, however, if it should pass through the House Finance Committee, it should be summarily voted down.

Thank you.

Michael L. Jones

Homer Resident

From: Charlie Franz

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 4:15 PM

To: Rep. Sarah Vance < Rep. Sarah. Vance@akleg.gov>, House. Finance@akleg.gov

<House.Finance@akleg.gov>

Subject: SB64

Honorable Representative Vance,

I tried to testify on SB64 this afternoon, but the joint floor session delayed testimony and then after waiting an hour and a half to testify, the chair of the finance committee adjourned the hearing before taking any testimony, so I want to share my thoughts with you.

I oppose SB64 and hope you will vote against it when you have the chance. My concerns with the bill are:

- 1. It claims to improve election integrity, but it actually decreases the integrity of our election process.
- 2. Pre-registration of 16 year olds increases the workload for the Division of Elections, which already does a poor job of managing the voter roll. It also increases the potential for fraud by increasing the names on the voter roll.
- 3. The provisions for cleaning up the voter roll are very weak and offer little improvement over the current situation.
- 4. Allowing same day registration complicates the voter identification/validation process and will further delay election results.
- 5. Removing the witness requirements for absentee ballots is a move in the wrong direction the requirements to be a witness should be strengthened.
- 6. Adding ballot curing is not necessary only approximately 1300 absentee ballots were rejected in the last election. If people are too stupid or careless to sign and date their ballot, perhaps they shouldn't vote.
- 7. There is no need for installing multiple drop boxes around the larger cities. The vast majority of ballots are cast in person.
- 8. The bill essentially creates a permanent mail-in voting system by allowing voters to sign up for absentee ballots in perpetuity.
- 9. There is no requirement for photo identification even though free state Identification cards are readily available.

This bill needs a serious rewrite.

Respectfully, Charlie From: Maureen Conerton

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 12:40 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: In support of Senate Bill 64

Hello,

I have voted in Alaska for over 40 years. SB 64 will improve Alaska's election process. Please vote 'yes' in support of this bill.

Sent from my iPad

From: jamie donley

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 12:51 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

House Finance Committee

As an Alaskan I urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 64 (SB 64D). It's terrible with multiple provisions that jeopardize both the security of our elections and the fundamental freedoms of Alaskans.

Some of the BIGGEST concerns:

1. Mass Mail-Out Ballots Undermine Security

SB 64 allows absentee ballots to be automatically mailed to voters each year without the voter even requesting one. This increases the risk of ballots going to the wrong people, especially with inaccurate voter rolls. Voting should be deliberate and secure—not passive and vulnerable to misuse.

2. Weakens Voter ID Integrity

The bill allows voters to verify their identity using utility bills or bank statements—documents that are far easier to fake or misuse than a government-issued ID. Yet to apply for a Permanent Fund Dividend, an Alaskan must present a valid driver's license. If that's the standard for receiving state funds, it should be the standard for casting a vote.

3. Dangerous Expansion of Drop Boxes

SB 64 requires 24/7 open ballot drop boxes across the state for 10 days prior to elections. This may sound convenient, but it creates serious chain-of-custody vulnerabilities—and we've already seen the consequences elsewhere:

- In Bridgeport, Connecticut (2023), video surveillance showed individuals illegally stuffing multiple ballots into drop boxes, leading to a judge throwing out the mayoral primary and ordering a new election.
- In Frio County, Texas(2024), multiple individuals were prosecuted for organized ballot harvesting violations involving mail ballots and drop boxes.
- In Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington (2024), arsonists set fire to ballot drop boxes just days before the election, destroying hundreds of ballots.

4. Centralizes Power in the Division of Elections

SB 64 shifts election authority away from the elected Lieutenant Governor to unelected staff in the Division of Elections. This weakens accountability and opens the door to political bias in how elections are managed and enforced.

5. Outside "Experts" With No Oversight

The bill allows the Division to contract "nationally recognized" election experts to audit voter rolls—without naming who they are or how they're chosen. This could lead to partisan groups influencing our state's elections through vague back channels, with no input from voters or legislators.

6. Synthetic Media Provision Threatens Free Speech

SB 64 bans AI-generated political content unless it carries specific disclaimers. Anyone who reposts or shares such content could be sued—even if it's satire or commentary. This vague and overly broad law threatens Alaskans' First Amendment rights and opens the door to censorship in political dialogue.

7. Opens the Door to Ballot Harvesting

The bill weakens safeguards for special needs voting by allowing representatives to deliver ballots without rejecting them for procedural errors unless intentional misconduct is proven. This invites abuse by third-party ballot collectors with minimal accountability.

8. Silent on ERIC – Alaska Voter Data at Risk

The bill does nothing to address Alaska's continued participation in the ERIC system, which shares voter data across states. Alaskans deserve full transparency and a public decision on whether we should stay in a system with known security and privacy concerns.

9. APOC Reporting Increases Donor Exposure

The bill increases public reporting requirements for campaign donors without clear privacy protections. In small communities, that can open the door to intimidation or harassment of people simply for supporting a candidate or cause.

In short, SB 64 creates more problems than it solves. It weakens voter ID protections, opens new doors for fraud and interference, centralizes election control in unelected hands, and threatens freedom of speech. I urge you to vote NO on SB 64 and instead support election reforms that are secure, transparent, and accountable to the people of Alaska.

and this bill still doesn't address the issue of dominion voting machines.

JAMIE DONLEY Eagle River, AK

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cora Angels

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 1:07 PM

To: House Finance **Subject:** Secure our Elections!

Good afternoon,

I believe our state and country is only as good as our secure elections. Hearing that my votes for judges doesn't count as the judges accept who they want to, disturbed me deeply. I didn't just believe that initially due to the fact that it would be a waste of voters time, candidates time and be unconstitutional. After going to a judge and asking, they affirmed. This is a Palmer, Alaska judge. I'm appalled at this disgusting practice and leading the public astray by leading us to think we actually have a vote. I also volunteered and served during this last election as a Poll Watcher. I was enlightened of what law breaking things happened under everyone's noses. It appeared that few people cared about illegal votes being entered.

I would like my voice to be heard to secure our elections!

Respectfully, Michelle Bartholomew

Wasilla, AK 99623

From: David Nees

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 1:24 PM

To: House Finance **Subject:** SB64 testimony.

Thank your for bringing this this bill to public input.

We all agree the facts show there are more registered adult voters in the state than adults.

This bill does nothing to fix that.

Please consider a factory reset.

I suggest that we travel back in state law to 1960, when the Division of elections did not have voter rolls. Residents did same day registration at voting stations with proof of residence and ID on a paper ballot. Those who were put of state had to request a ballot by mail.

This solution solves bloat, is simple, is cheap and and prevents ID theft from a State data silo.

David Nees

Cooper Landing

From: Tami

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 1:30 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

Do not pass!

Alaskans deserve election integrity and transparency.

Thank you,

Tamera English

Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Sent from my iPhone

From: Zunny

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:01 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Public Testimony on CSSB 64(FIN) am

Public Testimony on CSSB 64(FIN) am

Dear Chair and Members of the House Finance Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify on CSSB 64(FIN) am. While I recognize the importance of securing election processes, this bill raises significant constitutional and federal law concerns, particularly regarding free speech rights under the First Amendment, and the potential for overreach in regulating election-related communications.

I urge this Committee to carefully consider these concerns before advancing the bill.

1. First Amendment Concerns: Regulation of Campaign Signs (Section 14, AS 15.13.130)

Section 14 of CSSB 64(FIN) am addresses campaign sign regulations, including placement, size, and duration. Campaign signs are a fundamental medium for political speech and voter information.

Legal Precedent:

The U.S. Supreme Court in Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976), affirmed that political expression, including campaign communications, is core protected speech under the First Amendment. Any restrictions must be narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest and be the least restrictive means available.

Concerns:

The bill's current provisions risk imposing overly broad or vague restrictions that could chill speech, especially for grassroots candidates or minority political groups with fewer resources.

2. Synthetic Media in Electioneering Communications (Sections 24 and 25, AS 15.13.380 and AS 15.13.390)

These sections define synthetic media and restrict their use in election communications to prevent misinformation.

Legal Precedent:

While protecting the electorate from false or misleading information is critical, courts have repeatedly ruled that even false or offensive speech is protected, unless it directly incites imminent lawless action (Brandenburg v. Ohio, 395 U.S. 444 (1969)).

Concerns:

The bill's broad definition and criminalization of synthetic media could inadvertently suppress satire, parody, or legitimate political commentary, violating free speech protections. The lack of clear, narrow definitions risks unconstitutional overbreadth.

3. Voter Registration on Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) Applications (Section 8, AS 15.07.090)

The bill mandates voter registration through PFD applications to enhance access.

Federal Compliance:

This provision must comply with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) (52 U.S.C. §§ 20501 et seq.) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) (Pub.L. 107–252), which regulate voter registration processes to protect privacy and ensure accuracy.

Concerns:

Without robust safeguards, this integration could expose personal voter data to misuse, impacting voter privacy rights.

4. Crimes of Unlawful Interference and Election Official Misconduct (Sections 16–22, AS 11.56.840–11.56.860)

These sections create new offenses related to election interference.

Due Process:

The bill must clearly define criminal behaviors to avoid vague or overly broad provisions that could be misused to target lawful political activity, ensuring compliance with constitutional due process protections.

5. Equal Protection and Non-Discrimination

All election laws must comply with the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to prevent discriminatory burdens on protected voter groups.

Conclusion and Recommendations

I respectfully urge this Committee to:

Amend Section 14 to clarify and narrow campaign sign restrictions, ensuring minimal impact on free political speech.

Revise Sections 24 and 25 to provide precise, limited definitions of synthetic media and safeguard legitimate expression, avoiding unconstitutional overreach.

Incorporate stringent privacy and security measures for voter registration data under Section 8, aligning with federal law.

Ensure criminal provisions (Sections 16–22) are narrowly defined to protect due process rights and avoid chilling political participation.

Undertake a thorough constitutional review with stakeholder input to balance election integrity with fundamental rights.

Protecting Alaska's elections is vital, but it must never come at the cost of violating constitutional freedoms that form the foundation of our democracy.

Even Donald J. Trump uses his ridiculous A.I. images. Are you going to stop him, as well? If so, good luck. I applaud the effort.

Thank you for your attention. Susan Allmeroth Two Rivers

References

Alaska Statutes (AS):

AS 15.07.090 — Voter Registration on PFD Applications (Section 8)

AS 15.13.130 — Campaign Sign Regulations (Section 14)

AS 15.13.380, AS 15.13.390 — Synthetic Media Definitions and Restrictions (Sections 24, 25)

AS 11.56.840–11.56.860 — Crimes Related to Election Interference (Sections 16–22)

U.S. Supreme Court Cases:

Buckley v. Valeo, 424 U.S. 1 (1976)

Brandenburg v. Ohio, 395 U.S. 444 (1969)

Federal Statutes:

National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), 52 U.S.C. §§ 20501 et seq.

Help America Vote Act (HAVA), Pub.L. 107–252 (2002)

Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 U.S.C. §§ 10301 et seq.

U.S. Constitution:

First Amendment — Freedom of Speech and Political Expression

Fourteenth Amendment — Equal Protection and Due Process

From: Robert Perkins

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:06 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Please say no to SB 64

Dear Finance Committee Member

Please vote against SB 64. This bill requires more review and discussion when the legislature has more time.

SB 64 would codify two threats to secure elections:

- 1. Same day registration invites fraud and confusion.
- 2. The "witness" signature on absentee ballots is a safeguard against voter fraud.

Thank you

Robert A Perkins

Dr. Robert A. Perkins, PE Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Emeritus University of Alaska Fairbanks

Billions of bilious blue blistering barnacles
Captain Archibald Haddock

From: karen suzan saucier

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:07 PM

To: House Finance
Subject: House bill sb64

I have looked the bill, do not approve of this bill.

Try again

From: Pete Jensen

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:09 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Vote NO on Senate Bill 64.

Same-day voter registration invites fraud, errors, and overwhelms our election systems—especially in Alaska's remote areas. Verifying voters takes time. This bill sacrifices election integrity for convenience. Let's protect our elections, not weaken them. One person, one vote—verified and secure.

Peter H. Jensen

Ketchikan, Alaska

From: Jules Maid Service

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:27 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

I'm Julia Inga, an Alutiiq born in Old Harbor and lives in Palmer now, and I oppose Senate Bill 64 because it weakens traditional in-person voting.

Casting ballots on Election Day with strict voter ID keeps our elections secure and trustworthy.

SB 64 risks fraud by removing witness signatures for absentee ballots, which verify votes.

It also loosens residency rules, letting non-residents potentially vote, and allows utility bills as IDs, which aren't not good at all.

These changes are rushed and undermine our voting system. Please amend SB 64 to keep witness signatures, tighten voter IDs, and ensure only Alaskans vote. If that's not possible, reject the bill.

Alaskans like me want traditional voting's protected and to be rid of RCV.

If the witness signature is to be removed, do it only for rural Alaska, not in cities, not in towns just villages.

Thank you.

Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer

From: Van Lawrence

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:44 PM

To: House Finance **Subject:** SB64 Elections

Dear Legislators,

As a lawyer, a former Municipal Representative, and a former Alaska Public Offices Commissioner I support the above-referenced bill.

--

H. VAN Z. LAWRENCE

Fairbanks, AK 99701

From: Carly Wier

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 3:08 PM

To: House Finance Cc: Rep. Sarah Vance

Subject: SB 64

Dear Committee Members and Representative Vance,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 64 because it is a reasonable and measured package that takes parts of several pieces of legislation, including from Governor Dunleavy.

Despite the bizarre partisan rhetoric and inflammatory comments during public testimony today (and in Rep Vance's social media posts), pieces of this bill have been in the works for years and are common sense and would improve our election integrity in Alaska making our elections more secure.

I am also writing because I have firsthand experience with the witness signature element and urge you to remove this unnecessary step and to retain the ballot curing provisions and prepaid postage provisions in the bill.

While I prefer to vote in person, in 2022 my husband and I had to leave Alaska before in person absentee voting started here in Homer in order to help care for family in the L48. We requested absentee ballots, got them in the mail, and obviously would complete each other's witness signature. Seemed easy enough, and yet unfortunately I neglected to sign my husband's ballot in our haste to get them ready for the mail on our way out of town. It was an honest mistake, we are both registered and eligible voters and value our ability to participate regularly. His ballot was rejected and there was no opportunity to change that.

He never lets me forget it; he brings it up every time we vote.

I urge you to keep the removal of witness signature, the ballot curing process and the pre-paid postage provisions to make sure that Alaskans attempting to vote in good faith have opportunities to do so.

Thank you, Carly Wier Homer, Alaska (HD6) From: Kathy Toms

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 3:09 PM

To: Michael Jones

Cc: Charlie Franz; Rep. Sarah Vance; House Finance; Elaine Bramer; Laura Heckert; Waynette

Coleman; George Hall; Mary Lambe; Renee Eidem; Becky Woods; Douglas O'Brien; Mary

Hutchison; Gayle Claus; Leonard Miller; Hope Casseri; Eileen Becker; Claire O'Donnell

Subject: Re: SB64

Honorable Representative Vance,

I am on this email thread and would like to state that I agree with both Charlie and Mike. This is a horrible bill and should never see the light of day. Please do everything possible to get this killed. If you can't stop it, at least encourage the governor to veto it. Thank you for your consideration,



Kathy Toms

On Wed, May 14, 2025 at 5:19 PM Michael Jones

wrote:

Honorable Representative Vance,

I too attempted to testify on SB 64 today, with the same results as Charlie Franz.

I similarly oppose SB 64, and I did leave a message with your office encouraging you to vote against it when it comes up for vote.

Mr. Franz lays out many concerns with the Bill, particularly within the theme of "removing barriers to voting". The actions proposed in this theme actually increase the risk of fraud and reduce election integrity.

Additionally, the provision on page 18 of the Bill, lines 1-4, lays out that an absentee ballot would be accepted if a tracking barcode can verify the ballot was MAILED ON OR BEFORE election day. We should be requiring absentee ballots to be RECEIVED BY election day. In NO WAY should an absentee ballot be MAILED ON election day. In fact, given the time required for mail delivery from the Division of Elections, to the Voter, then back to the Division of Elections, it's difficult to support the logic that any absentee ballots should be issued by the Division of Elections within 7 days of election day.

This bill should not make it out of the House Finance Committee, however, if it should pass through the House Finance Committee, it should be summarily voted down.

Thank you.

Michael L. Jones

Homer Resident



Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 4:15 PM

To: Rep. Sarah Vance < Rep. Sarah. Vance@akleg.gov >, House. Finance@akleg.gov

< House. Finance@akleg.gov >

Cc: Elaine Bramer < ebramer7896@gmail.com>, Laura Heckert laurieheckert@yahoo.com>, Waynette

Coleman <swcburkhardt@gmail.com >, George Hall <ghall118@gmail.com >, Mary Lambe

<marylambe907@gmail.com>, Renee Eidem <hvningvmt@gmail.com>, Becky Woods

<noahsarkmom1@gmail.com>, Douglas O'Brien <Douglaskobrien@yahoo.com>, Mary Hutchison

<mothermary10@gmail.com>, Michael Jones <mli>mljhea9@gmail.com>, Gayle Claus

<<u>tracyave@proton.me</u>>, Kathy Toms <<u>kathytomsalaska@gmail.com</u>>, Leonard Miller

<llmiller@ptialaska.net>, Hope Casseri <Yankee1308@yahoo.com>, Eileen Becker

<elbecker1945@gmail.com>, Claire O'Donnell <claireodonnell4@gmail.com>

Subject: SB64

Honorable Representative Vance,

I tried to testify on SB64 this afternoon, but the joint floor session delayed testimony and then after waiting an hour and a half to testify, the chair of the finance committee adjourned the hearing before taking any testimony, so I want to share my thoughts with you.

I oppose SB64 and hope you will vote against it when you have the chance. My concerns with the bill are:

- 1. It claims to improve election integrity, but it actually decreases the integrity of our election process.
- 2. Pre-registration of 16 year olds increases the workload for the Division of Elections, which already does a poor job of managing the voter roll. It also increases the potential for fraud by increasing the names on the voter roll.
- 3. The provisions for cleaning up the voter roll are very weak and offer little improvement over the current situation.
- 4. Allowing same day registration complicates the voter identification/validation process and will further delay election results.
- 5. Removing the witness requirements for absentee ballots is a move in the wrong direction the requirements to be a witness should be strengthened.
- 6. Adding ballot curing is not necessary only approximately 1300 absentee ballots were rejected in the last election. If people are too stupid or careless to sign and date their ballot, perhaps they shouldn't vote.
- 7. There is no need for installing multiple drop boxes around the larger cities. The vast majority of ballots are cast in person.
- 8. The bill essentially creates a permanent mail-in voting system by allowing voters to sign up for absentee ballots in perpetuity.
- 9. There is no requirement for photo identification even though free state Identification cards are readily available.

This bill needs a serious rewrite.		

Respectfully,

Charlie

From: Kenneth T. Saucier

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 3:26 PM

To: House Finance **Subject:** No to SB 64

No to same day voter registration. No on SB64

I am a 30 year Alaskan. I've watched our election system take a significant downward turn toward fraud.

I support:

- One day to vote except for absentee ballots
- Serialized ballots
- Absentee ballots must be postmarked on or before election day
- Ballots should be counted immediately
- End Ranked Choice Voting
- Voter ID. No ID no vote.
- Voting center monitors
- Bipartisan hand count monitoring

Again, we need to fix our voting process. This bill does not do that.

Very respectfully, Ken Saucier From: Kelly Nash

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 3:37 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Judicial Watch made history last month when new developments in landmark legal

actions led to the inactivation, processing, or removal of more than five million...

Judicial Watch made history last month when new developments in landmark legal actions led to the inactivation, processing, or removal of more than five million...

Source: Judicial Watch

https://search.app/Mw1zTzb62LgsDo7w9

From: Donald Trometter

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 3:49 PM

To: House Finance

Cc: Sen. Robert Myers; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Will Stapp

Subject: Vote NO on SB64

Hello Committee,

1st of all voters need to be registered to vote prior to Election Day. Need a photo ID to vote. A hunting or fishing license without a voter photo ID should not count. A utility bill or a bank statement with no photo ID should not be used.

All absentee/mail-in ballots should be received by Election Day. All mail-in ballots should have a witness. 1 Line for the name to be printed and then a signature line underneath. One person can only witness a certain amount of ballots per person.

I do think it would be great for individuals to be able to track their own ballot. From the time that they go to vote, no matter if it is early voting, or day-of, or mail-in to track your ballot on a website.

I believe APOC does need to be reorganized or eliminated, so that it is easier for the average individual to fill out the forms and not have to do duplicate information on different forms. I believe there is great confusion with APOC so that some people can be charged astronomical amounts of money for infractions and to have daily rate of increase per minor infraction. Possibly a way for the state just to get extra money for their coffers. They claim that this is a nonpartisan committee, but if you look at the penalties. It does not appear that way when we know that there are some groups that continually do not follow the rules and you don't see any penalties or very small penalties placed upon them.

Section 45 - 46. Is going to be very difficult in today's advanced trending Electronic Communication Systems in communication and advertising. Even in the last general election everybody who was running made some electronic AI Images / video / audio advertising. It's very impressive the way this group has used words. Like *access software provider*, *Artificial intelligence*, *electioneering communication*, *synthetic media*. For

many years when you would get your graduation photo printed. For further use there was touch up done to cover Birth defects, Birthmarks that are really bad zit you had on that particular day. I am going to assume that that is all considered **synthetic media**, which is or is not allowed. So I hope that every single person that is running an ad for a campaign is not going to make any alterations to the color of the green grass, Whiten the snow, and make their surroundings look more beautiful! Or cover a mark that they might have been born with! Or just having a bad hair day! We know that sounds and images have enhanced advertising for years and years and years. Personally, I believe that this aspect of this bill is just to have more fines from APOC for individuals who may enhance their advertising over someone else. Al is enhancing our ability to do much in the advertising world, as well as movies, sound Media. I believe for our legislative group to try to control that is walking a fine line. Even upon themselves, who are currently going to run for reelection. I believe in one of the very last elections for the state, there was somebody who had two different people on the same Mailer and one was a summertime picture and the other was a winter time picture. So would that be considered **Synthetic Media**? Making alterations to the original snapshot.

And the last thing that I will talk about is your signage. I find it interesting that you want the campaign signage to be no larger than 32 square feet in size for displays. But if someone owns a business, they could have signage the same size as their building to advertise their business. That business sign could be up 12 months out of the year, where campaign signs are only up for a short period of time. **Campaign signs are Freedom of Speech!** And if they want to get picky, as they're saying in bill 660 feet from the nearest roadway, then I believe that they need to really start looking at the roadways in Alaska that the state maintains. Here in North Pole, it's very clear that there are many businesses directly along state roadways that have business signs up. Business signs are on State right away. This Bill is only for picking on Campaign Signs, then I believe you're getting very much into freedom of speech for the people who own properties and want to advertise a campaign sign for a candidate. I believe each of you that have been a part of this knows that here in Alaska there have been lawsuits over the years pertaining to campaign signs and freedom of speech. And I don't know why anybody would want to start that process all over again. Legislators have much more important items to move forward.

It would be more worthwhile for your time to control the voting registration by eliminating all voting registration on the PFD application. If people want to register to vote they don't need to do it at the same time they're filling out the PFD. Of course, if elections don't want to make that change, you can just **not** put those people on the voter registration list as non-affiliated if

they don't check the box. We all know there's a lot of fraud here in the state of Alaska when you have 110% of the population registered to vote. When persons under the age of 18 are not even legal voters.

Persons have put a lot of time into this bill, but it sure was not thought out for long term results. I ask you to vote **NO** on this bill until it can be refined.

Thank you for your time.

Kindly,

Rita Trometter

North Pole

From: Lindabergsmith

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 4:41 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

I oppose SB 64 because it sounds like voter access and it is a threat to election integrity. VOTE No.

Linda BERG SMITH Anchorage Alaska

Sent from my iPhone

From: Megan Bauman

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 4:56 PM

To: House Finance **Subject:** No on SB64

I do not support the SB64 election bill in any way - as written, it will be highly detrimental to election integrity.

PLEASE no do not pass this bill.

Megan Bauman Juneau, AK Born & Raised Alaskan From: Byron Whitesides

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 5:01 PM

To: House Finance

Cc: Rep. Jeremy Bynum; Sen. Bert Stedman

Subject: SB 64 and election integrity

5/15/2025

To: House Finance Committee

RE: SB 64

I am a lifelong Alaskan of 76 years born and raised and am extremely upset and concerned about the honesty and integrity of our elections the last decade, but especially the honesty of the 2020 and 2022 elections, and the questionable change of results to rid us of RCV in 2024!

I am outraged by the proposals in SB 64, which does NOTHING to improve the integrity and credibility of the elections, and EVERYTHING to make them less honest and credible. I URGE YOU ALL TO REJECT THIS BILL!

We don't need "more mail in ballots" they are the least credible, the easiest to cheat on, and also because the signature doesn't mean anything anymore! If the signature is not VERIFIABLE to be that of the registered voter, WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO ACTUALLY VOTED THAT BALLOT! I think the requirement should be that this ballot and envelope of a mail in vote be NOTARIZED by a public notary, rather than every mail in ballot just being accepted without a qualified VERIFICATION that the signature MATCHES the signature of the person who registered!

Then they want to just send out mass mail ballots to everyone registered on the extremely bloated and inaccurate voter rolls! This is insanity and just asking for cheating to occur! HOW DO YOU KNOW THOSE REGISTERED ARE EVEN ALIVE, ACTUALLY RESIDENTS AND QUALIFIED TO VOTE, OR CITIZENS, and whether they even WANT to vote? NO mail ballots should ever be sent UNLESS REQUESTED, and the voter requesting should have to provide legitimate identification proving they are a CITIZEN, a RESIDENT, and qualified to vote!

The state of Alaska has refused to clean the voter rolls that are in many experts estimation 10% to as much as 20% more registered voters than actual residents in many precincts! The state of Alaska needs to ABOLISH the present voter rolls and then make everyone re-register using a PHOTO ID, and proof of citizenship like a passport or official birth certificate! Our country and state has been inundated for decades by multiple millions of illegal aliens who were given driver licenses and registered to vote automatically! WE NEED TIGHTER VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS not so loose that easily forged documents can be used as proof of qualification!

Also, the contract with ERIC should be terminated IMMEDIATELY, they haven't done the job needed to keep the voter rolls clean and accurate, and federal law forbids the STATE from sharing the voters personal information with third parties, without the permission of the voter, and I do not give you permission! I don't want to find out that my voter information has been used to register voters in other

states or precincts by unscrupulous third party operators, or my identity has been stolen because the STATE broke federal law and allowed my information to be put in jeopardy, because some third party contractor got hacked! And don't try to tell me this contractor won't get hacked, the Dept of Elections got hacked shortly before the 2020 elections, and then hid it from the voters until quite a while after the election! The functions that the STATE has contracted ERIC to do should be done by STATE EMPLOYEES, not God only knows who in some other state or country! Using a third party contractor endangers the security of the election and NO ONE should be watching the election on a computer in real time, and you can not verify that ERIC is not doing this! The state should not be "contracting" to a third party to do what the law states the STATE OF ALASKA is required to do, the state needs to have STATE EMPLOYEES OF THE DIVISION OF ELECTIONS REMOVE ALL INELIGIBLE VOTERS FROM THE ROLLS AS IT IS REQUIRED TO DO, and not allow third parties to REGISTER voters, all voters are REQUIRED to be citizens, and these third parties are not qualified to investigate and provide proof that who they are registering are actually CITIZENS, residents, or qualified to vote in our elections!

As to more "drop boxes" and extended early voting, THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES says ELECTION DAY, not election week or election month! I see NO provision in the constitution for "early voting for two weeks" or even continued counting of ballots for weeks after the election! MAKE THE PRECINCTS SMALLER AND COUNT THE BALLOTS AFTER THE POLLS CLOSE, BY HAND AND WITH MULTIPLE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLPARTIES PRESENT TO ASSURE AN HONEST COUNT, AND THEN REPORT THE RESULTS TO HEADQUARTERS! Secondly, ALL mail in and early votes should be counted first, early election day, and with REPRESENTATIVES of all political parties present! There need be no computers used to keep a running tally starting the day the first mail in/early votes are received, simple adding machines and then the count reported at 8:01 pm election day, before the election day ballots get counted, so no shenanigans will be happening with ballots showing up for weeks or even days after the election to magically change the results!

I could go on and on for hours about this bill and how it will do nothing to assure we have honest elections, or gain the lost trust of the public that our elections are honest, when HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS are at stake and we see our PFD's being stolen by legislators who don't seem to represent the wishes of the PEOPLE who do not approve of using the PFD's to fund an enlarged and bloated government that does not listen to the people! These PFD's do far more good to the state and economy of the state when given as designed to the PEOPLE, and this money turns over many times in our state enhancing our private sector economy! If you dispute my assertion that the people don't approve government using the PFD's, PUT IT ON THE BALLOT! You won't, because you know I'm correct and putting on the ballot will UNDISPUTEDLY show this!

Again, I urge you all to put an end to this ridiculous bill SB 64 and vote against it!

Sincerely,

Byron Whitesides

Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

PS: I am pasting below a letter that was sent to you by an Alaska resident, which has many good points that I agree with. Found it posted in a conservative facebook group, I think the MAJORITY of Alaskan voters who supported President Trump and his agenda in the last election agree with this letter!

I am writing as a concerned Alaskan to urge you to vote NO on Senate Bill 64 (SB 64D). While this bill is framed as a modernization of Alaska's election laws, it contains several deeply troubling provisions that jeopardize both the security of our elections and the fundamental freedoms of Alaskans.

Here are my major concerns:

1. Mass Mail-Out Ballots Undermine Security

SB 64 allows absentee ballots to be automatically mailed to voters each year without the voter even requesting one. This increases the risk of ballots going to the wrong people, especially with inaccurate voter rolls. Voting should be deliberate and secure—not passive and vulnerable to misuse.

2. Weakens Voter ID Integrity

The bill allows voters to verify their identity using utility bills or bank statements—documents that are far easier to fake or misuse than a government-issued ID. Yet to apply for a Permanent Fund Dividend, an Alaskan must present a valid driver's license. If that's the standard for receiving state funds, it should be the standard for casting a vote.

3. Dangerous Expansion of Drop Boxes

SB 64 requires 24/7 open ballot drop boxes across the state for 10 days prior to elections. This may sound convenient, but it creates serious chain-of-custody vulnerabilities—and we've already seen the consequences elsewhere:

In Bridgeport, Connecticut (2023), video surveillance showed individuals illegally stuffing multiple ballots into drop boxes, leading to a judge throwing out the mayoral primary and ordering a new election.

In Frio County, Texas(2024), multiple individuals were prosecuted for organized ballot harvesting violations involving mail ballots and drop boxes.

- In Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington (2024), arsonists set fire to ballot drop boxes just days before the election, destroying hundreds of ballots.
- 4. Centralizes Power in the Division of Elections

SB 64 shifts election authority away from the elected Lieutenant Governor to unelected staff in the Division of Elections. This weakens accountability and opens the door to political bias in how elections are managed and enforced.

5. Outside "Experts" With No Oversight

The bill allows the Division to contract "nationally recognized" election experts to audit voter rolls—without naming who they are or how they're chosen. This could lead to partisan groups influencing our state's elections through vague back channels, with no input from voters or legislators.

6. Synthetic Media Provision Threatens Free Speech

SB 64 bans AI-generated political content unless it carries specific disclaimers. Anyone who reposts or shares such content could be sued—even if it's satire or commentary. This vague and overly broad law threatens Alaskans' First Amendment rights and opens the door to censorship in political dialogue.

7. Opens the Door to Ballot Harvesting

The bill weakens safeguards for special needs voting by allowing representatives to deliver ballots without rejecting them for procedural errors unless intentional misconduct is proven. This invites abuse by third-party ballot collectors with minimal accountability.

8. Silent on ERIC – Alaska Voter Data at Risk

The bill does nothing to address Alaska's continued participation in the ERIC system, which shares voter data across states. Alaskans deserve full transparency and a public decision on whether we should stay in a system with known security and privacy concerns.

9. APOC Reporting Increases Donor Exposure

The bill increases public reporting requirements for campaign donors without clear privacy protections. In small communities, that can open the door to intimidation or harassment of people simply for supporting a candidate or cause.

In short, SB 64 creates more problems than it solves. It weakens voter ID protections, opens new doors for fraud and interference, centralizes election control in unelected hands, and threatens freedom of speech. I urge you to vote NO on SB 64 and instead support election reforms that are secure, transparent, and accountable to the people of Alaska.

and this bill still doesn't address the issue of dominion voting machines.



From: Donald Trometter

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 8:47 PM

To: House Finance

Cc: Sen. Robert Myers; Rep. Frank Tomaszewski; Rep. Mike Prax; Rep. Will Stapp

Subject: Vote NO on SB64

Hello folks

I urge everyone to vote NO on this bill. You need to go back and scrutinize everything in this. There are so many things that are wrong. I can see that many of the things in this Bill are going to be in court and you will have to go back in the future to correct them. I would offer to help you with this but I'm sure you will have many suggestions already. So please don't pass this as it is written.

Donald Trometter North Pole From: Larri Spengler

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 9:53 PM

To: House Finance yes on SB 64!

Greetings:

I urge you to support Senate Bill 64, which will make voting in Alaska easier AND more secure.

Thank you.

Larri Spengler

--

Larri Irene Spengler

Juneau, Alaska 99801

(phone/fax)

From: Sybille Castro-Curry

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 5:59 AM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

Please DO NOT PASS HB 64. Sincerely yours S.Curry Nikiski AK From: Therese Lewandowski

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 8:27 AM **To:** House Finance; Rep. Sarah Vance

Subject: SB 64 Election Reform!

House Finance Committee Members,

I support SB 64, Election Reforms. I didn't try to testify and am late writing this. I just reviewed some of the for and against letters written. It seems to me the against are very distrustful of the election process in general. That impression is mostly due to the spread of misinformation. The elections office does try to educate voters, as do other organizations, but I fear the citizens of this state do not understand our voting system.

I support SB 64 because -

- Enhances language assistance options
- Increases election process by allowing candidates and prop campaign reps to observe state review board process
- Removes witness signature which is a waste of time as it is not reviewed, I could fake sign a name and no one would know the difference.
- Allows tribal id yes! That obviously affirms a person's identification. Some folks who live in remote communities may not have a ADL since some don't drive.
- Ballot curing of mailed in ballots and tracking of the same! Yes! I love being able to see my ballot was received and being counted. And if a mistake is made I can correct just like when you put your ballot in the vote counting box at the polls.
- Enhances cybersecurity. Yes!
- Prohibits the use of "deepfake" media to influence campaigns. I don't understand how that works but I guess it would take a budget process. I very much agree this needs addressing. I also wish negative campaigning could be prohibited!
- Allow preregistration for 16 year olds. Yes! Get them on track and interested!
- Allow registering within 30 days of election and then have to do a Question Ballot when they vote so the elections office can closely review. I see no problem with this.

I read many who oppose also want to do away with the data box counters. They seem to think that voters should trust a human being to count ballots. I don't!!!!!

We have the data counter which also kicks back a ballot that is incorrectly or ambiguously filled out. If a human looks at that, is it up to them to decide? No - it would have to go to the Juneau elections office and a committee would have to review it. Good grief.

The data counter allows same day election results. And ---- there is always the ballots! The data counter and the ballots! So perfect!

If it wasn't for ranked choice voting some party candidates wouldn't be on the ballot. I believe in open primaries to allow all the people to decide who can make it to the general election, not the party.

I'm an election worked since 2020 and find the process to be darn tight. 2024 gave us an increase in Republican poll watchers. Those who came to our polling place agreed the system is secure and good.

Therese Lewandowski Homer From: Kelly Nash

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 9:58 AM

To: House Finance Subject: Rural voting

Hello,

I am sending this mail because I am listening to the live feed on SB64.

It sounds to me that the rural villages are disenfranchising themselves.

If they don't take voting seriously and poll workers and elections workers don't take voting seriously, what's with all the talk about the witness signature in the rural areas.

It sounds to me like they are wanting to make laws that are only targeted at the rural minority areas.

Why?

Kelly Nash

From: Pamela Melin

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 10:13 AM

To: House Finance

Subject: No on SB-64 - from: Valley Republican Women of Alaska

SB64 IS BEING HIJACKED

The House Finance Committee is railroading SB64 what started as a decent election integrity bill has been gutted and repackaged into a disaster. They're even claiming Senator Shower

As President of the VRWAK, its executive team and the multiple members that have called me yesterday and today, we are adamantly opposed to this disaster in its current form.

Pamela Melin, MBA, CRM President-Valley Republican Women of Alaska From: Abigale Hensley

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:00 PM

To: House Finance Subject: Support for SB 64

Dear House Finance Committee members,

I encourage you to support SB 64. This much needed bill will strengthen our democratic process and protect the constitutional right to vote for all Alaskans.

Thank you, Abbe Hensley

"Silent gratitude isn't very much use to anyone." -Gertrude Stein

From: Margaret King

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:06 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Senate Bill 64 - Please Support

House Finance Committee Members:

I strongly support better access to voting. Whether in urban or rural Alaska. Each Vote Matters.

In particular - rural/remote Alaska is what makes Alaska unique and I believe their voices must be heard. Rural / remote Alaska is anything but homogeneous - I'm often surprised - and not always in a good way - about how rural Alaska votes.

Nevertheless - I recognize that living in rural/remote Alaska comes with many challenges that those of us in urban areas don't face.

Ensuring that as a State we provide them - and all Alaskans - with the support needed to ensure all of our perspectives are heard through our voting process is imperative for us as a State.

Thank you for your consideration and for working so well together this legislative session.

I recognize that there are many challenges Alaska faces and I appreciate the willingness for many in the Legislature to reach across the aisle and strive to address them

Sincerely, Margaret King

Anchorage, AK 99520

From: gstickwan

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:10 PM

To:House FinanceSubject:Senate Bill 64

Please support SB64 to ensure fair voting for all people in the State of Alaska. Gloria Stickwan

Sent from my Galaxy

From: Jennifer Adams

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:13 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Support Senate bill 64

Please support this critical opportunity to strengthen the democratic process, remove unnecessary barriers and protect the constitutional right to vote for all Alaskans!

Thank you! Jennifer Adams, Soldotna resident From: Kerry Ivory

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 1:14 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Native Village of Ouzinkie support for SB 64

Camai"i - Good Afternoon to Members of the House Finance Committee.

Thank you all for taking the time to consider this request. My name is Kerry Ivory and I am the Administrator for the Native Village of Ouzinkie. I wanted to write, on behalf of my community, to express our full support of SB 64. This bill protects the right of citizens to have their voices (in the form of a vote) heard. It provides for greater support for rural and remote villages to increase voter awareness & information and will hopefully result in a higher turnout from residents who might otherwise be excluded. It also eliminates the witness signature requirement which can prove to be an obstacle for the elders and disabled people in our remote communities.

Please vote in favor of turning this bill into law.

Quyanaa,

Kerry L Ivory
Tribal Administrator
Native Village of Ouzinkie
Office -907-680-2285
NVO General 907-680-2259
Emergency or after hours 208-952-9598

From:

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 1:33 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Support Needed for Senate Bill 64

Hello,

I live at 937 Ben Walters Ct Homer, AK 99603. I am asking you to Support Senate Bill 64.

SB 64 makes critical voting improvements, such as:

- 1. Rural Liaisons: Provide greater support to rural communities to ensure effective election access and information sharing.
- 2. Pre-Paid Postage: Offer pre-paid ballot postage to improve access in areas with limited postal services.
- 3. Ballot Curing: Allow voters to fix ballot errors.
- 4. Eliminate Witness Signature: Remove the witness signature requirement, which is unverified and leads to unnecessary ballot rejections.
- 5. Permanent Absentee Voting: Allow voters to opt in permanently, with safeguards for inactive voters.
- 6. Ballot Drop Boxes: Expand the number of drop boxes across Alaska to improve voting access.

We need these common-sense reforms to make voting more accessible, particularly for rural and Alaska Native communities.

Thank you, Heather

Heather Sauyaq Jean Gordon, PhD

Sauyaq Solutions

Website: https://sites.google.com/view/sauyaqsolutions

Schedule a meeting with me: https://scheduler.zoom.us/heather-sauyaq-jean-gordon-she-her/

Email: sauyaq@outlook.com

I work flexibly and may send emails outside of normal working hours – I do not expect a response outside of your working hours.

"[A] revolution is achieved with neither verbalism nor activism, but rather with praxis, that is, with reflection and action directed at the structures to be transformed."—Paulo Freire

"Perhaps they are not stars, but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones pours through and shines down upon us to let us know they are happy."—
Inuit Proverh



From: Randi Sweet

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 1:39 PM

To: House Finance

Cc: Rep. Sarah Vance; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Bill Wielechowski

Subject: SB - 64 Elections - Support

Dear House Finance Committee Co-Chairs and Members:

Please support this compromise bill on Alaska elections.

One aspect of ensuring free and fair elections is to continuously improve statutes, regulations and programs.

The other is to address issues to assure voter access. I live in Seldovia, a rural community off the road system. It is important to me to have ballot curingand elimination of a witness signature on absentee ballots.

I also support postage paid ballots; drop boxes at the Division of Elections Offices; requirement for Lt. Governor to implement cyber security protection on elections system including data and hardware; addition of Tribal ID as means of identification; a ballot tracking system to assist voters; requirement for disclosure/transparency of data breach so the public is informed; requirement for audits to ensure election integrity; enables all candidates to have poll watchers and observers; allows Division of Elections to publish unofficial counts and, prohibition on deep fakes.

All of these measures support free and fair elections. They provide access and provide for security, transparency and enable voter confidence. And, they continuously improve our Alaska election system.

Please support SB 64 - Elections.

Thank you,

Randi Sweet Seldovia, Alaska From: Susan McHenry

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 1:41 PM

To: House Finance **Subject:** Senate bill 64

Senate Bill 64 provides improvements and security for Alaskans. I strongly urge you to use your vote in support of moving Senate Bill 64 forward.

Thank you.

Sue McHenry Fairbanks From: Claire Wilson

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 4:47 PM

To: House Finance **Subject:** SB 64–voting bill

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of SB 64, which seems to me to be a common sense bill that would make it easier for people to exercise their right to vote. We want more people to successfully take part in the process of democracy, and the provisions of this bill would facilitate that.

Sincerely, Claire Wilson Anchorage

Dena'inaq einen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. Translation: S. Shaginoff-Stuart, J. Isaak From: Gale K. Vick

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 5:43 PM

To: House Finance

Cc: Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Andy Josephson; Rep. Calvin Schrage; Rep. Alyse Galvin; Rep. Sara

Hannan; Rep. Nellie Jimmie; Rep. Will Stapp; Rep. DeLena Johnson; Rep. Frank

Tomaszewski; Rep. Jamie Allard; Rep. Jeremy Bynum

Subject: Please vote YES on SB64

May 16, 2025

To: Members, House Finance, Alaska Legislature

I write in support of Senate Bill 64 to improve voting access across Alaska. I support all the provisions of the bill as passed in the Senate.

We need to increase and secure voting opportunities in Alaska, especially in a state with all the geographical and communications challenges we face. In Alaska, we value that right possibly much more so than other states.

Please support this critical legislation.

Thank you.

Gale K. Vick

Fairbanks, AK 99709

From: Phyllis Adams

Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2025 7:13 AM

To: House Finance Subject: Senate bill 64

I support Senate Bill 64

Phyllis Adams

Anchorage, Alaska 99501 Sent from my iPad From: Carmen Durham

Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2025 9:22 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: SB 64

Dear Senators,

I am not for SB 64. Please do not vote "yes" for this bill.

Thank you for your service,

Mrs. Carmen Durham

Fbks, Ak 99712

From:

Sent: Saturday, May 17, 2025 11:23 PM

To: House Finance

Cc: Rep. Sarah Vance; ghall118@gmail.com

Subject: SB64

House Finance Members Foster, Josephson, Schlage, Galvin, Hannan, UnangiqJimmie, Stapp, Johnson, Tomaszewski, Allard, and Bynum,

Thankfully SB64 died in committee. Despite the hype, this deceptive bill will do little to make Alaska's elections more safe, accessible, and secure.

Democrats know this which is why they sponsored the bill.

Note to Rep. Tomaszewski, there is NO need to revisit this bill in 2026. Republicans best wake up to that now, preferably before the bill is hauled out again by the Democrats and wishy-washy Republicans who 1) think Democrats are their trusted friends and 2) think pairing up with Democrats destructive policy is good governance.

EVERY state that has passed legislation for ballot drop boxes everywhere, no witness signature needed, mail in ballots (absentee or otherwise) have turned deep blue within 10 years of implementation. The Democrats know this is their key to forever winning elections and turning Alaska blue. Their ultimate goal is 50 blue states and one party rule.

Thank you to the Alaskans who spoke out against this bill. Thank you to the Republican legislators who put a stop to it in the 2025 session. Be prepared to stop it again if and when it is resurrected.

Jennifer and Keith Lorensen/ Homer, AK

From: Holly Brooks

Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 8:04 AM

To: House Education; House Finance; Rep. Julie Coulombe

Subject: Help SAVE Alaska from the Dunleavy Decline!

Dear State House,

I am TIRED of my friends moving out of state. My kid's first grade teacher announced she is resigning two weeks ago. PLEASE band together and stand up for Alaska's kids.

Here are the facts:

https://alaskabeacon.com/2025/05/19/the-dunleavy-decline-a-legacy-thats-left-alaskas-students-behind/?fbclid=lwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR51XeQE3dq3KSbVcwEqwofWgUHj_qJrjyAubi3IZOOTSdSQ7fe7EHlene2ysg_aem_Efe5QiQ35FzNFt69k2WOjw

And an op-ed I co-authored for the ADN yesterday:

https://www.adn.com/opinions/2025/05/19/opinion-gov-dunleavy-is-putting-public-education-up-for-sale-heres-why-alaskans-must-reject-the-voucher-trojan-horse/?fbclid=lwY2xjawKZhpBleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETF3YXk3cm9UZVRzU2N0bllXAR7OqG0yzyzhW2gEgegjri6yy0PgN2F3paHhM83xF22v3kwBbB6LpdKaR17jfA_aem_SGOsRxDmJxfX2q7ZxSe6KQ

Sincerely,

Facebook:

Holly Brooks, business owner and mother of two first graders

Holly Brooks (she/hers), OLY, LPC, PMH-C
Owner/Practitioner

Anchorage Alaska 99503

Instagram:

CONFIDENTIALITY STATEMENT:

Please note that email communication cannot be guaranteed to be secure. If you are choosing to send personal information via email, you thereby waive confidentiality of said information. Clients are discouraged from using email communication for purposes other than scheduling for this reason. Holly Brooks cannot be held responsible for ensuring the confidentiality and integrity of this email message. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email and delete this communication and destroy all copies. Thank you.

From: Evelyn Beeter <ebeeter@mstc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:00 AM

To: House Finance

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 64

- 1. Rural Liaisons: Provide greater support to rural communities to ensure effective election access and information sharing.
- 2. Pre-Paid Postage: Offer pre-paid ballot postage to improve access in areas with limited postal services.
- 3. Ballot Curing: Allow voters to fix ballot errors.
- 4. Eliminate Witness Signature: Remove the witness signature requirement, which is unverified and leads to unnecessary ballot rejections.
- 5. Permanent Absentee Voting: Allow voters to opt in permanently, with safeguards for inactive voters.
- 6. Ballot Drop Boxes: Expand the number of drop boxes across Alaska to improve voting access.

Evelyn Beeter President/CEO Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium PO Box 357 Gakona, Alaska 99586 907-822-5399 From Randy Ruedrich District 17 Anchorage to Alaska House Finance Committee on May 15, 2025

Senate Bill 64 prepares the path for future statewide mail-in voting legislation that the Anchorage Municipal Democrats have already adopted.

Such Legislation would mail Ballots to every voter currently registered at any address on the vote roll.

Mail-in voting has been found to create significant voter fraud in other states. The video "2000 Mules" documented thousands of harvested mail-in ballots flowing into drop boxes for the 2020 General Election.

The bill would establish permanent absentee-by-mail ballot distribution, which sends an ABM ballot to a voter's old temporary address.

As long as these permanent ABM ballots are returned to the DOE, this law requires the DOE to continue feeding ballots to what may be unauthorized agent at that address.

Prior Alaskan experience revealed less than 20% of these ballots were returned by someone, hopefully (but not necessarily) the voter.

The remaining more than 80% of the missing ballots present even more opportunities for fraudulent ballot harvesting for deposit into the drop boxes created by this law.

The bill removes the witness signature from the absentee-by-mail ballot envelopes.

Democrats say the witness signature is inconvenient. Well, so are voter ID, voter registration, and voting itself.

The witness signature affirms the identity of the voter.

Removal of this voter identity affirmation clears the way for required voter signature verification, another mail-in voting cornerstone.

The bill's "cure" process for Alaska absentee-by-mail ballots is NOT needed.

The 2024 ABM ballots statewide and especially from the four western rural districts were high-quality with less than 1.6% defects.

The cure process advocates argue voters need multiple chances to get their ballot submitted correctly.

The 2022 Special Primary Election and the prior 2020 Covid-impacted elections are the only examples of voters having witness issues.

The 2020 Covid saga created fear for everyone. Getting a witness signature could lead to your death was hype at its finest.

The bill's drop boxes are a critical part of future vote harvesting and voter fraud in mail-in voting, as noted above.

Without evidence of a reoccurring need, why adopt these changes and huge expenses that go with them?

The real reason is to eliminate witness signature and have drop boxes with cure processes available is for receiving thousands of future mail-in voting ballots.

Another major error in SB 64 is the destruction of the Alaska right to vote for those who are outside of Alaska, by requiring the voter to return to the person's place of "physical habitation." There are many people who are out of state for all kinds of reasons — medical, family emergencies, education, or work station. Some of these are military voters.

The Democrats have historically pushed to eliminate military voters from Alaska's elections.

Since a military voter cannot claim to return to their prior on-base housing when they return to Alaska, they are automatically removed from the voter roll by this bill.

If a soldier or airman plans to retire to Alaska at the conclusion of his or her career, they do not return to their prior base housing. Hence, the military member's plan to return is not adequate to maintain voter registration.

This Democrat ploy will eliminate our registered enlisted personnel who have viewed Alaska as their only home during decades-long military careers.

Similarly, when Alaskans leave for education, professional training, or career enhancing experience, the requirement to return to your prior residence is unrealistic. Family size and housing requirements change. To inhibit their Alaska voter registration with this ploy, discourages Alaskans from returning to their home state.

Furthermore, the bill rolls the Alaska Redistricting Board into the Open Meeting Act, which is inappropriate and another key reason to kill **SB 64**.

SB 64 is extremely harmful to Alaskans and Alaskans' Elections and must not become law.

Email your legislators and the governor to voice your opposition to SB 64.

A list of legislators is at this link. For senators, the email address style

is: Sen.FirstName.LastName@akleg.gov. For House members, the email address

is: Rep. First Name. Last Name@akleg.gov

Randy Ruedrich is a former chairman of the A

From: dhjohnson113

Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:04 PM

To: House Finance

Subject: Written Testimony for SB 64

Attachments: Hand Counting USC AAC AS requirements for SB64 for com.docx; Rep Allard MY

testimony.docx

House Finance Committee

For the record, My name is David H. Johnson, resident of Wasilla. I'm representing myself and I opposing SB 64. I called in the first night but I had problems sending you my testimony.

I have sent my testimony to Senator Showers and Rep Jamie Allard. Now I'm sending it again.

You have 62 non US citizens that voted according to the July 2024 inactive list. This information comes from the DOE records. For anyone to say there is no non citizens voting is not looking. I can provide the files if the DOE can't find them. The July 2024 inactive list had a 128 case of fraud from non US citizens, this is before the 2024 election.

I have the information of the 4 new non citizens that voted in the 2024 election. See the attachment Rep Allard.

You have a voting system with serious problems with fraud and all SB 64 does is make it easier to commit more fraud.

Get the inactive list do the homework yourself. If you need help with it I will help you sort the fields and show you the fraud that no one is reporting. If not we can do a zoom call and I will show you the data. It is from the state inactive voter rolls maintained by the DOE. Side note: they have removed the felons, dead people and Non citizen from the inactive rolls but you can get it if you do an information request for that information.

The system is so broken because no one is responsibility. SB 64 targets making no one accountable at all. Who report fraud? This is insane.

Kelly Tshibaka did a report about election problems in Alaska. In this report it identified issues the DOE was have the villages you should read it. It also identified duplicate voting issues and felons. The guy from Homer sent that to you.

Lets stop the BS about ID's! If you want to fly to the lower 48 do you have to show a picture ID?

If you want to vote show a picture ID this includes absentee voting and have the witness sign an affidavit saying this is the person. Then add the penalty of perjury.

You have to write legislation that will hold people and government accountable.

The voter rolls: If you really want to fix them, fix the statue. Make the registration process meet the requirement to vote. The DOE is to put on file a copy of your birth certificate, US passport or your US Nationalization form, and your utility bill to show the 30 days. If you do this then all you have to do is the list maintenance.

You have a real security issue with the Dominion tabulators. The Director has informed me that the reason I was denied the un-redacted instruction for the logic and accuracy test and copies of the test ballots was because it could cause a possible security breech. I then asked if I could observe then perform the test. I was again denied and given the same reason could cause a possible security breech and to top it off she said the AS didn't say she had to. I have the email and the information request. The only real check the state has left is hand counting. AS 15.15.430 needs to include a complete hand count for the purpose of checking the voting system see attachment hand count.

Thank you for your time.

David Johnson Wasilla AK

Sent with Proton Mail secure email.

Laws Rules and USC 52 about hand counting.

It needs to start with who is a US citizen on the voter role now. The DOE doesn't know if you are a US citizen. You can Fix this with the help President Trump offered.

Next you need to ensure anyone you add are a US citizens (birth certify, US passport, or nationalization form).

I have evidence that we have voter fraud. That non-citizens vote in Alaska. I have informed the Director of DOE that we had 332 non-citizens removed from the voter rolls 62 of them voted 128 times. Each one of these is a case of fraud. This was from the DOE's inactive list. This information was from the July 2, 2024, file. This was sent to her in sept./oct 2024. Before the election.

In Jan 2025 the inactive voter roll did not have any Felons, Dead or Non-citizens listed any more. I submitted an information request. To get this information. The file that I received had non-citizens, felons and dead voting.

We need to hold the individual committing fraud accountable and we need to ensure that no non-citizens are on the voter rolls, and that the voter maintenance in done on time. Programs like automatic registration update through PFD need to change to mail out opt in option not opt out. This is common sense if no one is at that address and you mail them an opt out it will get throw out and they will stay on the rolls. Put them on the inactive.

My Notes: when you read this, think of our tabulators as the voting system. Explain that the system we use here in Alaska are made by Dominio and these tabulators are loaded with a rank choice voting program.

The DOE has denied access to an unredacted copy of Logic & accuracy testing instructions. They have denied review of the test stack of ballots used to determine if the machine was accurate. They have even denied access to view the machines being tested for logic and accuracy. The reason I was given was review of this data could cause a possible security breech. When asked if I could watch them conduct the test they same no, for the same reason (security breech) and then justified it by saying there is no AS directing them to do so.

Now the Senate is targeting AS 15.15.430 the hand counting verification method to ensure we never check the voting machine manually when there is an error. The believe that Statistic could identify voting machine tapering from an online security breech, malware, trojan and so on is wrong.

52 USC Has directed that manual paper record be maintained for the purpose of any recount conducted.

These are pre-RCV laws and regulations to verify the tabulators are functioning correctly. Read the verbiage in 15.15.430. The Title of AS 15.15.430. <u>Scope.of.the.review.of.ballot.counting;</u> The method under 15.15.430 is hand count by random selection of 5% of the district, this lines with 52 USC. Future more the State acknowledge this with 6AAC 25.068 by calling it Hand count verification process.

This step is to ensure the accuracy of the voting system The AS 15,15.430 the DOE added clarity to the Statute with 6 AAC 25.068.

The clarity you should note is in the title the AS refers to the process as review the AAC refers to this as verification. This is a key point because the word "review" doesn't emphasize the need for accuracy, the word "verification" is to check and see if it is true or accuracy. This very important because if the voting system is acceptable to security breeches as Director said then we need to make sure we were no breeched by hand counting.

Both AS & ACC contain the verbiage "Uncontested" meaning no one else ran in the race. You don't check to see how the tabulator sorted and tabulated the ballots and ensure they gave the correct totals to the proper candidate if there is only one candidate. This is a very important point to note, it drives home the point it is about ensuring the correct candidate is elected.

What drives this? 52 USC sets the standards for voting systems used in a federal election. The main point of this law is to require manual audit capability in case a recount is needed.

<u>Highlighted (c)(2)</u> Protection of paper ballot count systems. This my have made RCV not usable if the DOE arguments is it too complex to hand count.

Alaska Administrative Code

<u>6 AAC 25.068. Hand count verification process.</u> A hand count required under <u>AS 15.15.430(a)(3)</u> must include each of the following offices, if that office is on the ballot, and unless the race for that office is <u>uncontested:</u> (1) President and Vice-President of the United States; (2) United States senator; (3) United States representative; (4) governor; (5) lieutenant governor; (6) state senator; (7) state representative.

Alaska Statute

Sec. 15.15.430. Scope of the review of ballot counting.

- (a) The review of ballot counting by the director shall include only
- (1) a review of the precinct registers, tallies, and ballots cast;
- (2) a review of absentee and questioned ballots as prescribed by law; and
- (3) unless the ballot for the house district contains nothing but uncontested offices, **a hand count** of ballots from one randomly selected precinct in each house district that accounts for at least five percent of the ballots cast in that district.

- (b) If, following the ballot review set out in (a) of this section, the director finds there is a discrepancy of more than one percent between the results of the hand count under (a)(3) of this section and the count certified by the election board, the director shall conduct a hand count of the ballots from that district.
- (c) If the director finds an unexplained discrepancy in the ballot count in any precinct, the director may count the ballots from that precinct.
- (d) The director shall certify in writing to the state ballot counting review board and publish on the division's Internet website any changes resulting from a count performed under (b) or (c) of this section.

52USC

§21081. Voting systems standards

(a) Requirements

Each voting system used in an election for Federal office shall meet the following requirements:

(1) In general

- (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the voting system (including any lever voting system, optical scanning voting system, or direct recording electronic system) shall-
- (i) permit the voter to verify (in a private and independent manner) the votes selected by the voter on the ballot before the ballot is cast and counted;
- (ii) provide the voter with the opportunity (in a private and independent manner) to change the ballot or correct any error before the ballot is cast and counted (including the opportunity to correct the error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error); and
- (iii) if the voter selects votes for more than one candidate for a single office-
- (I) notify the voter that the voter has selected more than one candidate for a single office on the ballot;
- (II) notify the voter before the ballot is cast and counted of the effect of casting multiple votes for the office; and
- (III) provide the voter with the opportunity to correct the ballot before the ballot is cast and counted.
- (B) A State or jurisdiction that uses a paper ballot voting system, a punch card voting system, or a central count voting system (including mail-in absentee ballots and mail-in ballots), may meet the requirements of subparagraph (A)(iii) by-
- (i) establishing a voter education program specific to that voting system that notifies each voter of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office; and
- (ii) providing the voter with instructions on how to correct the ballot before it is cast and counted (including instructions on how to correct the error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error).
- (C) The voting system shall ensure that any notification required under this paragraph preserves the privacy of the voter and the confidentiality of the ballot.

(2) Audit capacity

(A) In general

The voting system shall produce a record with an audit capacity for such system.

(B) Manual audit capacity

- (i) The voting system shall produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for such system.
- (ii) The voting system shall provide the voter with an opportunity to change the ballot or correct any error before the permanent paper record is produced.
- (iii) The paper record produced under subparagraph (A) shall be available as an official record for any recount conducted with respect to any election in which the system is used.

(3) Accessibility for individuals with disabilities

The voting system shall-

- (A) be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including nonvisual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters;
- (B) satisfy the requirement of subparagraph (A) through the use of at least one direct recording electronic voting system or other voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities at each polling place; and
- (C) if purchased with funds made available under subchapter II on or after January 1, 2007, meet the voting system standards for disability access (as outlined in this paragraph).

(4) Alternative language accessibility

The voting system shall provide alternative language accessibility pursuant to the requirements of section 10503 of this title.

(5) Error rates

The error rate of the voting system in counting ballots (determined by taking into account only those errors which are attributable to the voting system and not attributable to an act of the voter) shall comply with the error rate standards established under section 3.2.1 of the voting systems standards issued by the Federal Election Commission which are in effect on October 29, 2002.

(6) Uniform definition of what constitutes a vote

Each State shall adopt uniform and nondiscriminatory standards that define what constitutes a vote and what will be counted as a vote for each category of voting system used in the State.

(b) Voting system defined

In this section, the term "voting system" means-

- (1) the total combination of mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic equipment (including the software, firmware, and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment) that is used-
- (A) to define ballots;
- (B) to cast and count votes;
- (C) to report or display election results; and
- (D) to maintain and produce any audit trail information; and
- (2) the practices and associated documentation used-
- (A) to identify system components and versions of such components;
- (B) to test the system during its development and maintenance;
- (C) to maintain records of system errors and defects;
- (D) to determine specific system changes to be made to a system after the initial qualification of the system; and
- (E) to make available any materials to the voter (such as notices, instructions, forms, or paper ballots).

(c) Construction

(1) In general

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a State or jurisdiction which used a particular type of voting system in the elections for Federal office held in November 2000 from using the same

Laws Rules and USC 52 about hand counting.

type of system after the effective date of this section, so long as the system meets or is modified to meet the requirements of this section.

(2) Protection of paper ballot voting systems

For purposes of subsection (a)(1)(A)(i), the term "verify" may not be defined in a manner that makes it impossible for a paper ballot voting system to meet the requirements of such subsection or to be modified to meet such requirements.

(d) Effective date

Each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section on and after January 1, 2006.

(Pub. L. 107–252, title III, §301, Oct. 29, 2002, 116 Stat. 1704 .)

The protection of the data

Rep. Allard is right on target there is no checks and balance.

Finding fraud is not hard if you look, and you would have a record if the DOE was to charge people for voter fraud. But the DOE doesn't do that.

For the record it was point out to the DOE that non US citizens were voting before the 2024 election. This voter fraud. I report that 62 of them had voted in Alaska in federal, state and local elections for a total of 128 times. That is 128 times the tax paying US citizens that residents of Alaska cheated. I was able to find this by using the inactive list that the state maintains. They ID why voters are remove and it contains their voting history.

After I point this out the DOE removed all Felons, non-citizens and dead people, I noted this on the first time I got the inactive list after the 2024 election In Jan 2025. I submitted an Information request for the data and was delayed to determine if they could give it to me now. For the record I have been following this information for over 3 years, and the record was readily available.

For the record here are 4 last name of non-citizens that voted in the 2024 election as they are listed on the DOE inactive list. 1. Anufriev 2. Ilalio 3. Luafulu 4. Nerguson.

We had 36 Felons voted 29 question ballot did DOE count them don't know, but 7 absentee ballots when thru.

Here is a question did anyone file charges or were they even investigated? It's a felony. If you don't file charges, you have no record!

We had 4 dead people vote that the DOE confirmed by placing them on the inactive list before the election, they voted absentee was ballot rejected? Who checks this? I don't believe you can charge a dead person. The accountability is the DOE.

Forging a witness signature is an additional crime (ID thief).

District 18, I have one question is the rejection high because of witness signatures or because of something else? Do you have the exact number and proof of reject. The information at the DOE doesn't break down why it was rejected.

District 40, The reason for rejection is not listed.

From: AFTG <akfortransparentgov@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 3:59 PM

To: House Finance

Subject:Written Testimony for SB 64Attachments:DOE FINAL REPORT_Redacted.pdf

House Finance Committee

For the record, I am Michael Jones, resident of Homer, speaking on behalf of Alaskans for Transparent Government, an Alaskan Non-profit and opposing SB 64.

There is a fundamental flaw in SB 64 that must be addressed.

The State of Alaska, Department of Administration, Oversight and Review Unit published a report entitled "Review of the Effectiveness and Security of the Division of Elections in Administering Alaska's Elections" dated July 13, 2020.

This report includes many redacted flaws in our election processes and includes seven full pages of redacted recommendations that are targeted to improve the effectiveness of the Department of Election's security and efficiency of administering elections.

I have attached a public copy of that report which includes all the redactions.

Two Presidential Elections have taken place following the publication of this report, yet the public has no greater insights today, nearly 5 years later, as to what the report says. The public has no confidence if the proposed legislation in SB 64 will address the security gaps and inefficiency of the State's process of administering elections.

The House Finance Committee should require that SB 64 not be passed from the
Committee until a complete and transparent hearing of the Oversight and Review Unit
report takes place. Additionally, this Bill must include a complete reconciliation with that
report to denote which items of the Bill are directly responsive to the report and which
items of the report are excluded from the Bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael L. Jones

Resident of Homer

President, Alaskans for Transparent Government



DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION Oversight and Review Unit

Review of the Effectiveness and Security of the Division of Elections in Administering Alaska's Elections

July 13, 2020



DPP

Executive Summary

Review of the Effectiveness and Security of the Division of Elections in Administering Elections



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INTRODUCTION

The State of Alaska is committed to administering accessible and secure voting to all citizens across the state. The Department of Administration (DOA) Oversight & Review Unit (O&R) initiated this review at the request of the Lieutenant Governor to assess how efficiently and effectively the DOE is operating, evaluate DOE management and processes, determine the DOE's level of security preparedness, evaluate DOE's efforts to administer fair and safe elections, and make recommendations for improvement where practicable.

Background

The DOE is responsible for planning, implementing, and conducting all statewide and federal elections. It also is responsible for statewide voter registration activities and maintenance of Alaska's voter registration database. Over the last 20 years, the DOE has relied on a precinct-level voting system made up of a complex network of voting equipment and processes. This system is intended to allow all Alaskans eligible to vote to do so without interference.

The Lieutenant Governor appoints the Director of the DOE, who is responsible for implementing all laws and regulations governing the elections process. The DOE is divided into four geographically based election regions managed by Election Supervisors. The Election Supervisors are responsible for voter registration and election management activities for all elections within their region, as designated by the Director. In addition to the four regional offices located in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks and Nome, the DOE has opened a satellite office of the Region II Elections Office in the fastest growing municipality in Alaska, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

The state is divided into 40 house districts with a total of 441 precinct polling places across the state and over 150 absentee/early locations serving a total of 575,049 eligible voters in 2018. The DOE also maintains an Absentee and Petition Office (APO) in Anchorage to facilitate and improve absentee voting by mail and by fax. In addition, the APO ensures the DOE's absentee voting programs comply with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE Act), and it provides improved access to voting for military and overseas voters.

In early 2019, Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer met with Commissioner Tshibaka regarding DPP

The Lieutenant Governor requested a review of the DOE, seeking to improve the DOE and increase Alaskans' trust in the elections process.

¹ Alaska Statutes Title 15 and Title 6 of the Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) govern the federal and state election process. Alaska falls under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. Alaska also falls under the minority language assistance requirements of Sections 4(f)(4) and 203 of the VRA.

Prior Coverage of the DOE

In 2015, Lieutenant Governor Mallott convened an Election Policy Work Group (EPWG) to evaluate Alaska's elections. His goal was to maximize effectiveness, cost efficiency, and responsiveness to the needs of Alaskan voters. In response to the EPWG, the DOE produced two reports: the "2017 Fiscal & Policy Challenges" and "Improving Alaskan Elections: 2019 and Beyond." The DOE's 2017 report outlined various issues facing the DOE and Alaska's elections, and directed the EPWG to provide advice regarding solutions to those issues. The latter report served as both a descriptive and aspirational document detailing the EPWG's conclusions and urged the EPWG to maintain its momentum throughout the 2018 election cycle.

The EPWG determined the most important issues facing Alaska's elections, included: (1) modernization of Alaska's elections, (2) Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) automatic voter registration, and (3) voter trust in elections. This report will address numbers two and three in addition to other findings. Issue one will not be our focus due to the DOE's purchase of new voting equipment in 2019.

The DOE resolved to take actionable steps in 2018 to address issues facing Alaska's elections. In July of 2018, DOE recruited the help of the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) in creating a new report: "Perceptions of Universal Ballot Delivery System." This report considered alternative voting methods for state and federal elections by conducting a survey of 412 individuals registered in Region IV of Alaska. The EPWG recommended exploring a hybrid or universal system that includes early in-person voting and vote-by-mail (VBM).²

Survey respondents heard a description of three voting methods being considered: 1) keep voting the way it is now; 2) mail out and mail back; or 3) receive a ballot in the mail and have different ways to return it. Of the three methods, "keep voting the way it is now" was the first choice by 49% of respondents, followed by 36% for option 3, and 14% for option 2. Respondents had little experience with voting methods other than in-person.

Scope and Methodology

This review attempts to provide some transparency into the DOE and its process for administering elections. We examined areas of concern in administering the 2018 elections, and the changes the DOE made as a result. We evaluated challenges in administering elections in rural areas, the DOE's process for conducting post-election audits, and the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) Automatic Voter Registration program.

	=		
² DPP			
D1 1			

We also examined the DOE's compliance with Alaska election law, federal election law, and internal processes. Finally, this review examines the DOE's cyber security, coordination with the State Security Office (SSO), and efforts to improve the administration and security of elections.

To perform this review, we conducted interviews with DOE staff members, including IT professionals, Region Supervisors, the Director of the DOE, and the State Chief Information Security Officer. In addition, we interviewed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) representatives. We reviewed applicable statutes including the automatic PFD registration laws. We also examined the DOE's standard operating procedures, manuals, and training materials used in administering elections. Finally, we made recommendations for improvement.

O&R's authority derives from a February 26, 2019, memorandum from Governor Dunleavy to Commissioner Tshibaka stating his "intent and expectation that [her] expertise be utilized to review, investigate, and provide policy direction, not only as it relates to the Department of Administration, but as it applies statewide in the areas of management, audit, and government efficiency, as directed, on my behalf." (Appendix A) Commissioner Tshibaka established O&R to promote efficiency and effectiveness, in the programs and operations of the State of Alaska, and to detect and deter waste, fraud, and abuse.

This review was conducted in accordance with the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation established by the Federal Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

This report provides findings about the DOE's current processes and offers insights to Alaska's voting procedures and cyber security efforts. It includes recommendations for policy, process, or procedural revisions that will increase DOE's effective administration of elections in Alaska. While this report is being issued during the COVID-19 worldwide health pandemic, all the fieldwork for this review was conducted prior to the pandemic. So, the findings and recommendations made herein are independent of the current health crisis, health mandates, and community limitations that could affect how the DOE administers elections.

We are grateful to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for initiating this review and DOE assistance in getting this project accomplished.

FINDINGS OF THE REVIEW

The DOE's Process for Conducting Elections

DOE's efficient administration of elections in Alaskan communities (rural and urban alike) is largely dependent upon a continuous chain of relationships between DOE officials and community members tapped to participate in administering elections. Regional offices recruit election workers between February and May in even numbered years, often attempting to retain previous election officials. DOE has had difficulty finding election officials to administer elections, particularly in rural areas.

In compliance with AS 15.10.120, each precinct is staffed with a minimum of three workers or election officials, including the chair and co-chair. However, despite great effort, we found that in rural areas DOE has not always been able to staff each precinct with three workers. Language assistance is provided in areas of the state as identified in Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.³ In these areas, bilingual election workers are available in person or telephonically.

Election officials who agree to administer elections are requested to report for training in advance of election day. In compliance with AS 15.10.107, DOE mandates that the Chair and Co-Chair of each voting precinct attend training, and their attendance is tracked via a pen and paper sign-in sheet. However, there is no formal method of tracking whether other election workers have attended training.

Elections in Alaska are hand marked ballots that are either hand counted or scanned using voting equipment at the precincts. In compliance with AS 15.20.900(b), 6 AAC 25.030(e) and 6 AAC 25.045, the voting machines are tested before election day to assess logic and accuracy of the counting program. This process, and the election itself, is overseen by a regional board of 2-8 members (no more than 2 of whom may belong to the same political party). Before the opening of polls on election day, the election board must verify that the machine produces a "zero totals report." The same process is used if a machine is being used to count absentee or questioned ballots.

The DOE uses troubleshooters/field workers who are available on election day for technical and administrative support for voting machines. These troubleshooters receive additional training for this role. Each troubleshooter has a DOE-issued cellphone for effective communication.

The field workers also remain on standby to address complaints regarding election workers or mismanagement in their assigned precincts (5-8 precincts are assigned per fieldworker). DOE Director Gail Fenumiai noted that the DOE does not keep formal records of complaints received by fieldworkers, mismanagement in their precincts, or of corrective measures taken. This is attributed to the "fast pace of election day" and the fact that most complaints are

https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2017/esri/esri uc2017 voting rights act.pdf

delivered verbally via telephone. The current Director was not with the Division during the 2018 elections and has no knowledge of complaints against DOE personnel related to the 2018 election cycle.

The significant difficulties DOE has encountered in identifying election officials to administer elections has, in some cases – most notably House Districts 06, 37, 39 – involved certain individuals being taken on as election workers DPP

For example, one election worker was not permitted to serve as an election worker after she became sleepy and belligerent while serving as an election worker during a primary election. We foun DPP

Accessibility for All Alaskans

The DOE is responsible for making voting accessible to all Alaskans, including those of differing abilities and for whom English is not their first or preferred language. The DOE has compiled these standards in election worker handbooks and training curricula.

Ballots (written and audio), posters, glossaries, etc., are provided in multiple Native Alaskan languages, Tagalog, and Spanish. Interpreters may be reached via a toll-free phone number if bilingual election workers are not available. Special needs or disabled voters that may require assistance are entitled to it. Non-compliance is generally reported by individual voters who observe or are affected by precincts' failure to meet accessibility standards.

If voters are unable to vote at their assigned polling place due to age, illness, or disability, any voter may assign a personal representative to obtain ballots or other voting material available to each voter. The representative returns the voted ballot to the election official. Special Needs voting also is available at the polls on Election Day or through any absentee voting official.

Any voter who does not have identification and is not personally known by the election official, or whose name does not appear on the precinct register at the polling place where the voter is attempting to vote, can still vote by using a Questioned Ballot. After the election, Questioned Ballots are delivered to regional election offices for verification of voter eligibility in the statewide voter registration database.

Voters can also vote by mail through absentee voting. Any voter can request an absentee ballot and will receive their ballot by mail. Beginning 45 days prior to each election, ballots are mailed to active military members, their spouses, and dependents; U.S. citizens temporarily or permanently living overseas; voters who requested absentee ballots due to living, working, or traveling in remote Alaska; and voters who requested absentee ballots due to traveling internationally at the time of the election. All other absentee ballots are mailed to voters approximately 25 days prior to each election.

Methods for Counting Votes in Each District

Alaska's 441 precinct polling places have unique considerations that can affect how they count votes on election day:

- 304 of Alaska's 441 precincts use a single optical scanner throughout Election Day for scanning/tabulating the paper ballots.
- 137 of Alaska's 441 precincts are considered hand-count precincts, meaning election workers count the ballots by hand when the polls close and call their assigned Regional Office to report the election results.

Alaska's ballot tabulation system has had a paper trail of every ballot cast. Each precinct has received paper ballots that are either hand-counted when the polls close or counted using an optical scan unit. In addition, as part of the division's compliance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), each precinct has a touchscreen voting unit equipped with a voter-verifiable paper trail that allows the voter to verify the printed version of the ballot prior to casting the ballot. Alaska law considers the "printed" version to be the official ballot. In Alaska, 99% of all voters cast a paper ballot. The touchscreen voting units have been used by approximately 1% of voters, usually those who are physically unable to cast a paper ballot.

The optical scan voting machines provided by the DOE to the districts were significantly outdated, creating problems for election administrators and voters alike. The optical scan voting machines were purchased in 1998 and given a 20-year life expectancy. While most are still operational (although, some failed mechanically during the 2016 and 2018 election cycles), the machines are expensive and difficult to maintain because key components, such as memory cards, are no longer manufactured. Additionally, the method of reporting vote totals relies on outdated infrastructure, such as analog phone lines.

To address these issues, in March 2019, the DOE solicited proposals for the implementation, installation, testing, maintenance, support, and training for a comprehensive statewide voting and ballot tabulation system. This system will be used to support all aspects of creating, casting and tabulating ballots, and reporting election results. The expected life of the new election management system is at least 15 years. The system will support statewide elections, and the State intends to allow local jurisdictions to use the system and equipment where feasible. It was confirmed that the DOE has been actively working with the equipment vendor (Dominion) on training and implementation of the new voting system. The new system will be used in the 2020 elections, and Dominion will provide technical support in Alaska during the elections.

DPP	the 2018 Elections
Alaska's 2018 elections DPP	

⁴DPP

DPP

In one situation

involving suspicious Absentee Ballots in House District 15, the DOE Director contacted the Alaska State Troopers (AST) and the State of Alaska Department of Law to report suspected voter fraud and possible violations of criminal provisions of the Election Code. This issue had been detected DPP reported by DOE staff.

With respect to the DOE's investigations or inquiries concerning suspected improper or fraudulent voting in any Alaska voting district during the 2018 primary and general elections, the DOE provided the following information:

1) Duplicate Voting

2018 Primary Election

There was an initial list of 39 potential duplicate voters out of 115,727 total voters. After research, there were 23 voters who submitted two ballots. Four of these voters had both ballots counted. For the other 19 voters, the DOE was able to find and reject the second ballot before it was counted. DOE staff interviewed these individuals and found that voters were confused, went to incorrect voting locations, and then attempted to make corrections.

2018 General Election

There was an initial list of 88 duplicate voters. After research, there were 54 voters out of 285,009 total voters who submitted two ballots. Thirteen of these voters had both ballots counted. For the other 41 voters, the DOE was able to find and reject the second ballot before it was counted.

2) Felony Voting

2018 Primary Election

A voter recognized the name on a precinct register of someone who was a convicted felon. The DOE contacted the court system to receive verification of the conviction status and the voter's record was inactivated. As a result of this, the DOE was asked to do a complete review of the statewide voter registration list to ensure there were no voters who had been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude. However, the DOE did not have time to conduct this research before the 2018 general election.

In addition to the request for the statewide review, the DOE received the names of 256 individuals who indicated on their Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) application they had been convicted of a felony. However, the DOE did not have time to adequately perform the

DPP

required research for all these records. An administrative decision was made to inactivate the voter registrations of the 256 individuals in question until such research could be conducted.

To address this problem, the DOE now receives a list from the Alaska Court System containing all convictions from the prior week. The DOE staff then sorts the list according to the conviction and uses it to eliminate those who have been convicted of any crimes involving moral turpitude.

2018 General Election

In the 2018 General Election, one voter submitted a Questioned Ballot which was rejected due to felony status. The DOE processed the information from the voter's ballot envelope to update his registration. Because he was in felony conviction status, the DOE contacted the probation office and was informed he was unconditionally discharged before the election. The voter's registration was updated, but his ballot eligibility was not changed. It was not until the standard review of reject ballots that the DOE noticed this ballot should have been counted in full. During the DOE's follow-up review, this voter's inactive status was researched; it was confirmed he was eligible to be registered, and he had done so through the PFD application.

The DOE has implemented an ongoing comparison of the statewide registration lists to the court list of individuals convicted of felonies since 1976. The DOE advised that this is, "a work in progress."

DPP

The DOE does not have written policies or procedures on voter fraud response. The Director of the DOE explained that she relies on her employees' "instincts" for finding cases of fraud. During the investigation into 2018 primary election voter fraud allegations, the DOE staff said they responded to the situation based on their experience and expertise. After reviewing the DOE's response to possible voter fraud during the 2018 primary election, we found DPP

The DOE does not have investigative authority or formal expertise in detecting fraud; the DOE involves the Department of Law when irregularities are identified. The DOE indicated it is "difficult to come up with a comprehensive list of potential fraud items." DPP

ters turns a new area			
DPP			

⁵ If a voter is unconditionally discharged, they must then take the step to re-register to vote.

⁶DPP

DPP			

Changes Made After the 2018 Elections

1) Duplicate Voting

The DOE has revised its process for dealing with duplicate voting by adding to the precinct registers a notation for citizens who have "applied for an absentee ballot." This is in addition to the notations for those citizens who have "already voted," which appears for those voters who voted early or whose absentee ballot may have already been received.

In addition, each day following the date the precinct registers are printed, the DOE will produce supplemental lists that contain the names of new voters who have voted early or whose absentee ballot has been received. These lists will be provided to precinct chairpersons to notate next to the voter's name on the precinct register. The DOE will ensure printing of supplemental lists be done up to the day before Election Day.

No absentee ballots (by-mail, by fax, online or in-person) will be counted until *after* voter history has been completed for an entire house district and the duplicate voter report has been cleared.

Early vote (EV) ballots cast beginning the Friday before Election Day will no longer be commingled with other ballots. The EV ballots will be placed in an envelope with the EV certificate attached. The EV ballots cast on the Friday, Saturday, Sunday, or Monday preceding Election Day and on Election Day will not be counted until after an entire district's voter history is complete and the duplicate vote report is cleared.

If the name of a voter is marked on the precinct register as "already voted" and the voter appears to vote at a precinct, the voter will be required to vote a questioned ballot. If the name of a voter is marked on the precinct register as having applied for an absentee ballot and the voter appears to vote at the precinct, the voter will be required to vote a questioned ballot.

The DOE will publicize the changes in counting procedures by Public Service Announcements, social media, etc. The ballot counting schedule also will be published on the DOE's website.

2) Felony Voting

The DOE is researching other ways to identify and prevent illegal voting by ineligible felons.

The Division has explained that felony voter inactivation will never be perfect—there are too many moving parts within the judicial system. Felonies involving moral turpitude change as laws get changed by the legislature; individuals convicted with such crimes often have charges reduced.

3) DOE Efforts to Ensure Accuracy of Voter Rolls

The DOE reported that it currently follows the provisions for list maintenance found in the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The DOE is also working on tracking felony convictions more efficiently. The DOE also provides for online registration, including registrations at the Division of Motor Vehicles (required by NVRA), participation in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) with cross-state match and in-state move notices to voters, PFD match, vital stats death lists, court system lists for felon inactivation, flagging undeliverable addresses and updating mailing address with forwarding addresses, etc.

Challenges in Administering Elections in Rural Areas During the 2018 Elections

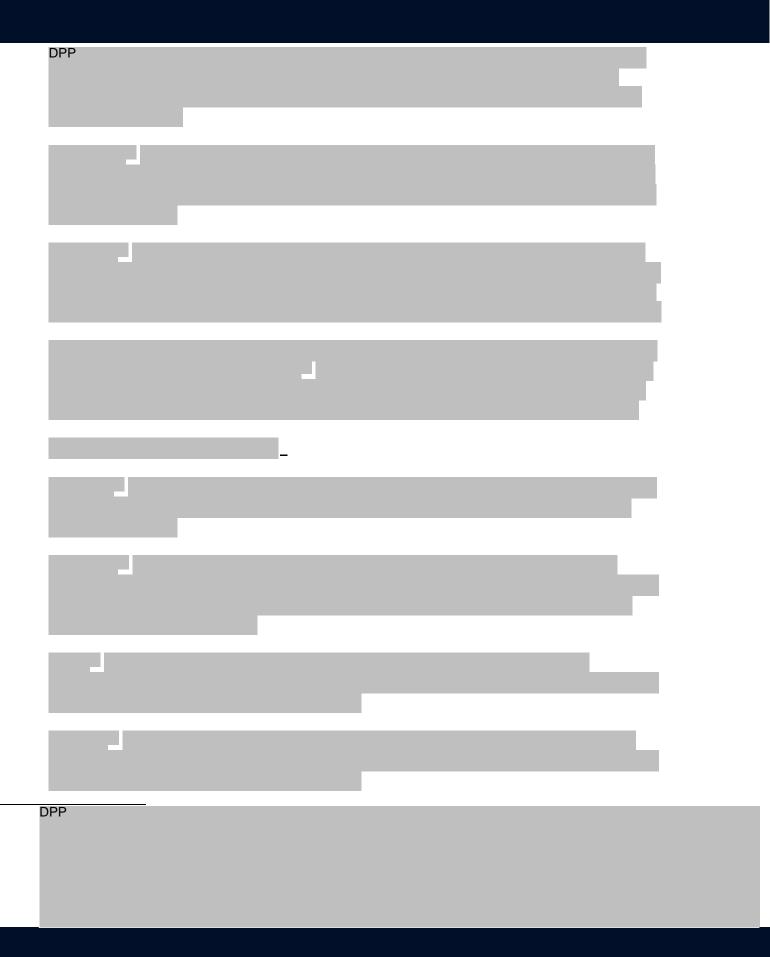
Alaska has approximately 150 rural communities with precincts that are isolated from connecting road systems. Typically, the only way to access these communities is by airplane or boat. At 663,300 square miles, Alaska is over twice the size of Texas. These geographic realities present many unique challenges for the DOE in administering elections. Below, we identify difficulties encountered during the 2018 election cycle, based on documentation provided by the DOE cataloging the incidents and any corrective action taken. Most of these difficulties occurred in isolated precincts.

DPP	reported mechanical problems with the TSX (touchscreen
voting) machines identified in variou	is precincts below, ^{DPP}

In response to an information request, the DOE provided documentation verifying the required functionality testing and logic and accuracy testing had been done. The DOE also qualified that voting machines require shipping to the precinct and back to the division four times during an election cycle and that damage can and does occur during shipping. In our recommendations listed at the end of this report, DPP

In the DOE's additional responses to information requests, it also qualified that loss of use of the TSX machines would not have affected the outcome of any election since all precincts have paper ballots as backups. It also was explained that there are sample ballots in Alaska Native languages for the bilingual election workers to use when language assistance is requested. DPP





Post-Election Audits

Alaska's post-election audits are conducted for the entire ballot by the State Review Board (SRB), which is a bi-partisan review board that is responsible for testing the ballot count programming (prior to the election) as well as performing the post-election audit.²¹ The SRB reviews all precinct registers, absentee site documentation, absentee and questioned voter registers, summary sheets, and ballot tabulation tapes. According to DOE, the SRB compares the number of ballots cast to the number of actual voters. They will do further review if they find a discrepancy and rescan ballots when required.

The audit process involves a hand count of all ballots from one randomly selected precinct in each of the state's 40 house districts. A precinct is eligible for a hand count if the precinct accounts for at least 5% of the ballots cast in that district. ²² Audit results are binding on official results, but do not lead to a full recount. Races that are uncontested do not need to be hand counted.

According to AS 15.15.430, 6 AAC 25.068, and 6 AAC 25.203, the hand count verification process occurs after every statewide election to verify that the voting machines counted ballots accurately and that there was not a discrepancy of more than one percent between the machine tally and the hand count tally.



With respect to post-election audits in general, the DOE clarified that the Alaska State Review board performs post-election audits of all precincts, however, the hand count verification process (HCVP) only applies to precincts that use optical scan. Of the 15 precincts addressed above, only two of them used the optical scan for counting ballots. And those two either did not meet the 5% requirement or if they did, they were not randomly drawn for the hand count verification. The other 13 precincts are hand count precincts and are not included in the HCVP process. We concluded DPP

²¹ For the 2018 primary election, the SRB was comprised of 13 members, 6 teams of 2 people, which included 3 Republicans, 3 Democrats, 1 Libertarian, 4 Non-Partisan and 2 Undeclared Alaskan voters. For the 2018 general election, the SRB also comprised of 13 members, again 6 teams of 2 people, which included 4 Republicans, 3 Democrats, one Libertarian, 3 Non-Partisan and 2 Undeclared Alaskan voters.

²² AS 15.15.430.



Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) Automatic Voter Registration

In 2016, Alaska voters approved Ballot Measure 1 (15PFVR), which either automatically registers eligible applicants to vote or updates voter registration information for those voters who are currently registered to vote using the information provided when applying for a PFD, unless the applicant opts out.

After the March 31 PFD application deadline, the DOE sends a notice to all applicants who will either become a newly registered voter or who will have their Alaska residence address updated from the information provided on their PFD application. To opt-out, applicants must respond to the notice within 30 days. Once the 30-day deadline passes, new applicants are registered to vote and applicants with a change of address are updated. New voter cards are then mailed to those voters who are newly registered or have a change of address.

²³ DPP

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The law creating the PFD automatic voter registration program went into effect on March 1, 2017, and the PFD application period ended on March 31, 2017. For this period, approximately 158,000 Alaskans applied—roughly 76,000 of whom received a mailer informing them that their voter records were changed. Applicants who listed an undeliverable address were still registered, and many were sent a mailer; however, applicants who were ineligible to register were not sent a mailer. Because of the way some applicants provided information on the PFD application (e.g., incorrectly spelling a street name), the new voter records were not always easy to add to the DOE's database.

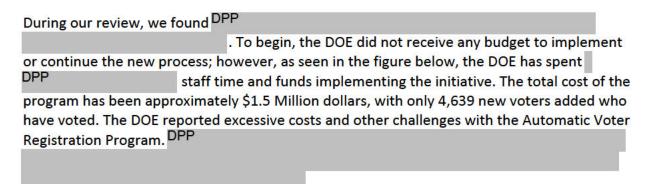


Figure 1. PFD Automatic Voter Registration Numbers

	By the Numbers – Statistics Since 2017
317,743	Opt-out notices mailed to potential new applicants and existing voters with a change to residence and/or name information
61,183	Opt-out notices returned requesting to opt-out of program (20,095 from new applicants/41,088 existing voters)
64,583	New voters added (Since 2017)
4,639	Number of new voters added who have voted
\$683,457	Costs for printing, mailing notices and personnel time (\$343,205 printing and mailing/\$340,252 personnel)
\$800,00	Approximate cost for initial programming
\$319	Approximate cost to the state per new vote
	Total Cost to Date: \$1,483,457

One of the reasons the program is so resource-intensive is because it relies heavily on manual procedures, even though the law is referred to as "Automatic Voter Registration." After the online registration is complete, DOE must spend time processing many voter registrations

²⁶ Alaska's Election Policy Work Group; "Improving Alaskan Elections: 2018 and Beyond" January 2018.

using manual procedures. For example, in 2017 close to 27,300 records required manual processing, representing about 17% of the automatic registrations.²⁷

Another problem occurs when voters enter an address on their PFD registration application that is different than their current physical address. A local registrant experienced this issue when he entered his business address instead of his home address on his PFD application. This automatically switched him to a district he should not have been qualified to vote in. He only discovered this after it was too late to change his voting district and therefore was not able to cast his vote.²⁸

An additional problem with the program is that felons and non-US citizens have been automatically registered to vote after they file for their PFD. This issue was not identified until 2018. DOE said that it is difficult to catch these ineligible voters in the data because DOE does not receive the PFD data until July. In an election year, that does not allow the DOE much time to compare voluminous records and notify voters in advance of the election. The DOE is aware of this problem and is working with the Department of Revenue to solve this problem.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) added "US National" to their application to assist with accurately identifying US Citizens. The DOE said it also requested that a felony voter question be added; however, DOR did not want it added to their pages.

The DOE created a voter registration page and added a question related to felony conviction for purposes of registering to vote. However, this new page is voluntary and not required to be completed as part of the PFD-AVR process. DPP

The DOE mentioned that an online "opt out" option for automatic voter registration should be included at the beginning PFD application instead of at the end of the process in the form of a mailer. This could help eliminate unnecessary redundancies and mistakes in voter registration. The "opt out" could include a statement warning non-eligible individuals against failure to "opt out."

DOE interviewees expressed concern that the State has expended substantial effort and expense on the PFD Automatic Voter Registration program for marginal results with only a small increase in voter participation.

Voter Trust in Elections Starts with Cybersecurity

Due to attempted attacks on U.S. elections in 2016 by foreign sources, Alaskans and all Americans have raised concerns over security of the election process. It is critically important to promote voter confidence in Alaska's elections while maintaining adequate access for voters. Election security is not a partisan issue, as noted by the chairman of the U.S. Senate

²⁷ Id.

²⁸ The voter failed to respond to the mailer from DOE.

Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator Richard Burr: "Russian activities during the 2016 election may have been aimed at one party's candidate, but in 2018 and 2020, it could be aimed at anyone, at home or abroad."²⁹

On November 8, 2016, the SOA Chief Security Officer at the time, Chris Letterman, reported that at 5:37am his office was notified via an alert that an unknown individual (@CyberZeist twitter handle) had posted a screen shot from what appeared to be a compromised Alaska Division of Elections reporting system.³⁰ Although the unknown individual claimed to have accessed the election management system, there is evidence they only accessed the public facing unofficial results section.

Letterman further reported, in pertinent part:

- 1. The individual successfully executed an exploit to PHP (a computer scripting language used heavily in web presentation)
- 2. The individual was able to use privilege escalation to access the server's underlying file system.
- 3. The individual posted to their Twitter account a screen shot from the GEMS Election Results System as proof they were capable of accessing administrative areas of the server.
- 4. Along with the screen shot, the following message was posted "#USElections2016 Alaska Election Division online #ballot administrator access #pwned waiting for people to start voting"

The DOE subsequently admitted that "CyberZeist" successfully accessed an elections web server during the 2016 election. Regardless of any distinction between scanning versus an actual attack or hacking attempts, the State of Alaska and DOE has recognized that a successful attack was made on the SOA Election web server. Nationally, there is growing concern that foreign powers are increasingly interested in compromising US election processes and undermining voter confidence.³¹

On 09/22/17, the Anchorage Daily News published that Russian "cyber actors" made an unsuccessful attempt to access Alaska's voter registration database last year, state officials said Friday, citing information they received from federal officials. Alaska was one of 21 states possibly targeted, said Josie Bahnke, the state elections director, in a prepared statement. She added that Alaska's election systems were not "compromised," according to information her office received from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.³²

²⁹ https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/02/12/446336/election-security-50-states/.

³⁰ Email from Chris Letterman to Jim Steele dated 11/08/16.

³¹ https://www.adn.com/politics/2018/05/07/hackers-broke-partway-into-alaskas-election-system-in-2016-officials-say-no-damage-was-done/

³² www.ktuu.com/content/news/Alaska-was-unsuccessfully-targeted-by-Russian-Cyber-Actors-in-2016-election-446954033.html

DHS Makes Cybersecurity Findings and Offers to Conduct Security Risk Assessment

On September 22, 2017, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) notified 21 states they were targeted by foreign hackers during the 2016 election: Alabama, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.³³ Ultimately, hackers only reportedly succeeded in breaching the voter registration system of one state: Illinois. While DHS did not name those responsible for the attempted hacks, many believe the culprits can be traced back to Russia. Experts have warned that a future attack on United States' election infrastructure, by Russia or other malicious actors, is all but guaranteed.³⁴



Based on foreign actor activity regarding elections, DHS offered multiple services to assist Alaska Elections. According to the DHS Alaska website: "The goal of the Cyber Security Assessment is to improve the overall security of critical cyber infrastructure throughout the State of Alaska in all 18 Critical Infrastructure and Key Resource (CIKR) Sectors. The assessment process is a non-regulatory review of cyber security management practices within the organization to build a risk matrix, threat indicators, maturity model, prioritized recommendations, and is overall designed to build the relationships necessary to foster cooperative arrangements during both normal operations and in times of crisis. The Cyber Security Assessment is not an examination of all the IT business operations or a technical assessment. It does not satisfy compliance towards any specific regulatory authority nor does it force an organization to take corrective action based on the results." 38

³³ Arizona, California, Iowa, Texas, and Wisconsin were also among those states originally contacted by DHS. However, those states have denied that their election systems were attacked.

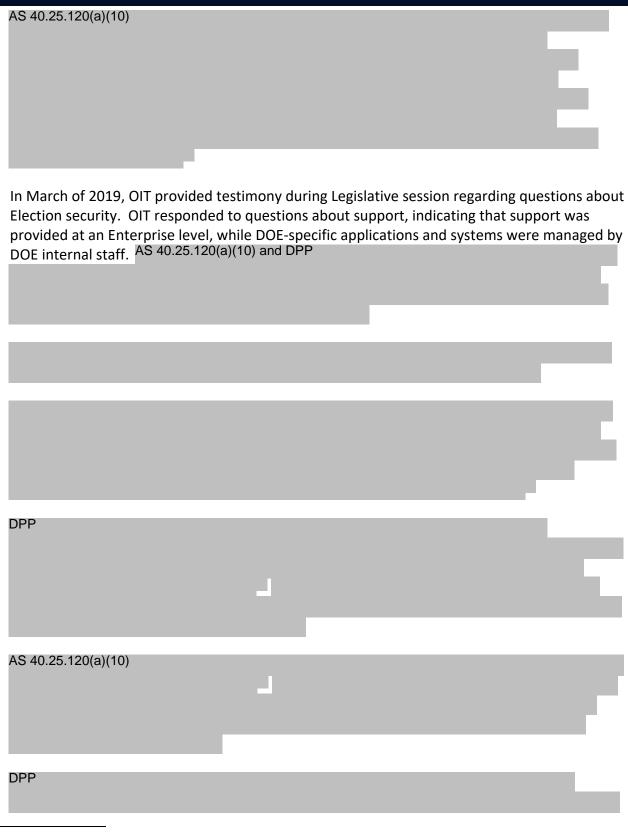
³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ AS 40.25.120(a)(10)

³⁶ Information provided by the SOA OIT on 06/09/20 with supporting documents.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ https://www.ready.alaska.gov/Plans/CSVA



³⁹ Ibid

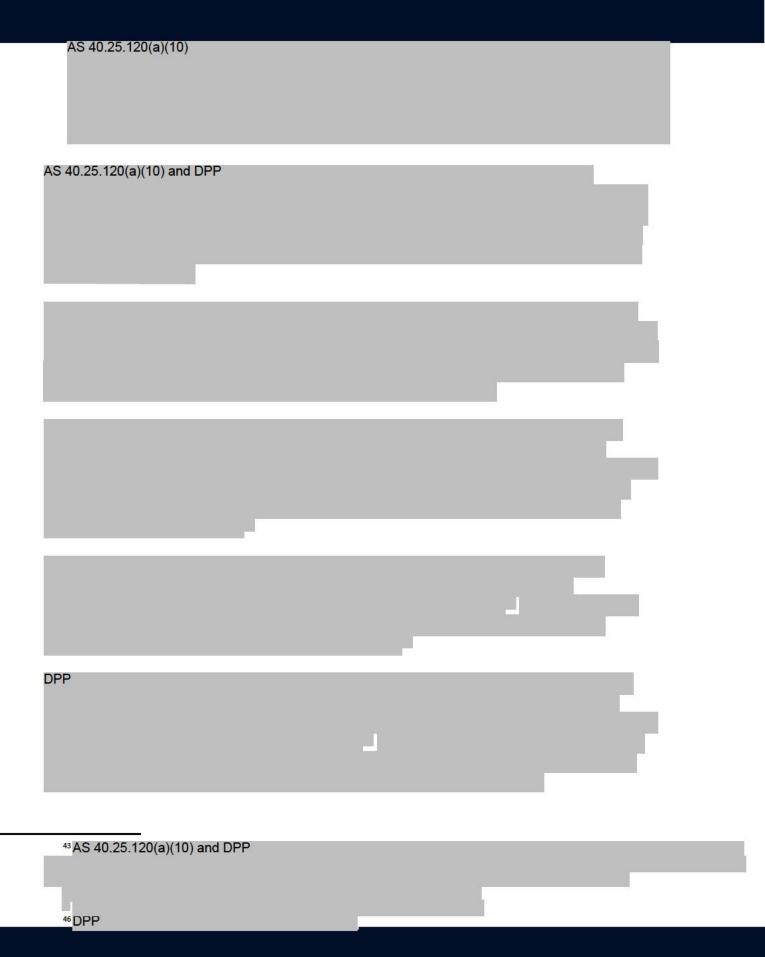
 $^{^{40}}$ 05/20/20 comment made by the DOE on O&R's draft report.

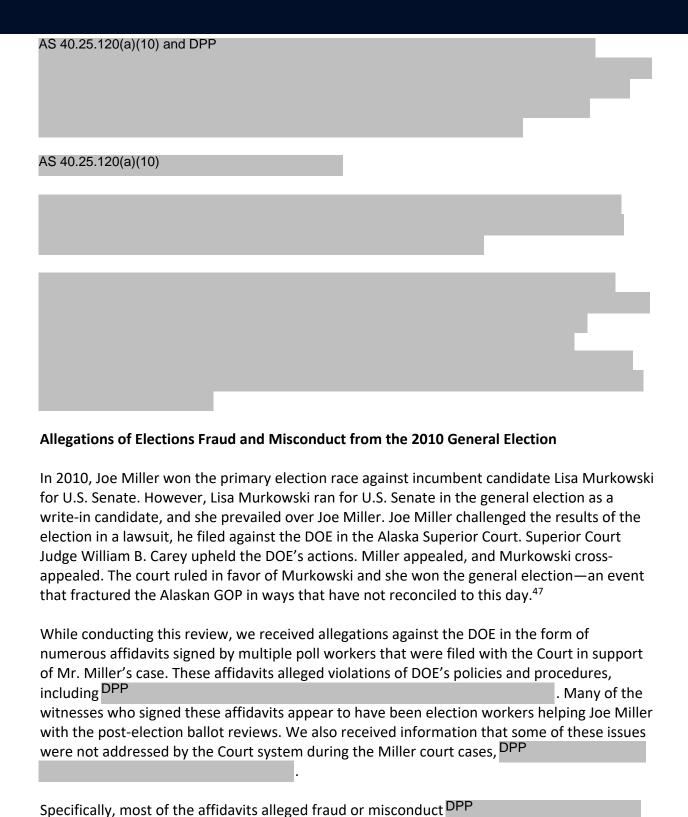
 $^{^{\}rm 41}$ Information provided by CISO/SSO with supporting email communications.

⁴² While interviewing Gail Fenumiai, she stated she had spoken with DHS prior to our discussion.

AS 40.25.120(a)(10) and DPP	
The DOE's Cybersecurity Governance and Coordination with the State Security Office (SSO)	
The DOE is housed in the Lieutenant Governor's Office, but the SSO is housed in the DOA's OIT. Broadly, the SSO oversees State of Alaska security policies and implements standards and procedures in support of those policies. The SSO works through the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), who oversees and facilitates statewide security management programs to ensure government information is adequately protected.	
AS 40.25.120(a)(10)	

AS 40.25.120(a)(10)
10 40.25.125(a)(10)
In April 2017, AO 284 was issued to consolidate IT functions and services throughout the state. The primary focus and language were to centralize all telecommunication and information technology services and consolidate them under the authority of a single Office of Information Technology (OIT) headed by the Chief Information Officer (CIO). As written, AO 284 places cybersecurity under the purview and management of OIT and explicitly the CIO. Article 9 identifies a position of Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to, "assist the CIO in carrying out the CIO's duties; while not codifying the role nor delegating any authority.
In 2018, the inaugural Cybersecurity Report was delivered to the Governor. The report summarized the five key issues:
Executive Communications Privilege
of cybersecurity at the State is:
AS 40.25.120(a)(10)





⁴⁷ https://mustreadalaska.com/pressure-builds-on-pivotal-decision-of-lisa-murkowski/

DPP

We examined these allegations, whether in fact they were addressed by the Court system, and whether internal controls are now in place at the DOE to protect against such election fraud or misconduct.

Background on the 2010 Post-Election Ballot Review

After the ballots were sorted during the post-election ballot reviews, the Director personally examined: 1) the ballots on which ovals had been filled in, but the handwritten name was a variation or misspelling of "Lisa Murkowski," and 2) other ballots challenged during the sorting process to determine voter intent.

Mr. Miller challenged ballots cast that contained misspellings of "Lisa Murkowski." The Director examined these ballots and permitted write-in ballots containing "minor misspellings and phonetic variations of `Murkowski' to be counted for Lisa Murkowski when [she] determined that the voter clearly intended to vote for that candidate." The Director placed the ballots into one of two envelopes: "challenged counted" or "challenged not counted."

Director Fenumiai also examined ballots in which no oval was filled in for the U.S. Senate race, and those ballots were not counted for any candidate. This was true of ballots on which voters spelled "Lisa Murkowski" correctly but failed to fill in the oval. Murkowski argued that these votes should have been counted for her, but the court disagreed. Alaska Statute 15.15.360(a)(10) states that "[i]n order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must write in the candidate's name in the space provided and *fill in the oval* opposite the candidate's name." (Emphasis added.)

Director Fenumiai also examined "over-voted ballots" with more than one oval filled in to determine voter intent. As Director Fenumiai explained in an affidavit submitted to the court:

"I did not count ballots that had no oval filled in for the U.S. Senate race, even if a name was written in. If a ballot had two ovals filled in for the U.S. Senate race, I examined the ballot to see where the ovals appeared. If the voter had filled in the oval by the name of a candidate printed on the ballot and by the write-in choice, I counted the ballot if the voter wrote in the name of the same candidate. This is how Joe Miller received many of his 20 write-in votes. I also counted ballots with two ovals marked when it was clear that the voter crossed out one of the ovals. I did this regardless of whether the voter expresses an intent to vote for a write-in candidate or for a candidate whose name was printed on the ballot. Otherwise, I did not add the ballot to

⁴⁸ Gail Fenumiai was the Director of the DOE at the time of the 2010 election.

⁴⁹ Miller v. Treadwell, 245 P. 3rd 867 (2010).

the count. The candidates' observers were able to challenge all of these determinations."

Joe Miller also sought from the court an interpretation of election statute AS 15.15.360 that would disqualify any write-in votes that misspelled the candidate's name. However, the court held that its prior decisions clearly show that a voter's intention is paramount. Therefore, the court held that abbreviations, misspellings, or other minor variations in the form of the name of a candidate would be disregarded in determining the validity of the ballot, so long as the intention of the voter could be ascertained.⁵⁰

Court Rulings on Allegations Presented in Affidavits⁵¹

Through the Superior and Supreme Court cases, DPP, and the court ruled in favor of the DOE. Also, we found that the Superior Court ruled the affidavits inadmissible as hearsay.

The Superior Court denied Miller's request for discovery and granted the State's motion for summary judgment, noting that the admissible portions of Miller's evidence did not create a genuine issue of material fact regarding misconduct by anyone, and that it was not even sufficient circumstantial evidence to warrant discovery before ruling on the summary judgment motion.

The court explained that AS 15.15.240 allows any qualified voter to ask for assistance, including assistance in writing in the name of a write-in candidate. No reasonable inference of misconduct can arise from the mere fact that the handwriting on multiple ballots appears to be similar or coming from a small number of people.

Miller argued that the court's interpretation of AS 15.15.360 would lead to elections being decided by the discretion of election officials in determining voters' intent through visual inspection of write-in ballots. However, the court noted that other states use the same standard for counting write-in ballots, and that Congress has mandated that standard.

The court also saw no validity in Miller's argument that the application of the standard in the election violated equal protection under either the state or federal constitutions. The court clarified in its decision that only one person, the Division's Director, made the initial determinations whether write-in ballots demonstrated voter intent for a candidate. This avoids any constitutional infirmities that might arise from different reviewers applying the standard differently. Second, the initial election results were subject to the Director's review during a recount. Finally, the Director's final determinations are subject to judicial review.

⁵⁰ The federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act also provides that in counting the ballot of a uniformed services voter or other voter who is overseas, "[a]ny abbreviation, misspelling, or other minor variation in the form of the name of a candidate or a political party shall be disregarded in determining the validity of the ballot, if the intention of the voter can be ascertained."

⁵¹ Miller v. Treadwell 245 P.3d 867 (2010).

For the reasons set out above and for other reasons beyond the scope of this report, the Alaska Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Superior Court in all respects. It also concluded that there were no remaining issues raised by Miller that prevented the 2010 election from being certified.

Findings Regarding 2010 General Election Allegations



Recent and Ongoing Changes within the DOE

The DOE has finalized the purchase and replacement of its existing, outdated voting equipment. This new system is a federally certified voting and ballot tabulation system for the 2020 election cycle. The August 18, 2020, State Primary Election will be the first election in which this new equipment is used.

The DOE recently implemented reCAPTCHA⁵² to protect the online voter information system from automated abuse. The DOE also created a new spoiled ballot log to assist with better tracking of ballots at voting locations. In addition, the DOE has adopted regulations raising election worker pay; the most recent previous pay raise was in 2009.

The DOE also indicated it is in the process of making the following improvements:

- Adding two-factor authentication for the Voter Registration System users.
- Replacing aging hardware and software in the voter registration system. Including firewalls, servers, etc.
- Developing an online absentee ballot application system.
- Purchasing a new online ballot delivery system.
- Improving the chain of custody procedures for voted ballots.
- Returning all unused ballots to the Director's office following each election.
- AS 40.25.120(a)(10)
- Performing voter outreach regarding trusted source for election information.
- AS 40.25.120(a)(10)
- Improving election worker training materials and videos.
- AS 40.25.120(a)(10)
- Introducing an Adopt-A-Precinct program in the hopes it will help with election worker recruitment.

⁵² reCAPTCHA is a free service from Google that helps protect websites from spam and abuse. A "CAPTCHA" is a truing test to distinguish between humans and bots.

- Reviewing procedures and revisions as needed due to implementation of new voting and ballot tabulation system.
- Improving the felony conviction monitoring system.
- AS 40.25.120(a)(10)

In addition, the DOE continues to focus on:

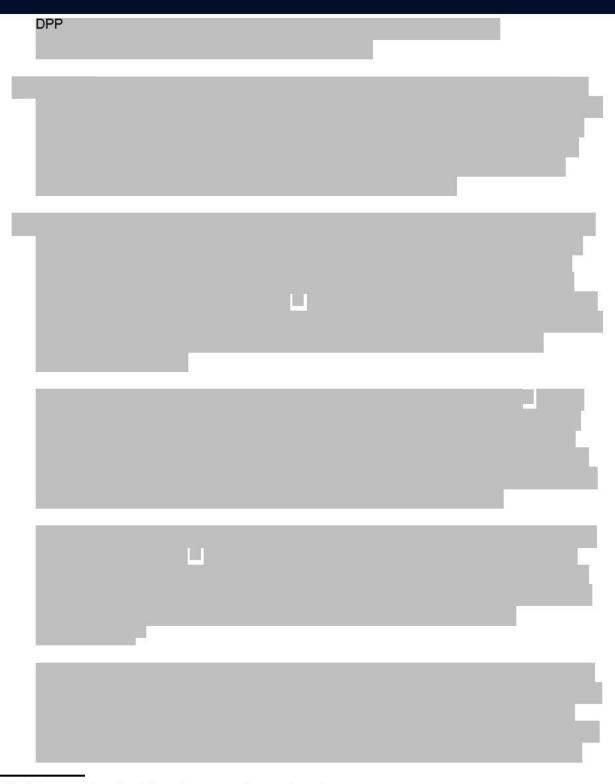
- Verification of voter identity when processing voter registration, absentee ballot applications, voted absentee and questioned ballots.
- Monitoring and contacting voters regarding returned undeliverable ballots.
- Conducting extensive training for all temporary staff who process voter registration and absentee by mail ballot applications, including conducting audits of their data entry.
- AS 40.25.120(a)(10)
- Monitoring best practices recommended by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Cybersecurity, and Infrastructure Security Agency, MS-ISAC and EI-ISAC.
- Integrating PFD non-citizen information; and
- Participating in national election security tabletop exercises.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To improve the effectiveness of the DOE's security and efficiency in administering elections, we make the following recommendations:







 $^{^{53}}$ Of the 438 precincts in Alaska, 31 have 100 or fewer registered voters.

⁵⁴ The Kenai Peninsula Borough uses a hybrid in-person and by-mail system in which smaller communities, like Cooper Landing, Hope, and Tyonek, vote by mail. Perceptions of Universal Ballot Delivery Systems – Findings from a Survey with Registered Voters In Three Areas In Rural (Region IV) Alaska

⁵⁵ DPP









APPENDIX A

STATE CAPITOL P.O. Box 110001 funeau, AK 99811-0001 907-465-3500



SSO West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1700 Anchorage, AK 99501 907-269-7450

Governor Michael J. Dunleavy STATE OF ALASKA

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Commissioner Kelly Tshibaka

FROM:

Michael J. Dunleavy / 7

Governor

DATE:

February 26, 2019

SUBJECT:

Mission and Direction

This memorandum provides direction, as we have previously discussed, that in addition to your role as the Commissioner of the Department of Administration, it is my intent and expectation that your expertise be utilized to review, investigate, and provide policy direction, not only as it relates to the Department of Administration, but as it applies statewide in the areas of management, audit, and government efficiency, as directed, on my behalf.

APPENDIX B



Department of Administration

OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

10th Fl. State Office Building PO Box 110206 Juneau, Alaska 99811-0206 Main: 907.465.2220 Fax: 907.465.3450

Memorandum

To: Mark Breunig, Chief Technology Officer III

From: Bill Smith, Chief Information Officer (April 1988)

Date: 2/14/2020

Subject: Appointment of Chief Information Security Officer and Assignment of Responsibility

Pursuant to authority granted the Chief Information Officer (CIO) under Alaska Administrative Order 284, I delegate the role of the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) for the State of Alaska to position control number 02-X069, appointed to you on 1/10/2019.

The CISO is the organization's senior information security official vested with the mission and resources to coordinate, develop, implement, and maintain an organization-wide information security program. The CISO shall serve under and directly assist me in fulfilment of my responsibilities as CIO per AO284. These responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Development of the organization-wide information security plan, implementation of the plan, and operation
 of the organization-wide information security program.
- Development, implementation, and enforcement oversight of information security policies, standards, and
 practices within all executive branch agencies and among their contractors and any third-party informationsharing partners.
- Regular compliance audit of information security policies, standards, and practices within all executive branch agencies and among their contractors and any third-party information-sharing partners;
- Establishment and operation of a security awareness program for all State personnel regarding appropriate and safe information security practices.
- Development of strategies and requirements for hiring, training, and professional development of information security staff.
- Alignment of information technology services acquisition and management to effectively implement standard information security policies, procedures, controls.

This delegation will remain in effect until revoked or amended.

Enclosures: AO 284