



House Bill 63

Presentation to the House State Affairs Committee

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Division of Elections

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Division of Elections Mission

To ensure public confidence in the electoral process by administering voter registration and elections with the highest level of professional standards, integrity, security, accuracy, and fairness.

Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) Elections – Move to Biennial Schedule

- Moves REAA elections to be held in years when there is no Primary or General Election
- Reduces costs and administrative burdens
- Changes board member terms from 1- and 3-year terms to 4-year terms
- 19 REAAs in Unorganized Boroughs
- Multiple seats are elected each year
- Challenging timeframes in a Primary / General Election year
 - ✓ Ballot delivery
 - ✓ Poll workers
 - ✓ Absentee review board/Questioned ballot review board
 - ✓ State review board

Residence of Voter AS 15.05.020

- HB 63 proposes to remove the “intent to return” language for purposes of determining a voter’s residence
- The concept of “intent to return” can be subjective and challenging to assess
 - ✓ Allows individuals who do not currently reside in the state – or in the house district in which they are registered – to vote in a jurisdiction where they may not currently live as long as they have an intent to return there

Remove PFD Automatic Voter Registration

- Automatic voter registration adds people who don't vote
 - ✓ Less than one-third of those added by PFD AVR in 2024 voted
 - ✓ 9,056 added / 2,639 voted
- Average annual cost = \$218,890
- DOE mailed out 76,550 notices (new voters/address change)
- All voters who are newly applying or have updated their address receive a notice to allow opt-out
 - ✓ If no response, they are registered
- Applying for a PFD is considered “**appearing to vote**” so they stay on the active voter list even if the only action they take is to apply yearly for the PFD

PFD Automatic Voter Registration

		Mailed Notices				Opt-Outs			Registered				
PFD Year	Valid Applications	Potential New Voters	Existing Voters ¹	Ambiguous Voters	Total	Potential New Voters	Existing Voters ²	Total	New Voters	Existing Voters ³	New Voters Who Voted ⁴	Print and Mail Costs	Total Annual Cost
2024	394,862	10,913	65,359	278	76,550	1,937	6,047	7,984	9,056	373,260	2,639	\$132,412.51	\$246,922.94
2023	394,872	11,007	68,272	263	79,542	1,974	5,633	7,607	9,138	376,361	2,256	\$101,494.36	\$228,220.62
2022	395,109	10,344	71,171	180	81,695	1,973	5,710	7,683	8,441	374,183	2,786	\$93,482.27	\$178,158.23
2021	388,030	9,133	67,418	497	77,048	2,148	6,298	8,446	7,005	368,832	1,572	\$83,116.26	\$195,448.37
2020	395,314	16,379	80,240	524	97,143	2,982	7,105	10,087	13,436	368,811	5,565	\$120,792.44	\$225,456.89
2019	404,793	22,369	78,881	534	101,784	4,989	10,100	15,089	17,507	330,781	6,203	\$117,062.49	\$280,730.53
2018	359,461	34,728	99,660	5,404	139,792	5,307	9,658	14,965	29,973	302,595	10,851	\$164,995.29	\$261,796.21
2017	76,171	25,238	50,768	166	76,172	9,783	21,500	31,283	14,906	10,880	4,486	\$61,148.71	\$140,931.88

Numbers generated as of 01/27/2025. <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/research/statistics/#pfdavrstats>

Voter Registration List Maintenance

FIRST NOTICE: Non-forwardable

- At least once a year, DOE reviews the voter registration list and sends notices by **non-forwardable** mail requesting confirmation or correction to voters:
 - ✓ Whose mail from the division has been returned to the division in the last two years
 - ✓ Who have not contacted the division in the last two years, or
 - ✓ Who have not voted or appeared to vote in the last two general elections

SECOND NOTICE: Forwardable

- DOE sends a second notice by **forwardable** mail to the voter's last known address if:
 - ✓ The first notice is returned as undeliverable, and the voter has not, within the preceding four years
 - ✓ Contacted DOE, or
 - ✓ Voted or appeared to vote in any election
- The second notice tells the voter their registration will be inactivated unless they respond within 45 days

Voter Registration List Maintenance

HB 63 proposes to:

Eliminate the first non-forwardable notice

- Adds two additional conditions for notices:
 - Those who became ineligible to receive a PFD, and
 - Those who received a driver's license in another state
- These changes will make the list maintenance process efficient and timely
- Shortens the time to remove inactive voters from the voter registration list

Early Voting vs Absentee In-Person Voting

Early Voting (AS 15.20.064)

- Starts 15 days before election day
- Requires direct access to the Voter Registration System
- Takes place at each DOE Regional Office and several other locations (12 total)
- Voter information is updated in real-time

Absentee In-Person Voting (AS 15.20.061)

- Starts 15 days before election day
- Held in locations that do not have direct access to VREMS
- Ballots can be received from
 - ✓ An absentee official
 - ✓ An election official
- Voter information is not immediately updated

Only EARLY VOTING Time is Reduced

Why Reduce Early Voting Times?

- Reduces Potential Fraud (double voting)
 - ✓ Once the registers are printed (four or five days before polls open) early votes must be sequestered until the voter history is completed to ensure the person did not vote both at the early voting location and at the polling place
- Faster Results
 - ✓ Reducing the early voting timeframe results in less work after election day
 - shorter times for counting absentee/questioned ballots

Absentee Ballots Received on Election Day

Why require ballots to be received by Election day?

- Allows earlier results
- Increases administrative efficiency
- Bolsters public confidence
- Currently, all absentee by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before the date of the election
 - ✓ Primary Election ballots must be received by the **10th day** after election
 - ✓ General Election ballots must be received no later than the **10th day** after election when mailed within the U.S. and its territories and no later than the **15th day** after the election when mailed from outside the U.S.

By-Mail Voting Option in Communities of 750 or Less

Why expand by-mail voting options?

- Some communities struggle to get poll workers
- This option will ensure registered voters are able to vote
 - All valid registered voters in a by-mail community will receive a ballot, eliminating the need for registered voters to request an absentee ballot
 - This would **not** mandate by-mail voting but would allow it for some communities depending on the circumstances

Stop Mailing Official Election Pamphlet (OEP)

DOE prints and mails official election pamphlets to each registered voter household before:

- ✓ Each state general election, and
- ✓ Each election at which a ballot proposition is on the ballot
- 2024 Costs: \$844,855 to print and mail the OEP
- HB 63 proposes to remove the requirement to mail the OEP to save costs and reduce waste
- Information will be available electronically and posted online

Additional Changes Proposed by HB 63

- Voting Booths: Eliminates the size and number specifications
- Compensation for Election Board Members - Flexibility
- Postage-paid return envelopes
- No rejection of Special Needs ballots due to representative mistake
- Expands methods for delivery of election materials
- Absentee Review Boards start review absentee ballots earlier
- No requirement to count late-arriving ballots during a recount

Thank You

Contact Information

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