

SJUD Written Testimony on SB 39 (April 23 – May 11)

I request a YES VOTE on SB39 as amended
Gwen Woodard
Kenai, AK

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Zach Brown, and I am a lifelong resident of Gustavus, AK. I'm writing to urge you not to allow SB39 to move forward.

Senator Shower has complained about this bill being unfairly attacked as Alaska's "voter suppression bill" – yet it's hard to look at SB39 any other way. It makes it harder to vote. How is that not voter suppression? And how does that improve our democracy?

As a rural resident, I'm particularly disturbed that this bill would shorten the time available to both request and receive absentee ballots. Here in Alaska, we vote by mail in huge numbers. What, exactly, is the point of making that harder to do?

As a hunter and fisherman, I also bristle at the idea that hunting licenses will no longer be valid ID for voting. Show me the actual, verifiable voter fraud, or else quit putting up barriers to vote.

Please don't let SB39 out of committee.

Thank you,
Zach Brown,
Gustavus, AK

I am writing to express my belief that Alaska does not need a voter suppression bill, as described in the text of SB39 and encourage discussion and action against this bill.

First of all, this bill would be discriminating against those without digital access (authentication factor).

It also discriminates against older/handicapped and others who might need help to turn in their ballots, and becomes a crime?

SB39 also discriminates against rural/remote dwellers who require adequate time to receive and return a mail-in ballots. Shortening this time seems unwise and unkind.

Any attempt to restrict and limit the ability to vote is an echo of believing "The Big Lie" of widespread voter fraud, a lie with no proof that courts across the country have struck down.

SB39 is a loser.

Mary Hacker, voter

I would like to register my concerns with SB 39, which, despite Senator Shower's presentation of the bill as modernization of voter registers, is a voter suppression effort.

My name is Emily Kane

I reside at 1880 Evergreen Avenue in Juneau Alaska and I vote at every opportunity.

My concerns include:

1) the bill has lots of aggressive language criminalizing a variety of hypothetical egregious voting scenarios for which there is no evidence. The language of this bill potentially would send someone to jail who is simply trying to legitimately help an elderly or disabled person vote. Is this necessary? No, it isn't -- it's discriminatory.

2) the bill shortens the time line to request AND receive absentee ballots. How does this translate to "safer" elections? It doesn't. It's suppressive and is blatantly aimed towards reduced voting.

3) The bill states that if someone COULD use "digital multi-factor authentication security identifiers" (whatever that means -- Sen Shower's legislative aide was not able to explain it to me) but DOES NOT, then their vote would not count. Surely anyone can see how ridiculous that is. Why does the state need this incredibly expensive, complicated and totally unnecessary complication to our voting systems? It doesn't. Block chain technology is unproven from a security stand point -- in fact just the opposite -- many breaches of data have occurred with block chain technology. Please reject this affront to our right to vote, not to speak of our common sense. Voting needs to be user-friendly. This is not incompatible with secure. The Alaska DOE has very effectively combined these objectives -- let them do their job please.

I have served as an election worker. I was thoroughly trained by the Juneau DOE team and am impressed by how secure our elections are -- because the DOE has thorough and well thought out policies. If voter registration records need to be cleaned up (Sen Shower's premise for the bill) the DOE is completely capable of doing so. We do not need this aggressive language that insinuates problems that do not exist and would absolutely render voting more complicated, more expensive, and less user-friendly.

I urge the committee to focus on real problems such as building long term commitments to public education, public safety, public health and deferred maintenance on buildings, roads and ferries. Kill this bill ASAP.

Thank you
Dr. Emily Kane
Juneau

I wish to voice my strenuous opposition to this bill. It does nothing to improve the quality of Alaska's electoral process. Instead, it is designed to cast doubt on Alaska's current electoral system and to suppress voter turnout by placing unnecessary limitations on the "vote by mail" process. Alaska's electoral process works for Alaskans just as it exists now. Don't tinker with it. It DOES NOT need fixing.

As an Alaskan, I've cast a ballot in every election since the Fall of 1960, and never doubted that my vote would count - which it has.
Thank you.

Elizabeth Jane Cook, Fairbanks

To whom it may concern,

I am strongly opposed to SB39 and urge you to vote against it.

The right to vote is of the utmost importance in Alaska. SB39 introduces several issues that are the antithesis to this right:

- It apparently makes it a crime to help someone else to turn in a ballot.
- It shortens the time to request and receive absentee ballots.
- It introduces another hurdle to voting by proposing to not count a ballot if a voter could have used digital multi-factor authorization but didn't.
- It introduces blockchain voting, which will allow anybody to access people's personal voting records.
- It limits what kind of ID is allowed for voting. No more hunting or fishing licenses.

All this seems ridiculous and it appears to me that the only intended purpose is to suppress voters, especially those of minority groups and poor people. We have a voting system in place in Alaska that is completely adequate. There was no hint of voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election. So why fix something that is not broken unless there is an ulterior motive?

Claudi Thompson
Fairbanks, AK

I can still get around your voter suppression attempts. But a lot of my legal voter friends will clearly be prevented from voting by SB39 if it passes.

Vote NO on SB 39!

Christine Rowinski

In advance of the public testimony on this bill scheduled for May 8th, I'd like to express my concerns and my opposition to the bill. To call this bill anything but an attempt at voter suppression would be disingenuous at best.

It should not be a crime for me to help my elderly or disabled friends and family vote or for someone to give me that help should I need it. I brought my voter envelope and my husband's to the drop box in the recent election. This act should not be criminalized.

Other provisions in this poorly written attempt to discourage voting access are equally appalling. Shortening the time to request mail ballots and expecting voters to use digital multi factor authentication to exercise their right to vote and to have their vote counted is wrong. Both could lead to qualified Alaskan voters missing out on or being denied their opportunity to vote. Tracking votes with blockchain voting puts our right to vote privately at risk.

This bill should not be allowed to proceed. It's insulting to every Alaskan who believes in free and fair elections and in the right of all citizens to participate in what I consider a sacred part of our democracy.

Frankly, shame on Sen Showers for introducing it in the first place.

Anna Stensland Petersen

My name is Robin Taylor and in the 42 years I have lived in Alaska I have very rarely missed an election. The last couple of elections have been a challenge because I now have a disability that is only going to get worse. I strongly object to this bill for many reasons, not the least of which is how difficult it will make voting for disabled Alaskans. I was raised in the southern United States and as a teenager witnessed the civil rights movement and activism allowing EVERY citizen to vote.

Please do NOT go backwards.

Alaska, as a state which prides itself on individuals' rights, should be leading the nation in allowing citizens their rights, not taking them away.

Robin Taylor

Please stop the bill which would obstruct voting by restricting helping old people vote, block out rural people which don't carry our normal id, that high-teck verification crap (which I lothe), reducing vote time. Really, Alaskas voting system works, stop trying to screw it up. Thanks
Rodrick Murray

Dear Senators,

I have some concerns with Senate Bill 39 as it is currently being proposed.

Shortening the time to request an absentee ballot may make it harder for some people to vote. I live in Anchorage and we have had problems with mail not being delivered several times in the past few months. People in rural Alaska may experience more mail issues, especially if there is inclement weather.

Digital multi-factor authentication could also be problematic for many people in Alaska for a variety of reasons, of which I'm sure you are aware.

Any form of ID that includes a photo should be accepted for voter applications.

I have voted absentee when out-of-state and by mail during the local Anchorage elections and have never felt that my ballot was not secure. Alaska has some unique challenges and we should be doing everything to make it possible for everyone's voices to be heard.

Please consider all the many ramifications of voting for this bill as it is now written.

Sincerely,
Irene Bortnick

I object to any bill that restricts voting rights, including shortening times to request for and receive absentee ballots, shortening early voting dates, fewer drop boxes, etc. Did you know at letter going from one location in Fairbanks to another, has to go through Anchorage first? The

post office needs more time to make sure deliveries are made in time. not less time. This year, I was still receiving Christmas junk mail in March!

So I do not support SB39. Do not in any way restrict the right to vote: it's constitutional!

Sharron Albert
Fairbanks

It's flat out voter suppression! Let's call it what it is, without varnish. We're better than this. This bill needs to be withdrawn or killed in committee. We care and we vote. And we can vote out legislators who undermine the basic premise of democracy - our right cast a ballot.

In an excellent opinion editorial to the ADN on March 25th Celeste Hodge Growden said it well:

Senate Bill 39, introduced by Sen. Mike Shower (R-Wasilla), would degrade Alaska's electoral system to the condition it was in when Elizabeth Peratrovich became a civil rights icon and Alaska hero fighting it. SB 39 would make it far harder to register to vote, obtain an absentee ballot and even steal power from local governments to improve their own voting systems – local governments that, it should be noted, subsidize state elections by providing critical staff and logistical support for free. Successful all-mail elections would be banned only to be replaced by far more cumbersome and expensive state templates.

Voting rights are so important! Everyone needs access to voting. The voter fraud in this country is bills like this that attempt to block people of color or poor people from voting.

This bill has multiple issues that are just plain wrong. Threatening jail? Giving less time for mail in ballots in a state that has some serious mail delays? Even harder to authenticate? BLOCKCHAIN voting...seriously wrong! And then there's the id issue. This state has very few DMV's and many people who live in communities where they don't need a drivers license but everyone hunts and fishes.

Please, lets not play dirty politics. Let everyone who should have plenty of access to voting and the support to make sure it's done properly.

Tracey Schaeffer, Occupational Therapist

Senate Bill 39 is a BAD bill. Why are you trying to make it more difficult to vote. The digital multi factor authentication is really bad. That would probably disenfranchise me. Maybe that is the point of this bill David DeLong

To Whom It May Concern:

Senators, Senate Bill 39, introduced by Mike Shower, is basically a voter suppression bill.

From what I understand, this bill makes it a crime to help those who help disabled people, sick, or elderly turn in their ballots. What?

For many people, especially those who are in the rural villages and those who don't have cars to drive, a hunting or fishing license is an acceptable ID. This bill states that these licenses would no longer be an acceptable ID to vote in Alaska. What?

The time to request absentee ballots and the time to receive them is shortened with this bill.

MANY PEOPLE LIKE TO VOTE BY MAIL! We need extra mail time in Alaska, and we need to allow as many people to legally vote as possible.

I don't understand why ballots would not get counted if a voter "could" use a digital multi-factor authentication, but didn't. Come on... Why does this have to come into play at all? This creates an artificial hurdle for voters... especially the elderly and those who are disabled.

What in the world is "blockchain voting"? From what I understand, this method of tracking votes would reveal people's votes... not a good idea in a Democracy...

So, please... vote AGAINST Senate Bill 39.

Senate Bill 39 is NOT a bill that promotes the voting rights of the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Catherine H. Sullivan

I have been an election worker for state and local elections for decades. So I have some real world experience with what happens when people register, when they come to vote, when ballots are counted and when ballots are audited. I suspect many legislators have not had similar privilege and experience. It is from this background that I comment on the latest version of SB 39. I have looked through the substitute for SB 39, many sections of which I found difficult to understand. But I do have some takeaways and reasons why this entire effort should be rejected.

First, it criminalizes helping a sick, elderly or disabled person to vote. We already have processes which protect needy individuals from having their votes safely registered and counted.

We should not be shortening the time in which to request, receive and return an absentee ballot. This is Alaska where distance and whether, especially in rural areas can make even

current deadlines difficult to meet. Shortening them means fewer people able to vote—less democracy.

As a non-techy older Alaskan, I am confused about not counting ballots if a voter could have used "digital multi-factor authentication," but didn't. Is this an effort to disenfranchise us old folks and rural folks and other people with no or limited internet connections? We already have a process that works well for identifying would-be voters. Let's stick with it.

What's with restricting voter identity verification by no longer permitting hunting and fishing licenses as verification? Has there been some big black market in these licenses so that people can vote illegally? I think not. There are people throughout Alaska, especially rural Alaska, who use these licenses as identification.

Last, there's "block chain" in voting. I didn't know what block chains were, but inquired and learned that use of this untried tracking might result in access to actual votes violating the secrecy of the ballot!

SB 39 tackled non-existent problems with voting in Alaska and sought to make voting more difficult. Neither the original bill nor the amended version should be passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Margo Waring

I find this bill is an infringement on my right to vote. Why is having a Voter ID card issued by the State of Alaska not proof enough that I am eligible to vote. Why make it harder to vote?

Totally ridiculous!

Dear members of the Senate Judiciary committee:

I would like to take this time to provide testimony on SB39 (public hearing May 7th).

I am in opposition of SB 39. I just do not understand why you are wasting time on making our election system more restrictive. Alaska has historically been free of any problems. This action will take more time and money to implement. Why spend money on something that does not need fixing. I am especially concerned that it restricts mail in balloting. It has proven safe in our state, especially Anchorage and studies show it increases voter participation. Why would that be bad?

Please kill this bill at your level.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Burtness

Please vote no on SB 39. As a physician who sees many elders and sick in Alaska who wish to maintain their voting rights, SB 39 makes it particularly more difficult for elders, sick, and our vets to procure their needed absentee ballots and to work the new age systems on their own. Let's keep our elders and sick and vets in our pool of voters as long as possible and not count them out.

Thank you,
Maureen Longworth, MD

I am totally opposed to this extremist bill and to any restrictions on voting rights. Alaska has a great record of clean voting in spite of its enormous geographic challenges. In addition, the people (that is US, your constituents) want the PFD sign up to allow for voter registration. We have a paid state staff who confirm PFD eligibility each year and whether the applicants are (or continue to be) bonafide Alaska residents.

This extremist bill is simply pandering to losers who don't believe Republicans can win fairly. It undermines democracy. Well, we have 3 federal representatives, all Republicans, so obviously they can and do win in Alaska. This bill is worse than nonsense and should be voted down unanimously if you have any integrity at all.

Janet Schichnes
Fairbanks

To all on the Judiciary Committee,

This is personal to me

I've worked over 15 years as an election chairperson in my local precinct. All election officials spend hours in trainings prior to election day handling new equipment, reviewing processes, meeting with volunteers, etc., On Election Day, the efforts are heightened; the set up, the voting processes, the results reporting, the handling of ballots, the break down of the polling place, the list goes on. It takes hours and teams of people. And I am proud of the work our State and our Federal election workers do to keep our elections safe and fair. This past year especially; via COVID.

Sen. Mike Shower insists that Senate Bill 39 "is not intended to make it more difficult to vote, but meant to bring trust back to Alaska's elections." I'm not sure what Mike is talking about. Our Federal election officials said in November that the election was "the most secure in American history."

SB 39 seems to make it harder for citizens to cast a ballot. In addition, SB 39 would overturn the will of the majority of Alaskans who voted for the 2016 ballot initiative to link voter registration to our permanent fund dividend application. It would effectively ban municipalities from having by-mail elections. In addition, this bill would also prohibit the collection of mail-in ballots by third parties.

Mike Shower was quoted saying, "Local jurisdictions flood the mail with ballots with no chain of custody protocols," he said in an email statement. "There are many opportunities for error, or fraud, to be introduced into the system." The USPS is still the entity that delivers your Social Security checks, your medicines, your PFD checks. Why is it secure enough for those items and not a ballot?

Under SB39, only a family member or caretaker can deliver the ballot of another voter. What about my disabled neighbor who doesn't have those options? What are we trying to fix? What was found to be wanting? I hear mention of "Ballot security and chain of custody" attached to this bill. Alaska has an election system that is the envy of other states. Even our own (Republican) Lt. Governor, Kevin Meyer said, "Our election process has a lot of checks and balances in place people aren't aware of."

It's frustrating to see laws put into place to restrict access in the name of solving a problem that doesn't exist.

Some might be inclined by politeness to call this a voter registration bill or an election reform bill, but it reads more like a voter suppression bill.

Sue Sprinkle

I am writing in opposition to SB39. I oppose it on three counts. First, at face value it seems a concocted solution to a non-existent problem. Voter fraud in Alaska is exceedingly rare and has

never been of consequence in determining the outcome of elections. The genesis of this bill seems more in response to what is happening nationally with the persistent lies being told by former President Trump and the doubt he casts on the outcome of an election which he legitimately lost. Second, the bill is confusing and threatening. I find it intimidating as it creates new, difficult to understand voting crimes for what seem to be common sense actions, likely assisting the elderly in getting their ballots in. It shortens the time allowed to vote, and restricts the number of ways to register, neither of which have been problems in the past. And third, I find it insulting to the hundreds of Alaskans who dedicate their time and energies as election workers to ensure that we have free and fair elections. It unfairly and unnecessarily calls into question their integrity and competency. For these reasons I encourage the Senate to reject SB39.

Wayne Howell
Gustavus

Dear Senators,

I'm writing in opposition to SB39. As I see it, this unnecessary bill was largely created in response to a manufactured national "crisis" in voter confidence that has been created by public figures who continue to perpetrate lies about the most recent election. As an election worker myself, I feel insulted personally—and on behalf of all of my colleagues—by the persistent refusal to accept the testimony of election officials that we did our jobs carefully, thoroughly, and patriotically to ensure a secure and fair election, and by the use of this lie to stoke fear and rationalize unneeded legislation. I am also very troubled by SB39's aggressive stance toward the kind of neighborly actions we should all be taking more often: encouraging and helping each other be good citizens in ways that are currently legal and ethical.

Sincerely,
Katherine Hocker
Gustavus

To the Alaska Senate Judiciary Committee,

I write to you in opposition of SB39.

- SB39 is unnecessary, since voter fraud in Alaska is exceedingly rare and has never been of consequence in determining an election.
- SB39 creates excessive complexity and challenges for voters to exercise their right to vote, such as limiting the number of ways an Alaskan can register, reducing absentee

ballot timing, and attaching digital complexity with digital multi-factor authentication, and creating crimes for assisting elderly to vote.

- SB39 seems to follow a national trend to instill doubt in and distrust of our election system, perpetuating a lie of 2020 election fraud. This is disingenuous, dangerous, and an insult to the many Alaskan citizens who serve as conscientious and ethical election workers.

Voting is the right of all Americans citizens. Voting should be upheld and supported. SB39 undermines our American democracy by undermining our right to vote.

I am compelled to urge you to oppose SB39.

I thank you for your public service to Alaska.

Sincerely,
Laura Buchheit
Gustavus, AK

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to SB39. I oppose it on three counts. First, at face value it seems a concocted solution to a non-existent problem. Voter fraud in Alaska is exceedingly rare and has never been of consequence in determining the outcome of elections. The genesis of this bill seems more in response to what is happening nationally with the persistent lies being told by former President Trump and the doubt he casts on the outcome of an election which he legitimately lost. Second, the bill is confusing and threatening. I find it intimidating as it creates new, difficult to understand voting crimes for what seem to be common sense actions, likely assisting the elderly in getting their ballots in. It shortens the time allowed to vote, and restricts the number of ways to register, neither of which have been problems in the past. And third, I find it insulting to the hundreds of Alaskans who dedicate their time and energies as election workers to ensure that we have free and fair elections. It unfairly and unnecessarily calls into question their integrity and competency. For these reasons I encourage the Senate to reject SB39.

Jeff Irwin, registered voter

Gustavus AK

Hello, I am a constituent living in Anchorage. Our elections/voting procedures are working well and need no revisions. I was a poll observer on various occasions during last November's early voting period. Please reject the passage of SB39 out of the committee. Paula Sayler

Dear Alaska Senators:

Please do not pass SB 39! We need to broaden and increase voter turnout, not the reverse. Alaska, and the US as a whole, do not have appreciable levels of voter fraud, so the only purpose of this bill would be to suppress voter turnout. Thanks for your service.

Sincerely,

Gretchen H. Bishop
Juneau

Dear Senate Judiciary Member,

I OPPOSE SB39 because it is trying to fix a problem that arguably does not exist in Alaska. Alaska has had a good electoral record and has ways to manage non-eligible voters through the PFD AVR and ERIC status.

It will be expensive to institute at a time when there is not a need for a fix to our elections.

By requiring voters to use MFA doesn't protect the voter file from unlawful voters.

There is the possibility that parts of this legislation are unconstitutional.

Bottom line: SB39 is not necessary and will prevent legally registered voters from going to the polls more than it will fix a problem that doesn't exist.

Thank you,

Anissa Berry

Please do not make voting in Alaska more difficult by passing SB 39.

I believe this is creating a burden and complication for a problem that doesn't exist!

Thank you for considering my comments.

Maureen Knutsen

Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

SB 39 is another self-serving fantasy attempt to 'steal' OUR democracy for the grubby little-fingered, want-to-be, autocrats infiltrating this Nation's legitimate and credible authority — We The People! Nowhere is it more explicitly detailed as to why “capitalism” (as a system of distribution to properly dispense Earth’s resources) is known as The Great Satan (in cultures from Christianity’s Pope Francis to Iran’s Islamic Shi’a) than in the persistent attacks by those wishing to dismember/dissolve the fabric that binds this Nation as e pluribus unum, when we suffer the fool who has gamed their juvenile “pretense of civil consciousness” to a position of public trust. The inhuman cruelty that results of one whose word-cloaked, preeminent intent of self-profit, is most likely to present itself in a society condemned to judging commercialized property rights of more import than that of organic Human Beings.

When humanity attains the civilized benefits of production with the more energy-efficient synergy of combined efforts, it is only consequent the mutual "good-faith" achieved in each other. It is this good-faith insuring a trust that each, as part of the whole, live by the "Golden Rule"- (Do unto others...)! This is the only lifestyle which makes capitalism possible. Trust is the 'weaving thread in the social fabric' that holds a capitalistic society in check. When egos of authority belie this inherent truth and assault our culture's institutions for nothing more than to demean the value of those civil stanchions, only to seem something of more value, aggrandizing themselves for personal gain, not only are ALL people under that authority belittled, financially harmed, and condemned to perpetual discontent, but so is the perpetrators, whether they know it or not.

Our Nation has kept itself balanced (precariously at times?!) on this razor-thin line dividing hyper-focused capitalism and Golden Rule, Constitutional efficiency. SB 39 has demoted Alaska into the misfit ranks of similarly uninformed partisans clinging to an uncloaked would-be emperor whose faux authority must remain of his or her own private, personal psychosis. Our democracy is already a pendulum teetering, precarious enough without the uninformed populism of despotic tyranny.

John S. Sonin

I am very much opposed to Senate Bill 39.

This bill attempts to correct problems that we do not have. It will negatively impact voter turnout of both parties. Alaska already has a shamefully low voter turnout. We don't need a bill which further discourages participation in our democratic process.

I have lived in Alaska for over 30 years. I am a nonpartisan voter and have voted for both Republicans and Democrats. I vote in every election, local, state, and federal.

We need to be working to strengthen our democracy, not tearing it down in the name of unfounded fears of voter fraud.

Sincerely,

Clare Thurmond Hill

I'm from Petersburg, Alaska and represent myself.

I am opposed to SB 39 and am asking you to vote against it. We do not need voter suppression in our state.

Thank you,

Marilyn Menish-Meucci

To: Senate.Judiciary@akleg.gov

Re: SB 39 and CSSB 39

I have read through SB 39 and SB 39B a number of times. In addition, I have read through Senator Shower's statement, SB 39 – Sponsor Statement "Election Integrity" (no date). My comments follow:

Reason for the legislation. I, as well as most voting Alaskans, believe that election integrity matters and that every vote counts. To explain to Alaskans the reasons this legislation is

proposed will require some valid and documented data that identified the allegations of a breach. These verifiable data must be presented to the public if authenticity is to be established.

Definitions. Some explanations as to definitions are genuinely warranted if voters are to understand the proposed legislation:

- Your definition of where elections integrity has been breached (with data).
- Define “block chain” for the average voter.
- Define “Multifactorial Authentication Security Identifications” for the average voter.
- Define “Alternative Authentication Process” for the average voter.
- Define the extent of “ambiguous election protocols” that have apparently been noted and the functions in accurate voting. How were these verified?
- Clarify and verify the extent of “irregularities” that have been addressed with the Division of Elections.

Signature verification. Can the US Postal Service be involved? Some say yes...some say no. Verification and documentation needed.

Permanent Fund Dividend. What percent of possible PFD participants “opt out” to register for voting? Is this a problem? Verify.

Barriers. How will the potential barriers (if any) be managed with:

- Language differences
- Citizens with disabilities
- Transportation issues
- Elders
- Regional/Geographic locations
- Citizens in correctional facilities
- Citizens who are homeless

I believe that SB39B as presented is not understood by the average citizen. It is neither effective nor functional as a meaningful and positive tool or direction for meaningful legislation in matters of integrity or elections and voting.

I encourage the “decision-makers” for SB39B (or whatever it may become) to gather the information that will be clear, correct and substantive so that informed decisions can be made. This bill should not be accepted as presented.

Please let me know if I can answer other questions or provide additional information. Thank you for this consideration.

carolyn V Brown MD MPH

Alaska does not have significant voter fraud. I have worked multiple elections in two Fairbanks precincts, and the chance that someone could vote in person by impersonating someone else is close to zero.

Nearly every voter who comes through the doors is known either by a poll worker or by another voter and the impersonation would be unmasked quickly. To insinuate that large numbers of poll workers are part of a vast conspiracy to conduct a fraudulent election is insulting and bespeaks a complete lack of experience or knowledge on the part of those pushing this bill.

Furthermore, because of the remoteness of many communities, to require the imposition of multi-factor verification and, even more ridiculously, blockchain protocols, is completely unnecessary. There is absolutely no reason to saddle voters at various education and experience levels with a series of complex hurdles that seem specifically designed to discourage voting or to create arcane pitfalls to eliminate legitimate votes. Every legislator— even those representing the wealthier parts of Alaska in Southcentral—should be aware of the discrepancies in education and infrastructure throughout the state.

I've always been proud of Alaska's voting system and its recognition of the huge disparities in voter sophistication and technology within the state. This legislation is nakedly aimed at throwing unnecessary roadblocks in the voters' way.

Do NOT pass this shameful bill.

Sandra Dauenhauer District 4 Ester, Alaska

I would like to give my support for SB 39. Election Integrity is vital for our freedoms. Please pass this Bill that helps secure our vote.

Thank you, Kathy Steadman

Dear Judiciary Committee,

Thanks for your hard work in Juneau!

I'd like to let you know that the ability to vote is very very important to me. My grandmother was not originally able to vote, but later in life could. I also always reflect on what it was like in South Africa when everyone could vote for the first time: 4 hour lines in 100 degree heat, but everyone was joyously waiting for their first chance to vote.

So, when looking at SB 39, I think that making voting easier is so much more important than anything else. Voting is the base of our democracy and needs to be straight forward and understandable for everyone. This last fall we were attending to a family death in Portland and were so glad to be able to get an absentee ballot, with no extra impediments, sent to us so we could continue to vote.

The things I like:

- Tribal identification cards for authentication.
- Absentee by mail as an ongoing possibility for those unable to easily get to the polls due to work, illness or age.
- Allowing people to fix mistakes on their ballots. I might have unwittingly had a witness sign when I could also sign my name. Was that okay? I don't know, I hope so.

Things I do not like:

- A list of people who are required to witness absentee ballots and administer oaths. Who are you kidding? This is just going to make it harder for people to exercise their civic duty. As legislators in a democracy you should appreciate the importance of every vote! No to this, please!
- No extra technology that is hard to put in place and use. This could also limit people's participation, especially if they do not have access to or know-how for use of technology.

Something I really despise:

- The unconstitutional provision that attempts to handicap the judicial part of our democracy from ruling on election laws, and by establishing a need for the legislature to approve a court's decision. There's a separation of powers for a reason, and this simply muddles the balance of powers, giving way too much power to the legislature. After watching the beginning of this session I think you should really think about how ineffectual you seemed. It did not give we the people confidence in what you were trying to do. Please take this part right out!!

Thanks for reading this, and for your hard work.

Sincerely,
Paula Davis

Dear Senate Judiciary ,

I am strongly opposed to SB 39

- SB 39 if passed will make it harder to help elderly or differently abled voters.
- SB 39 makes it harder to vote by mail, both shortening the time to request a ballot and adding burdens to submitting it.
- The bill prevents ballots from being counted if voters struggle with the new “digital multi-factor authentication” (which it doesn’t define.)
- SB 39 stops voters from using a hunting or fishing license as identification.
- SB 39 relies on blockchain-style technology, under which the government will keep a record of how every Alaskan voted and hope it can’t be hacked.
- Alaska's marginal Internet technology statewide make blockchain hard to implement
- Blockchain technology can be very expensive and Alaska lacks expertise in this area, so it would likely need to be outsourced beyond Alaska

I’m in favor of making it easier for Alaskans to vote. Our right to vote is precious and key to our form of democracy. This bill would make it harder for many Alaskans to vote. This bill does not solve any current “problems” or situations. It would not make anything better but it would make things worse for our form of democracy.

Respectfully yours,
Sue Keller
Fairbanks

This is NOT a good bill for Alaskans. We do not need it to be more difficult to vote by mail. Our 2020 elections were safe and secure. Blockchain-style technology interferes with our right to voter privacy. A hunting or fishing license should be adequate identification. Many Alaskans in the villages do not have a driver’s license.

This bill is unnecessary and not of any benefit to Alaskans.

Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,
Patricia Stark

I am not aware that our state has problems with elections. So, why change something that has been working just fine?

I urge you to not pass SB 39.

Thank you.

Ingrid Taylor
Fairbanks

I strongly oppose SB 39. With elderly family members needing help to vote and reduction of Alaska certified ID, this bill discriminates against elderly and our Alaska way of life. It seems to be the work of Outsiders treading on us.

Gretchen Murphy
Fairbanks

From: Jamie Rodriguez, Anchorage, May 8, 2021.

Re: Testimony in Opposition to SB39: Ballot Custody/Tampering and Voter Registration

My name is Jamie Rodriguez and I'm writing from Anchorage to give testimony in opposition of Sen. Shower's SB39: Ballot Custody/Tampering and Voter Registration

After reading SB39 its many incarnations, it's my personal conclusion that this is a rushed bill, poorly thought out, with many hidden costs, and lacking sufficient research. As such, if passed, it will destroy Alaska's thoughtfully built, well-run voting system and replace it with something that will create hangup points and that just doesn't function.

It's hopeful that the sponsor has come around a little from the original based on having personally experienced mail-in voting, one of the positives of a supportive election environment. It's also a positive that the recognition of the need for universal vote by mail for rural communities where traditional voting can be extremely difficult and costly. And, if I'm understanding correctly, the realization that an "opt out" option, rather requiring an "opt in" option, on the PFD automatic voter registration also removes a layer of confusion. I'm also pleased to see that in the most recent incarnation of the bill, the sponsor has made changes to support notification of ballot errors and a way of curing them.

However, our Division of Elections already does all of the above quite well and I wouldn't want to see any of it thrown out.

A “track my ballot” option similar to that used with UPS packages, is an interesting prospect that’s potentially worth looking into but again, we can already do that to some extent via the Division of Elections website. And a ballot’s journey is much shorter than a package’s journey. Potential monies for such an add-on could be spent better elsewhere in the state budget.

But then came the word, “BLOCKCHAIN,” which conjured up some real concern. So I turned to a techie friend. My techie friend said that the term, Blockchain, is simply a database, but that whoever owns or controls that database can also manipulate the data. He noted that the word, “owns” can certainly refer to a malicious actor with unauthorized access to the environment/infrastructure which the blockchain nodes run on. In the search for the mythical corrupted election, this bill may actually help create one!

My techie friend went on to explain that Blockchain describes a general type of technology, but is akin to the concept of “transportation.” Without further definition of a specific type, it gets you nowhere.

My techie friend also pointed out that Blockchain is complex and that complexity is the enemy of security. Again, more opportunity to create problems!

Further, my techie friend warned that digital multi-factor authentication should be estimated to cost \$3 per person per year for our Alaskan voting population. That’s approx. \$2.25 million per year. Then someone has to manage that database of people, and/or integrate it with myAlaska. So that’s more funding. As myAlaska already does that, why waste the money? Another money pit.

And finally, my techie friend pointed out, there are many technical, cultural, and anthropological barriers to the proposed technologies suggested in SB39, not only for the voters, but also for the Division of Elections.

This bill includes lots of duplication of efforts using unknown, possibly insecure and hackable, technology at a very high cost! There’s not enough tech infrastructure in rural Alaska to support this bill without immediate significant change. This is definitely needed, it just doesn’t exist yet. It’s not a good idea to pretend that it does exist.

My family has been in Alaska since 1974. We are “Super Voters.” Over the years, we have witnessed the growing of a fair, accessible, and secure voting system all along the way. It took many years to build our very fair system into what it is today so that every Alaskan will have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote, no matter their location, their physical ability to get out, their work schedule, etc.

On its face, this bill continues to feel like an attempt to disenfranchise Alaskan voters, would waste millions of dollars, perhaps diverting money and contracts to special interests, and make it more difficult for our elders, rural residents, low income residents, and many other groups, to

cast their votes. SB39 also continues to propagate the proven false narrative that widespread voter fraud exists, when it does not.

Let's pay attention to the elephant in the room. The 2020 elections were well run, secure, and accurate. Here in Alaska, our elections were also well-run, secure, and accurate, as usual — and during a pandemic no less. Case in point, a statewide hand recount was extremely consistent, secure, and accurate. Our Division of Elections made it easy for everyone to vote, and they checked everything carefully each step of the way, again, as always. They are pros. And they are the best. The old adage that, "if there isn't a problem, don't fix it" applies here. Our elections work and any changes made to the process should be for the sole purpose of helping Alaskans cast their vote even more safely and without harassment, not to make it more difficult or for partisan gain.

Do we have work to do? Indeed we do. Work must focus on Rural Alaska to make possible improved, easy access to voting and communications in general. That's where our attention should be. We have that opportunity with the proposed National Infrastructure Bill. I hope our state will take full advantage of that. In the mean time, no one is abusing our very sacred right to vote as it stands today. Any attempts to do so are completely unacceptable. The Alaska Division of Elections runs a very professional, helpful, and caring department. All of the current election disparagement has been nothing but offensive and insulting of their always excellent work on behalf of every Alaskan.

I'm very concerned about intent here. The craziness that's moved into both national and state politics just feeds into a lie that's threatening our democracy and very way of life. Please don't politicize the act of voting. This bill is an attempt to discourage voting, to criminalize errors, and to sow distrust. You know the old saying, "If it looks like a skunk, and smells like a skunk, there's a very good chance it's a skunk." If there is no bad intent here, then instead of running two competing bills, why not get together with the sponsors of HB66, and work together to craft a fair and honest bill that respects all Alaskans' right to vote and possibly begin some healing and a return to sanity. That would be a wonderful, honorable, and much appreciated act by our state legislators.

Thank you for hearing me today.

Please know I support SB-39. I agree with absolute election integrity to ensure our elections are fair and secure - that there is confidence in the outcome - and that every legal vote accurately reflects the people's choice and each vote is properly accounted.

Thank you for your time and service! Please support SB-39 and Vote Yes!

Heather Orzalli

Dear Senators:

I am writing to testify about SB39.

Although security of elections is and should be a goal that we all share, the latest version of SB39 still is an over-kill solution to a problem that is more a question of random and rare inadvertent errors rather than wide-spread fraud or malicious tampering with our Alaska elections. In fact, our State Division of Elections and its IT support were commended in the 2016 for nipping in the bud an attempted online incursion.

Although there are a number of grounds for opposing SB39's latest version, I will focus on two aspects that I think are inappropriate:

1. the proposed use of "digital multi-factor authentication." Multifactor authentication is used as a security measure in online transactions, so it is difficult to imagine how this type of authentication can be used in a non-digital, paper-based transaction which voting in person OR by mail essentially is. A digital authentication implies that all voters will at some stage be carrying out their voting via the internet, which is not and should not be part of any new election procedures. Most multifactor authentication involves establishing a password online and then receiving a digital code via text message or email. An Alaskan should not have to have an internet connection to 1. register to vote or 2. to vote. The need to produce a code in addition to the standard identification will serve as an unnecessary barrier on Election Day or when it is time to turn in a mail ballot. Whether multifactor identification codes are delivered by text message or mail, what will a legitimate voter do if he or she does not receive the code in a timely manner or at all? What if they forget to bring it on Election Day or misplace it? Do they lose their right to vote?

2. the use of Blockchain or one of the other distributed technologies named in the bill.

- First it is highly inappropriate for the legislature, a body of dedicated public servants, but not a group of trained technology experts, to name specific digital systems in statute. Will the legislature be reviewing the statute annually to make sure that the named systems actually accomplish what the drafters of the bill hope they will and whether they have been superceded by the next technological protocol?
- Second this technology is not cheap and as there is no fiscal note on the bill now, the legislated use of this specific technology at a time when our state budget is under such stress is fiscally irresponsible.
- Third, people who are actually IT experts do not necessarily endorse the use of blockchain -type systems for elections. For example:

The National Academy of Sciences has reported:

“While the notion of using a blockchain as an immutable ballot box may seem promising, blockchain technology does little to solve the fundamental security issues of elections, and indeed, blockchains introduce additional security vulnerabilities.” Securing the Vote: Protecting American Democracy. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press, Sept. 6, 2018.

"People often think that using more technology is a good thing, and that we get more benefits and more security from technology," says Ronald Rivest, a cryptographer and senior professor at MIT who has looked at voting technology extensively. "In fact, it tends to work the opposite way. More technology typically means more complexity. And more complexity means less security."

Thank you for giving careful thought to these and the other proposed changes in our election procedures, and please look for better solutions to improving our election procedures that will not inadvertently erect more barriers for voters.

Sue Sherif

I strongly support SB 39 , to protect election integrity.

Norma De Vilbiss

Dear Senators- actual evidence confirms the 2020 election in the United States was among the most flawless elections ever conducted in this country. In Alaska there has been 3, count 'em 3, documented cases of ballot fraud in our history. The electorate spoke - listen to it.

SB 39 discourages voter participation, and will do nothing to ensure Republican dominance, but will align the Alaska Republican Party with desperate Trump conspiracy theorists and white supremacists.

You have nothing to gain and everything to lose by creating obstacles to voters.

Instead of wasting time on preventing voter participation, spend what little time remains this session addressing Alaska's financial crisis that actually does exist!!!!

Phyllis Tugman-Alexander

Hello my name is Alisha Asplund I and from Wasilla Alaska, As written, I am against SB 39

I am 100% good with cleaning up and double checking the voter rolls.

I am 100% for using a form of USPS tracking programs to follow the ballot on its way to voter and then back to the counting location.

I am not ready for the new technology. I found these two resources helpful. Who are your experts and what research are you using to show the safety and security of these technologies?

I also saw some papers that were a lot more negative, some brought up about how a highly motivated political group use third party hackers or miners to gain control of nodes. Is that true or not? Will votes believe it and then not trust the election? How can we prove that that did not happen? Just some questions? I focused on Block chain because the other just seemed to be rely on nodes and Block Chain was touted as the most secure thus making it the most cumbersome.

Do you have proven plan and cost analysis for protecting the technology from the breaching, hacking, altering, miners gaining control to manipulate "shard" or source chain or tampering with election data or ballots?

I do not understand and could not follow the following steps without the fear of accidentally doing it wrong.

1. page 13 lines 29-31 page 14 1-9. Does it mean I have to be able to write a legal paragraph? Stating what? What does it mean to be "unavailable" and how do I state that in my paragraph? How does the 18-year-old witness certify my ballot?
2. Page 16 lines 1-25 Especial if the official is not available. What is the difference between "none of the officials is available" and "reasonable accessible"? Do I have to explain my definition of "reasonable acceptable" and "not available"? Does the witness have to write their own statement? And what is "as prescribed in AS 09.63.020". Do I now need a legal degree to understand that statute?

What is wrong with the absentee voting process we use now? Don't we already have to try to find an official and if one is not reasonable available then we can use a witness? By signing under the statement on the envelope aren't we attest that we did what was asked of us? Why make it so complicated since it will be tracked to us and then back to the counting location. Please make sure that it does not create mandates that cannot be lived up to thus causing all future election to be contested.

Thank you for letting me share my concerns.

Greetins Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr. Felisa Wilson, i am a recently retired Air Force physician and live on JBER in House District 15. I am writing to express my opposition to SB39. This bill is detrimental to our

current system run by Department of Elections (DOE) and is an unnecessary change to the way our elections are run.

I worked as an election official in the 2020 primary and General elections, and know firsthand how the process is run by DOE. I've found that the staff takes great lengths to ensure our Alaska elections are in keeping with AK Statute 15 to the letter. Their diligence and attention results in our elections functioning as a well oiled machine from start to finish.

DOE runs a fair and balanced process for conducting elections, maintenance of trained election officials and uses appropriate technology that already ensures a smooth execution of the elections in Alaska. SB39 would undermine this smooth process and cripple DOE in being able to execute a fair, balanced and unbiased running of AK elections. SB39 is not needed and would roll back the gains we have made in recent years.

I ask that the Senate committee not approve SB39 moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Felisa Wilson MD, Major, USAF(Retired)

Good Morning Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Wanda Wilson, I live in Anchorage and I am writing to express my opposition to SB39. This bill is detrimental to our current system run by Department of Elections (DOE) and is an unnecessary change to the way our elections are presently conducted.

DOE runs a fair and balanced process for conducting elections, maintenance of trained election officials and uses appropriate technology that already ensures a smooth execution of the elections in Alaska. SB39 would undermine this smooth process and cripple DOE in being able to execute a fair, balanced and unbiased running of AK elections. SB39 is not needed and would roll back the gains we have made in recent years.

I ask that the Senate committee not approve SB39 moving forward.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,
Wanda Wilson

First of all senators,our elections have worked well. I have worked with local and state elections for many years. I am in opposition to should if anything,try to make it easier not more difficult for residents to vote.Many states are putting in regulations to make it more difficult to cast appears that you want to do the know that's wrong! Why are some of you so Evil?

Corinne Akers

I fully support SB39, I want election integrity!

Stacey Wright, Kenai, AK

As an Alaska Voter I demand Election Integrity and the Protection of my Vote. I am a legal immigrant and an American Citizen that proudly made her Citizenship so I CAN VOTE in the best country in the World. Its a sacred privilege to me and others that immigrated from socialist or communist countries. Please support SB39. It protects our voter system in many accountable ways.

Sincerely
Sybille Curry
Nikiski

Dear Members,
I am writing to express my opposition to SB 39.

As a resident and Alaska voter - for decades - I am proud of the history of our state elections and voter laws. I recall Mr. Kobach's visit to Alaska some years ago and his allegations of extensive voter fraud, if only we would look in the right places.

The Division of Elections (with support from a seated Republican Governor) did look.
And look.
And look.
A mere handful of instances of possible malfeasance fizzled on closer examination.

Close Alaskan elections have gone through thorough recounts - with flying colors - We already have a secure paper ballot system.

SB 39 introduces needless hurdles to voting and inserts dangerously intrusive and expensive measures into a superbly functional election system. I oppose it and hope you will vote against SB39.

Thank you,
Mary Lee Guthrie
Fairbanks

Dear Chair Shower and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Leon Jaimes. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of myself today to oppose SB-39. It harms voter access and is an unaffordable solution to a problem that does not exist.

I am a small business owner in Anchorage that specializes in providing advanced enterprise Cybersecurity service. Specifically, I help businesses to protect against, detect and respond to advance cybersecurity threats. I am extremely proficient with the technology.

I appreciate the intention to improve our election process and I am proud of how well run Alaska's elections are and especially how well the Division of Elections performs its duties. Their performance during the pandemic was exemplary. Unfortunately SB 39 sends the message that their outstanding work has somehow been deficient, though it has not. In addition, SB 39 appears to actually create barriers for Alaskans who wish to take part in our democratic process. Furthermore, SB 39 unduly saddles the state with what I am confident are hidden costs and scope creep in implementing these changes.

One such problem is the following section:

Act of 1993); and

17 (2) shall adopt regulations under [AS 44.62](#)(Administrative
18 Procedure Act) providing for

19 (A) the use of the most functional application of distributed
20 ledger technology, which may include blockchain, Hashgraph, DAG,
21 Holochain, or Tempo, to protect election data;

22(B) development of a voter authentication system that

23 (i) assigns digital multi-factor authentication

24 security identifiers to all registered voters;

25 (ii) ensures a qualitative voter authentication

26 method for voters voting at a location other than a polling place;
27 and
28 (iii) includes an alternative authentication process
29 for voters unable to use digital multi-factor authentication.

I see many problems with this language. Distributed ledgers are not designed to “protect” data. As the name suggests, they provide a distributed means of storing data. This is what database technology does as well. Databases can also be configured to encrypt data, and to provide integrity for the data as well as audit trails. This is an attempt at solving a problem that does not exist, and it would not actually solve the problem if the problem did exist. There are plenty of ways to replicate databases. Compared to computer scientists who specialize in distributed ledger and cryptography database administrators are plentiful in comparison. Why pin the undue burden of acquiring a workforce with such a special and highly sought after skillset.

Another problem I have with this is that it really is very dangerous to name specific companies or branded technology in law. In the span of just a few years we have seen many technology companies come and go. This would quickly become a section needing revision at a time when the Senate has much higher priorities for the foreseeable future in addressing the budget crisis and then the climate crisis along with the specter of potential additional pandemics or the continuation of the current pandemic.

The requirement for multifactor authentication is a huge mistake. I implement multifactor authentication systems. I know precisely where the hidden costs in these systems lie. I would estimate the cost of such a system to exceed \$100 per voter per year. That does not include the tens of millions in implementation costs. The state does not have tens of millions of dollars a year for this. Who will administer the systems? Who will administer the systems that protect them? Who will pay for the massive call center and support staff that will provide the level of support necessary to ensure voters are guaranteed their right to vote? I regularly work with highly educated individuals who are required to use multifactor authentication. Doctors, lawyers, and even IT staff all struggle to adapt. If this is true for them, the impact on a broad application to the voter population would be disastrous.

This is also another area where it is a solution to a problem that does not exist. In many ways, while not necessarily implemented using technology, the existing system already has multiple factors of authentication for a voter. They already have to provide multiple pieces of information to register, then portions of that information are used to issue them a ballot, then once the ballot is received, they authenticate it. There are checks in place to detect fraud as well, and ways to do recounts and audits. The system already works.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and for your service to Alaskans.

Leon Jaimes

Greetings Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

My name is Elsie E. Lester, an octogenarian resident of Eagle River for more than fifty years, a retired college full professor, but most importantly a former worker for the Alaska Anchorage Region of the Absentee Ballot Board (RAB) for many elections. I worked at the polls for last year's primary and general election in spite of Covid 19. I am a strong proponent of using absentee ballots.

I strongly oppose SB39. It is public knowledge that Senator Showers attended the insurrection in the nation's capitol on January 6 and seem to think that we should ignore the previous methods of absentee voting. This is a bill that logical Alaskans see as unnecessary, burdensome and fails to consider various conditions that are not problematic in the lower 48. Therefore a vote to deny passage out of this committee is strongly urged. A good reminder for committee members should be an old paraphrased slogan.. "we don't care how that do it in the lower 48".

Thanks for considering all Alaska voters and their right to vote without cumbersome roadblocks.
Elsie E. Lester

My issues with this HB39 are numerous, almost as numerous as my ENORMOUS concerns about the methods used to present this bill and shake citizen testimony.

Blockchain code to be built into balloting is an outrage that flies in the face of our guaranteed balloting secrecy, much like the ballots in Maricopa County right now, where unvetted and questionable persons are running amuck with voter ballots, names, addresses, phones - BIRTHDATES.

Alaskans expressed this outrage and Sen. Showers responded - not posting a solitary change to hB39 in the time leading up 45 minutes before this preceding hearing! When pressed - he has stated in basic terms - he is too busy.

This hearing - taking testimony - how much notice were citizens given? This is what the Alaskan Judiciary Committee has become? A Senator goes on the record saying when it comes to line by line items such as mail in balloting which are directly ATTACKED in his bill - he doesn't care either way - he was simply drafting legislation by throwing a bunch of talking points he has heard - AND SEEING WHAT STICKS!

Our elections are safe and secure in Alaska. This entire bill is based on the LIES and DECEIT of a traitor and tyrant, and the "Emperor's New Clothes" saga of GOP followers throwing themselves on the sword at taxpayer expense has gone too far - and I say shame on all of you for entertaining it here.

Division of Elections is always careful, already keeps high standards...,

I HAVE watched the DOE carefully grow our process to keep up with technology, to meet the diverse needs of Alaskans in all situations, We are the leader in our NATION and must continue this outstanding work. THE DOE does not favor Republican's or Democrats, they favor Alaskans.

I challenge this body to do the SAME

I oppose this vile excuse for legislation, HB39.

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am very thankful to see some election reform legislation. I support SB 39 and the latest amendments. I had previously written April 22, 2021 to the Senate Affairs Committee expressing my concerns allowing one judge to waive witness requirements. Also that a valid ID was not a requirement to vote. A quick peruse of the current amended SB 39 appears to address those concerns. Thank you! I am glad that Alaska has stepped up to the plate along with other states to ensure the integrity of our voting system. Every vote counts.

Thank you for the hard work.

Marty Kincaid

To the Chair and Judiciary Committee members.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit public testimony on CS SB39.

I do not support this bill as it stands. Many parts of it seem to address problems that do not exist.

Though there are many sections I find objectionable, I address 2 below.

1. Sec. 4. AS 15.07.070(a) as amended proposes to use digital technology that is unproven and subject to cyber attack. Additionally, voters who are not tech savy may be discouraged from even attempting to vote. All references to this process need to be scrapped for all its flaws.

2. The process of a "watcher" questioning a voter could easily lead to harassment. What are the qualifications of a "watcher" given this authority?

There are many more additions to our voting process that are more restrictive and strike me as undemocratic. We should be encouraging citizens to vote. This bill needs to salvage a few points that keep our voting lists current and delete the rest.

Sincerely,

Mary Corcoran
Delta Junction

There is no possible justification for SB 39. Making it more difficult to vote is undemocratic. Some Senators may worry that large voter turnout may make re-election more difficult, but personal ambitions should not trump our democratic process. Make future elections turn on policy not voter suppression.

John M. Miller

Senate Judiciary Committee
Re: HB 39

Dear Senators Holland, Showers, Hughes, Myers, and Kiehl,

This huge elections bill makes it more confusing, rather than making it more straight-forward, to vote in remote (or Covid) Alaska, vote absentee by mail, or vote by electronic submission. It makes voting more restrictive, and raises the bar Alaskans must clear in order to exercise their right to vote, in a state where voter fraud is not an issue.

Here are a few examples in the proposed bill:

- For those that register to vote, or vote electronically, blanket requirements such as “digital multi-factor authentication security identifiers” can easily discourage people from voting when there are snags in the system, technology glitches, forgotten passwords, and limited technology skills.
- Requiring voting software developed entirely in the U.S. isn’t cost-effective and it smacks of out-of-Alaska interference in our conduct of elections and seem to serve little or no purpose to our state.
- Section 36 gives the director excessive discretion to reject absentee ballots because he or she doesn’t feel the ballot was certified by the right federal or state official, the voter does not use one of a small list of identification forms, the postal service barcode is questioned, or the voter failed the “digital multi-factor authentication security identifiers” test.

Please reject this vast multi-pronged bill in its' present form. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Odin Brudie

Please support SB39. This bill is important to all of Alaska. Without election integrity there is no point.

Debraly Gamache

Please support SB39.

If we do not have honest, fair elections we are a banana republic.

You've already lost a vast swath of support because people do not trust the elections now that we use computers and Dominion.

This is a step to restore honesty in elections & faith in our system.

Thank you,

Casey Campbell

Promote legislation to ensure the integrity of the voting process i.e. signature validation for one. Taking issue with use of Dominion given concept that changes can be made via a cell phone which influence results--study done alleges that that is the case. Absentee ballots that one applies for to trump mass mail outs of ballots and ballot harvesting.

Pass SB 39.

It is far overdue to fix our election problems. Clean up of voter rolls now. We need voter integrity.

Francesca Allegranza.

We support the bill started in 2018 that provides security to help ensure fair elections for all Alaskans, liberals, moderates, and conservatives alike, no matter the demographics. The evolution of the bill is very positive.

Election integrity is the foundation of our constitutional republic. Please ensure each ballot is counted exactly as it is cast.

Let's track mail-in ballots and have a. Opportunity to fix it, just like we do on person. Do not throw my ballot out.

It is important to us to ensure extra ballots are not abused.

This bill makes it possible to correct a wrong address, register to vote, and pick to change our party affiliation through our PFD application.

It only makes sense to support SB39.

Thank you,

Ben & Edie Grunwald

Dear Senators:

This morning I had the privilege of testifying on the question of SB 39 and the chair was kind enough to extend my time. However, one of the key elements of my testimony and several other people who testified before I did was our objections to specifying and promoting the use of blockchain technology in the amendment N version of SB39 and other previous versions.

After my testimony, we were informed that the latest version did not include mention of blockchain and similar distributed ledger technologies; however, I am attaching the full text of the latest version of the bill posted on the legislative website so you can see what I and other citizens were responding to. If this problematic method of trying to secure our elections had been removed, this should have been announced when the presiding officer announced that he hoped people were responding to the latest version of the bill, or an announcement of that particular change in the bill should have been made when the subject came up in one of the earliest testimonies this morning.

If the latest version of the bill is not the one that I have attached where on page 3 as of May 4, blockchain technology was still included, how is the public able to give timely and appropriate

testimony? There were other documents posted after May 4 and as recently as 10 AM today May 8, but none of them included the full text of the latest version of the amendment if it was different than the one posted on May 4. In fact a sectional analysis posted yesterday (May 7) at 1:30 PM still states:

"Section 4: Amended to require the director to adopt regulations relating to registration of voters.

•Block Chain requirement for data systems•"

I am very happy that this particular section of the bill has been reportedly deleted, but I am unhappy that this announcement was made only after several other citizens and I spent part of our Saturday morning and part of our allotted testimony to question the use of distributed ledger technology in our election procedures.

Please inform me how citizens can testify appropriately on legislation if the full text of the proposed legislation is not available through the legislature's own website nor through announcement at a hearing to collect testimony on the latest version of the bill.

Thank you for your careful consideration of improvements to our elections system.

Sue Sherif

Right now, most Americans and Alaskans have concerns about the integrity of our election system. A key concern centers on the integrity of the voter registration and voting processes. SB39 is an awesome bill that fairly and equitably addresses these concerns while preserving the access of Alaskans to the electoral process. I urge that this crucial bill be approved by the SJUD and forwarded to the full Senate for concurrence.

Johnny Murdock iPad

I am writing in opposition to SB39.

All Alaskans should be encouraged to vote and this bill adds unnecessary roadblocks that will prohibit voting.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Nudelman
Juneau, AK

Please do not support this bill and kill it for eternity.

The bizarre concept of securing votes with a blockchain technology is the most absurd part of this hair-brained scheme, an attempt to solve a problem which never existed and never will. Senator Shower is just another strange Republican attempting to make it harder for any and all to vote. Stop it now. You're wasting everyone's time and not doing what needs to be done, like the budget and revenue recovery.

Richard D Seifert

To the Judiciary committee,

I am against SB 39 because it suppresses voting , especially for people in remote Alaskan communities and low income. It reflects racism in public policy that systemically and systematically discriminates against people of color. It appears that Republicans only accept the voting process if their candidates win. Would Republicans be changing the voting laws if they had all the power?

What happened to public good? This is not about “what is in it for me” but “ what is in it for all of us”.

Joan Diamond
Anchorage, Rabbit Creek

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,
HB 39 is not necessary. There’s no evidence of voter fraud in Alaska.

I find it amazing that in this state we have some in favor of complicating election participation for rural residents. We should encourage all eligible Alaskans to vote - and to make it as easy as possible.

I urge you to prevent the passage of this anti-democratic voter suppression bill.

Thank you,
Lillian Ruedrich

Reform the Election Process Now and Fire 🔥 Lt Gov Kevin Myers's for he lied 😞 and is waisting our time! This past election was a disaster and with our PII compromised, we need change and new staff and procedures put in place! We were forced with a Federal Disaster as well and experiencing on at the State Level is was way over the top!!!

Start cracking and clean 🧼 up the mess now not 2 years down the road !!! Destroy the Dominion Machines Now and the concept voting by mail must end (look at the screwed up results of ANC). Lastly, the issue of not having an ID is a farce for if you are born and receiving a AK PFD you have enough information who you are!!! The liberals pushing the narrative it is discrimination is BS, - why many have never served their country!

Thank You

Dixie

Now Fire 🔥 Kevin Myers

Good evening Senators,

I am emailing in support of Senate Bill 39. We must secure our election processes by passing SB39 before rank choice voting takes place in 2022. I currently have no faith in the integrity or the security of our elections after the mess that was the 2020 General.

"An Act relating to elections; relating to voter registration; relating to ballots and a system of tracking and accounting for ballots; establishing an election offense hotline; designating as a class A misdemeanor the collection of ballots from other voters; designating as a class C felony the intentional opening or tampering with a sealed ballot, certificate, or package of ballots without authorization from the director of the division of elections; and providing for an effective date."

All of this makes absolute sense and let me tell you just one reason why I think election integrity is of the utmost importance, although there are so many reasons. I worked all 3 elections last year at 05-590 Richardson, North Star Fire Station #31. For the Primary and the Municipal elections two election workers were required to transport ballots, scanner, register, save cards – all of the sensitive data to town together at the end of the election day. Imagine my shock at the end of the day of the General when I was told by the precinct chair that two people were not required to transport the most important election data of all. That it was “no where in the rules for this one” to require two people. Our data was transported by a single election worker. Ladies and Gentlemen, how could that be? How in the world could that be?

Pass SB39 and let's eliminate the questions. Let's secure all of it so the great people of this great state can regain confidence in the process. This is common sense legislation that myself and everyone I talk to supports. I will be asking everyone to email you on this.

I should have called Saturday morning, but I was prepping to get to the FULL PFD rally that I organized in response to the House's ridiculous vote on our PFD. There are many of us trying to keep up with all of the items happening in Juneau as well as fight off Rank Choice voting for our borough which we defeated soundly and take on the school board over masking our kids in schools.

Please hear me; YES ON SB39!

-Shelly Shupe

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee -

I was out of town last weekend, so was appalled to learn today that a hearing had been held May 8th on the mis-guided bill, SB39, a bill that deals with our elections, and should more accurately be titled a 'Voter Suppression Bill.' While the bill itself is a mistake, holding a hearing on this bill with no advance notice makes the effort to consider it even more appalling.

Alaska's elections have been held fairly for years. We have an excellent track record of free and open elections with ample opportunity to vote. The citizen's initiative that resulted in automatic voter registration when one registers for their Permanent Fund Dividend was a brilliant piece of legislation. People should not be required to opt into it. It is inexcusable to take away opportunities to vote, such as by mail, or for those who are sick or with limited transportation options to have someone else drop off their carefully sealed and signed ballot, among other voter difficulties or suppressions in which this bill would result.

I have been horrified to see states like Texas and Florida recently pass voter suppression bills. We cannot let Alaska follow in those steps. Please eliminate this bill from further consideration and spend time on the real issues of our state - passing a balanced budget, ensuring there are funds for essential public services like health care and safety nets for the most vulnerable, public safety, education, and infrastructure repairs and maintenance.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to maintaining the excellent Alaskan record that makes voting available and accessible to all our citizens! Do not support SB 39!

Sincerely,

Ann Rappoport

We hope the senate will consider favorably the changes Mike Shower has proposed to insure election integrity.

It seems like a no-brainer because both sides of the aisle should INSIST on fair elections with no opportunity for fraud. Anyone who is against election integrity rules must be hoping to cheat

Jon Olsen & Barbara Landi
Palmer

Dear Elected Official:

Senate Bill 39, in the whole, if enacted, will undermine the current voting system in Alaska to the detriment of its citizens. It will hinder participation in and recognition of voters' decisions, particularly for those who live in and near remote communities.

Community residents have already figured out what system works best for themselves in order to achieve maximum access to voting activities.

Leslie Slater
Homer, Alaska

Please get this very important legislation moving and approved! Don't keep it tangled in committees.

Lynn Hallford

On May 8, at the time of the testimony on SB39, I attempted to use the telephone number from the Ketchikan LIO for providing public testimony against SB39 and had technical difficulties.

I then attempted to submit written testimony, but the Public Opinion Message System requires a middle initial; I do not have a middle initial and was therefore prevented from voicing my opinion against SB39 during the hearing.

I am an elder citizen. SB39 may disenfranchise me by listing postal service workers as able to witness my signature on an absentee ballot. In 2020, the US Post Office sent a memo to all Post Offices saying that Postal Workers are not allowed to witness signatures while on duty. Other

possible signature witnesses, such as judges, are not readily available and the alternative language that must be used to confirm the verity of my vote would be onerous for me to follow.

The requirements for ten factor identification verification is beyond me to understand, and using block-chain tracking will make preparing for elections by municipalities much more difficult and expensive, particularly in light of the fact that I have heard no evidence that Alaska's voting system is unsecure, and, therefore, see no reason for SB39.

I like voting absentee because I have businesses and family both in Anchorage and Ketchikan, travel between the two frequently, and am not able to schedule my travel around elections.

Lawrence Taylor, Jr.

To maintain the integrity of the United States elections requires due diligence on behalf of We the People. What has happened in this country is appalling. We the People have been duped into allowing the stealing of the election of 2020 through the excuse of a manmade virus. This and the proof shown through the Space Force satellite data of the 2020 election night tells me that our country has unwanted foreign influence interfering in our affairs. I have watched as this secretive, deceptive and cowardly movement by Deep State players all over the world (China CCP, Iran, Italy Vatican) has used the Dominion voting machine system to infiltrate our legislative power branches and erode our Constitutional Rights both here and abroad.

We the People have the right to speak and worship freely, the right to Privacy, the right to bear arms, the right to freedom of the press and the right to have a say in our own governance through the right to Vote. It is alarming to watch these rights be torn from us. If we don't stand up and insist that our rights be protected, we will sink to the level of a tyrannical government.

It is the responsibility of our elected officials to uphold the People's Constitutional Rights. Please support Senate Bill 39. Any measures that will ensure the protection of our elections must be implemented. Alaska must STOP using the Dominion voting machines now for secure, transparent elections in the future.

The results of the Arizona audit have backed the data from the Space Force. I demand an audit of the results of the 2020 election in Alaska. Did state officials take advantage of the Dominion voting machines to cheat? We need to know. We have a right to know and stop it now to ensure election integrity in the future.

Sincerely
Jane Trainor

SB 39 relating to election integrity is so very important and seems like a no-brainer that must appeal to both sides of the aisle. Anyone who prefers a careless approach to elections leaving multiple opportunities for fraud must be hoping to cheat

Barbara Landi