

**From:** [Amanda Ryder](#)  
**To:** [Doniece Gott](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Responses to Senate Finance Committee Questions re. FY22 Division of Elections Supplemental  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 09, 2022 11:23:16 AM

---

---

**From:** Henderson, Shawn (GOV) <shawn.henderson@alaska.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 10:04 AM  
**To:** Pete Ecklund <Pete.Ecklund@akleg.gov>; Amanda Ryder <Amanda.Ryder@akleg.gov>  
**Cc:** Fenumiai, Gail M (GOV) <Gail.Fenumiai@alaska.gov>; Applebee, Josh M (GOV) <josh.applebee@alaska.gov>; Bell, Guy B (GOV) <guy.bell@alaska.gov>; Stern, Josephine R (GOV) <Josephine.Stern@alaska.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Responses to Senate Finance Committee Questions re. FY22 Division of Elections Supplemental

Good morning Amanda and Pete,

At Monday's Senate Finance hearing on FY2022 supplemental items, several questions came up regarding the \$4.3 million supplemental request by the Division of Elections. OMB Director Steininger responded that this request is for additions to our existing activities made up of three components: voter education on Ballot Measure 2; enhanced language assistance; and enhanced elections security. Committee members asked for additional information.

Ballot Measure 2 Voter Education: \$3 million

Based on its original funding estimate of the cost of implementing Ballot Measure 2, the Division of Elections received an appropriation in 2021, for FY 2022 and FY2023, in the amount of \$803,600. The money is being used for ballot tabulation systems modifications to accommodate preferential voting, voter education, and language assistance. Fiscal year 2022 to date, \$499,000 has been spent, and \$257,000 is obligated for ballot tabulation system modifications, postage for outreach, and language translator services, leaving an unexpended, unobligated balance of \$48,000 that will primarily be used to cover staff support. The Division also has access to limited additional funding for Ballot Measure 2 implementation thanks to a 2021 legislative reappropriation, but we estimate that funding would be limited to one or two additional direct mailings.

We would dedicate \$3 million of our supplemental request to a much more comprehensive voter education campaign for Ballot Measure No. 2, with the goal of ensuring every Alaska voter is prepared for and understands preferential voting when they fill out their ballot. Our plan is to use these funds as follows:

- Monthly direct mailings to all registered voter households starting in March of 2022 through October 2022. (NOTE: approximately \$200 thousand per mailing). Estimated cost \$1.6 million.
- Additional voter outreach—print/audio/visual— through services of a public relations firm. This would be a contract starting February 2022 and run through October 2022. Estimated contract cost: \$1.4 million.

In response to a Senate Finance member's question, the only publication/ mailing that will refer to specific candidates will be the official election pamphlet, as required by state law. All other information, including mailings, will be generic in nature and intended for educational purposes only.

#### Language Translation Services: \$300 thousand

While the Division of Elections has funding for language translation services, we are requesting additional on-going funding to make enhancements to this program. Of our total supplemental request, we are requesting \$300 thousand for language translations related to all projects included in voter outreach. This will enable the Division to:

- Hire a full-time employee to assist with the coordination of translation efforts as required by Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act and to lead rural outreach. Estimated annual cost \$91 thousand.
- Secure adequate office space in Anchorage to accommodate two language program employees (one the new outreach staff and the other a nonpermanent support position) and translation panels. Estimated annual cost \$51.3 thousand.
- Direct mailing of translated pamphlets to voters. This would require 7 additional pamphlets to be produced and mailed to specific voter precincts. Estimated cost every two years \$160.5 thousand.

#### Election Systems Security: \$1 million

While the Division of Elections, along with the state security office, have taken significant steps to ensure our elections voter registration and election management systems are secure, election cyber security challenges have been increasing nationally, and each election has shown increased costs and challenges. Threat actors are becoming more and more sophisticated and are pursuing day zero vulnerabilities while leveraging cutting edge strategies. Traditional attack strategies are being supplemented by social media campaigns intended to undermine confidence in the election process leveraging exaggerations and unfounded rumors.

The Division of Elections is pursuing all possible methods to better secure and provide transparency to the election process. Using an additional \$1 million from this funding request, the Division will be able to complete code review of Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS), upgrade network security equipment, perform additional vulnerability assessments, perform high level monitoring and threat alerting, and monitor and respond to social media inaccuracy or misinformation.

Please let us know if you need any additional information regarding our request.

All the best,

**R. Shawn Henderson**  
**Administrative Director**  
**Division of Administrative Services**

**Office of Governor Michael J. Dunleavy**

240 Main Street, Suite 300  
Court Plaza Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99811  
PHONE: 907.465.3899  
FAX: 907.465.1641  
[shawn.henderson@alaska.gov](mailto:shawn.henderson@alaska.gov)  
[www.gov.state.ak.us](http://www.gov.state.ak.us)

This message, including all attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential or privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is specifically prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email, delete this message and attachments, and destroy all copies.

---

**From:** Bell, Guy B (GOV) <[guy.bell@alaska.gov](mailto:guy.bell@alaska.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 9, 2022 9:33 AM

**To:** Henderson, Shawn (GOV) <[shawn.henderson@alaska.gov](mailto:shawn.henderson@alaska.gov)>

**Subject:** Responses to Senate Finance Committee Questions re. FY22 Division of Elections Supplemental

For final, final review: