

Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 6:30 PM
To: House State Affairs <HouseState.Affairs@akleg.gov>
Subject: oppose HB66

I listened to the testimony from today's House State Affairs Committee on HB66 and while the bill purports to do some good things, I now have even more concerns about this bill that I don't believe the sponsors have sufficiently considered.

First, if you're going to require the use of postage-paid ballots for absentee/vote-by-mail, how will you ensure the ballots receive postmarks, are processed timely, and are securely handled? CBJ recently rejected hundreds of ballots with prepaid postage that did not receive postmarks and the local post offices actually have rubber stamps made up for mail discovered months later in abandoned machines that were not properly emptied because it happens so often! And how will you pay for this? Seems if people want the luxury of voting by mail, they should cover the postage.

As a survivor of domestic violence, I'm also concerned about preserving the integrity of the vote and preventing electioneering or coercion for mail-in ballots. Alaska has a very high rate of domestic abuse. Fundamentally changing elections so that people are not normally required to vote in person and removing restrictions on access to ballots for other purposes not only provides opportunities for fraud (either forceful or hidden) but also removes what could be a vital opportunity for an abuse survivor to interact with others to reach out for help or be heard independently from their abusers.

Please support other election reform bills such as SB39 or HB286 and oppose HB66.

H. O'Claray
Juneau, AK