

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Ed Bostrom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:45 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43

Democracy is high risk. I support HB 43, and I respectfully request that my wife (Agnes Bostrom) and I do too! Edwin Bostrom, Anchorage

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Robert Welton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:39 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Public Comments HB 43

Please find enclosed my comments on House Bill 43:

**Public comments on House Bill 43**  
**Thirty-fourth Legislature, First Session, House State Affairs Committee, February 13, 2025**

Robert Welton  
Unaffiliated  
Douglas

I broadly support the changes proposed in House Bill 43. These changes will increase access to the ballot box. I believe that when more Alaskans vote, the government will be more responsive to our wishes. This is a worthy goal.

The bill allows registration in the thirty days before an election. The bill allows voters to vote an absentee in-person, special needs or questioned ballot, as long as they've submitted registration forms as required. The bill clarifies that the division may not reject an absentee in-person, special needs or questioned ballot on the grounds that the voter is not on the official registration list for the election. All of this expands access to the ballot box.

Another good idea in this bill is expanding early voting from 15 to 30 days before an election. Early voting is very popular throughout the state. I voted early in 2024, and faced a 20 minute wait. I've heard accounts of much longer wait times in Anchorage. People like to be able to fit voting into their daily schedules.

Removing the requirement that the outside envelope of a completed absentee ballot be witnessed by a government official is another good idea. Finding a government official to sign adds an un-necessary hurdle to submitting absentee ballots. As earlier testimony before this Committee has confirmed, a significant portion of absentee ballots are rejected due to not having a governmental official's witness signature.

Voters are attesting under penalty of law that the facts they state on their absentee are correct. Voter impersonation on absentee ballots is an almost nonexistent problem. This needless barrier to absentee voting should be removed.

Absentee voting will also be more convenient with the provision in this bill to include a postage paid return envelope with absentee ballots. It's just one less hurdle to jump over.

Allowing the Division of Elections to begin reviewing absentee votes ten days before an election instead of seven days prior will speed up the election review process.

Adding a process for curing ballots that are rejected is another step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time, and for your service to the people of Alaska.

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Emily Jensen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:15 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support for HB43

Dear Representative Carrick and Committee Members,

My name is Emily Jensen and I am a resident of the Scenic Foothills area of Anchorage, Alaska. I am writing because I fully support HB 43 as it seeks to eliminate barriers during the voting process. I wish that all my neighbors not be burdened with the stress and anxiety of trying to figure out how to vote or whether their ballot was valid or not. The introduction of prepaid postage for absentee and mail-in ballots, elimination of the signature requirement for absentee and mail-in ballots, and a ballot cure process will increase the likelihood of votes being counted and corrected- imperative for our vast state. Transparency and accessibility are vital and will reduce barriers many people face in their voting experience.

Sincerely yours,  
Emily Jensen

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Anna Wen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:48 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support for HB 43

Dear Representative Carrick and Committee Members,

My name is Anna Wen and I am a resident of the U-Med District in Anchorage, Alaska.

I fully support HB 43 as it seeks to eliminate barriers during the voting process. I wish that all my neighbors not be burdened with the stress and anxiety of trying to figure out how to vote or whether their ballot was valid or not.

The introduction of prepaid postage for absentee and mail-in ballots, elimination of the signature requirement for absentee and mail-in ballots, and a ballot cure process will increase the likelihood of votes being counted and corrected- imperative for our vast state.

Transparency and accessibility are vital and will reduce barriers many people face in their voting experience.

Sincerely yours,  
Anna Wen

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Sharon Zandman-Zeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:23 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support of HB 43

I fully support HB 43, Election Reform Bill because it will improve elections and our participation in democracy by: same day registration, ballot curing, and early and absentee voting. We should be encouraging more, not less, participation in our democracy. I urge all of you to support it, too.

Thank you for the work you do.

Sharon Zandman-Zeman  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Deb Ward [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:17 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43

To the Members of the House State Affairs Committee -

I am writing to voice my support of HB 43. It is crucial to ensure access to the ballot box and to promote integrity and transparency by ensuring that all valid votes are counted. People make mistakes and rejecting ballots due to minor, correctable errors is disingenuous, and subversive. HB 43 will create a ballot curing process and improve our elections by eliminating the witness signature requirement. Extending early voting to 30 days before an election allows more people to vote, which should be the goal of a democracy. Same-day voter registration helps to remove barriers to voting. These changes are especially important to rural Alaskans where voting challenges were over the top in 2024. Let's prioritize voting in Alaska, as it is the foundation of a free society.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Ward

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Don Pendergrast [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:44 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43 Election Reform

I am in favor of this bill, and hope you are as well.

While some states have passed legislation limiting voting opportunities, Alaska should make certain all its citizens can easily vote. Voting is the foundation of democracy, and here in Alaska with its far flung population we lead and should make every effort to continue to lead in making voting easy and secure.

The ballot curing process will make the process secure while early and by mail voting will make it easy. Please support this important bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Don Pendergrast  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Eva LoForte [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:41 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB43

Regarding the hearing on HB43:

We have Absentee Voting in place, it is enough. "Early Voting" is duplication.

NO same day voting registration. That lets people vote who 1) have not been studying the issues, or 2) people who are coerced by others,

or 3) people who are simply grasping at emotional news intended to deceive. or 4) people sent to Alaska to try to control our elections. If a person has NOT had the attention or foresite

to maintain their voting status, they should not be voting. Last minute "residents" of Alaska do not have knowledge of what is best FOR ALASKA

What is "ballot curing" - - sounds like delay tactics

There should be NO question on "transparent election results" and "immediate election results" Those are a given. We have hereto fore had knowledge

of election outcomes by later that night or early morning. That was with hand-counting of ballots. Electronic and Ranked voting has proven itself very inefficient.

Thank you for your attention to my knowledge,  
From An Election Worker Since 1970+  
Eva LoForte



## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Connie Markis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:02 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Please approve HB43

I am in full support of HB43 as written. It will improve Alaskans ability to have a voice in our elections and make the whole elections process smoother. Thank you!

With Appreciation,  
Constance (Connie) Markis

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Dennis Ricker [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:55 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** I support HB 43, please move it forward

Dear Committee,

House Bill 43 seeks to ensure that every eligible Alaskan voter has the opportunity to participate in Alaska's elections in a safe, secure, and accessible manner while ensuring valid votes are not rejected due to minor, correctable errors.

HB 43 accomplishes this by modernizing Alaska's elections, eliminating the witness signature requirement, creating a ballot curing process, extending early voting to 30 days before an election, and implementing same-day voter registration, among other changes.

The purpose of HB 43 is to remove barriers to the ballot box at every stage of Alaska's election process while promoting transparency and bolstering the integrity of Alaska's elections.

--Dennis Ricker  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Laurie Sica [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:54 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43

Hello!

I am writing to support the passage of HB 43. I am a retired Municipal Clerk and during my career from 1994-2018, I conducted local elections in Skagway and Juneau. I also assisted the State of Alaska Division of Elections in my role as clerk to register voters and assist in state elections.

The changes proposed in HB 43 will be good for voters by expanding access to the ballot. The clarifying language in the statute will help election officials implement the law accordingly.

Our goals should be to ensure that every eligible person is registered to vote and to encourage voting in order to provide for the most representative government possible.

Thank you for your work on this bill.

Sincerely,

Laurie Sica  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Jennifer Adams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:40 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43 - Election Reform Bill

Dear Legislators:

Please pass the election reform bill. Votes must be protected so all future elections are fair to all citizens. Thank you!

Jennifer Adams  
Soldotna, AK

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Adam Turner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:55 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43

I am strongly opposed to this bill, and urge you to vote "no".

Sincerely,

Adam Turner  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** angie Jensen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:19 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Approve HB43

Dear Legislators,

Currently, many Alaskans are not voting. By approving HB43, you will be increasing voter access. Thereby, making election results representative of more Alaskan opinions.

Thank you!

Angie Jensen  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:15 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB43

I'm testifying in favor of this bill which allows for same day voter registration.  
Nikki Newcome 99686

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** k 49 [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:09 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Comments on on HB 43 the Election Reform Bill

I heard you all are voting today on HB 43 the Election Reform Bill

Anytime you work to increase access to voting, I am in support of that. We have too few voters turning out and too many who face stumbling blocks when they do show up.

We have a massive state and persons in remote areas. We have people who have to commute long distances in often treacherous weather conditions. We have a large military presence who are not always locally able to vote - so all of these mean we need to be supportive of early and absentee voting in addition to any other support necessary for language barriers or special needs assistance.

Thank you  
Katie Blake  
Eagle River, 99577



## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Kathy Ward <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:08 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Yes on HB43!

Good morning! I'm writing as a voting Alaska resident to support the passage of HB43, which will make it easier for legal voters throughout the state to participate in elections.

By allowing a longer early voting period, eliminating the requirements for signature witnesses on absentee ballots, and including prepaid postage for absentee ballots, more Alaskans will be able to be part of the elections throughout process. This will especially support rural Alaskans, who are disproportionately Alaska Natives, and who regularly face obstacles voters in Alaska's cities don't deal with, but whose voices and votes are no less valuable.

Thank you,

Kathy Ward  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Tami Hamler <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 5:45 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support for improvement of elections HB 43

I want to voice my strong support for election improvements to include: same day voter registration, ballot curing, and early and absentee voting. These proposed measures will facilitate the ability of Alaskan voters to participate effectively in future elections.

Thank you,  
Tami Hamler  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Mary Burtness [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 5:29 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 47

I fully support the changes to election law outlined in HB 47. I believe elections should be as accessible as possible as well as secure as possible.. Having worked elections for the last 6 years, I feel this is the law that will do that.

Please support this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my wishes.

Mary C Burtness  
Fairbanks, AK

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Irene Bortnick [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 5:24 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43 - Election Reform Bill

I am writing in support of HB 43. This bill will help ensure that every eligible Alaskan has the chance (as is their right) to have their voice heard in an election.

Please pass this bill.

Irene Bortnick  
99508

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Jean McBrien [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:42 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43

I am completely in favor of this Election Ballot and voting bill and I urge you to pass this. It is my firm opinion that measures should always be taken to make voting convenient for our citizens.

Jean Marie McBrien  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Steven Bridwell [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:03 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Approve HB 43, Please

Dear House State Affairs Committee,

I hope you are well.

I am emailing you to please approve HB 43, the Elections, Voting, Ballots bill, as it will benefit all Alaskans.

In this time of unchecked state fiscal irresolution, climate crisis, and blatant political crime, improving voting rights, therefore direct democracy, is a step in the right direction.

With more access to voting Alaskans can have a more direct democracy, plus we can end racist barriers maintained by Alaska's 2024 Republican legislators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Steven Bridwell  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Anna Petersen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:32 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support for HB 43

To Members of the House State Affairs Committee

Please support the passage of HB 43 - The Election Reform Bill. Fair elections are crucial to our Democracy and every eligible voter should have the right to cast their ballot. The key components of this bill support those rights and as an Alaskan I strongly support HB 43.

Anna Stensland Petersen  
[REDACTED]

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Christi Rowinski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:28 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43

Vote YES on HB 43.

Christine Rowinski, [REDACTED] Hang in there with the fact checked truth :)



## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Thomas Otterman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:17 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB43

Greetings, my name is Thomas Otterman and I am emailing you to show my support in favor of the bill HB43. I am unable to attend the public meeting due to my obligations at my place of employment, but wanted to convey my sincere support.

Thomas Otterman  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Michael [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:04 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB-43

To the House State Affairs Committee Members,

I am in favor of HB-43 and encourage you to support this bill in committee.

Michael Kampnich  
Resident  
Craig, Alaska  
House District 2

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Jovani Villanueva [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:17 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Support for HB 43

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Representative Carrick and Committee Members,

My name is Jovani Villanueva and I am a resident of the U-Med District in Anchorage, Alaska. I fully support HB 43 as it seeks to eliminate barriers during the voting process. I wish that all my neighbors not be burdened with the stress and anxiety of trying to figure out how to vote or whether their ballot was valid or not. The introduction of prepaid postage for absentee and mail-in ballots, elimination of the signature requirement for absentee and mail-in ballots, and a ballot cure process will increase the likelihood of votes being counted and corrected- imperative for our vast state. Transparency and accessibility are vital and will reduce barriers many people face in their voting experience.

Sincerely yours,

Jovani Villanueva

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Sylvia [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:22 AM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** Voting today-- for the election reform Bill

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Please pass all three provisions for the ELECTION REFORM BILL  
HB 43..

- . same-day voter registration,
- . ballot curing, and
- . early and absentee voting.

Thank you!!  
Sylvia - Alaska, living a lifestyle

## Stuart Relay

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**From:** Linda O'Bannon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:16 PM  
**To:** House State Affairs  
**Subject:** HB 43

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Committee,

Thank you for your public service. I am writing to support this bill. As a 47 year resident of Alaska and a "super voter" I think our election system is a good one. It's possible to make it even better. Thus, my support for this bill.

Thanks for considering my views.

Cordially,  
Linda O'Bannon