

randy@alaska.gov

I am Randy Ruedrich from District 17 Downtown Anchorage

I wish to thank the State Affairs Committee for this opportunity to testify today on SB 52, 64 70.

My Review of SB 52 found that it addresses matters covered more thoroughly in SB 70.

Therefore, I will comment on SB 64 and 70 today in the interest of saving time.

- 1) The changes to the Regional Rural Education Attendance Area Board elections are constructive and justified.
The DoE will have more quality time to focus on these elections in the odd year of an election cycle.
Removing this annual election in the even year between the primary and general elections eliminates that third election.
- 2) I concur with the voter registration changes that should reduce the inactive voters on the Alaska Voter Roll
- 3) Sec 15 changed the length of the EV period by eliminating the last five days. This change is harmful to our voters and voter Turnout. If 15,000 to 20000 citizens cannot vote in that 5 day period, these voters may be in the lines on Election Day.
Secondly these voters are coming out at a convenient time to vote. Work schedules may not allow them to vote on Tuesday.
This change is harmful and should disappear. Voter suppression should not occur.
- 4) Since Federal law is changing, I support the change that requires all Absentee by Mail and online ballots be returned to the DoE by the end of Election Day.
Over 96% of ABM ballots are returned by 2 days after E D. I find this change to be very manageable.
I recommend that the bill require all AIP Ballots must be returned to DoE by the end of Election Day also.
Clerks returning A-I-P ballots the following week is absolutely unacceptable.
- 5) Managing voting operations in small rural precincts is difficult. Any version of mail ballots must be a last resort to ensure an option to vote exists.
Allowing for shorter time slot for voting may be the best answer.
However a distribution of ballots to every registered voter ignores the fact that many voters may have change their mailing address without informing the DoE.
The ANC Muni Mail in process sends out a notice to confirm proper delivery annually.
Approximately 40000 cards are returned as undeliverable/voter has moved.
With the challenges of rural mail delivery, the solution is not obvious but some filter should be applied the mailing list to protect election integrity.
- 6) Re: SB 64: Disagree with Sec 2 reference returning to the person's residence.

This requirement is totally unreasonable. For example I lived in Europe and the Middle East for more than 5 years and maintained my Alaskan registration. When I went to Europe, I sold a 4 bd south Anchorage house. When I returned, I rented a downtown two bed room apartment.

My return did occur as expected. The same residence is highly improbable.

- 7) Rather than commenting on the ABM return language here, refer the SB 70 changes above. In General where these bill differ, I support SB 70.
- 8) The Witness signature is current law for a reason. It increases the integrity of our election. The change is not acceptable.
- 9) Sec 30 has huge problem in original text: Counting is not what is done 7 days before Election Day. The Absentee Review Board confirm the information of the ballot jacket is proper and complete. The full or partial count is identified. Nothing is counted before the polls close.
- 10) The Absentee Ballot witness signature ensure ballot integrity. Do not eliminate the witness signatures.
- 11) Ballot cures are not useful in a world with less than a percent of defective ballots. The Covid election is a unicorn!
- 12) Drop boxes have been documented to create voter fraud. Alaska has very few mules. I oppose this change.
- 13) The section on synthetic media is interesting but without major efforts that the federal and state level this is extremely premature for Campaign Finance Law.
- 14) I oppose adding the Redistricting Board to list.