



AMENDMENT #3

Greenberg

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSHB 104(2d JUD)

- 1 Page 8, line 25:
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- 3 Insert "second"



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Research Brief

TO: Representative Max Gruenberg
FROM: Patricia Young, Manager *PHY*
DATE: April 8, 2013
RE: Voters in Primary and General Elections
LRS Report 13.361

You wished to know the overall number of votes in primary and general elections during the past several election cycles. You also asked that we list votes by election district for the 2012 cycle. Additionally, you asked that we note any significant change in the number of votes on ballot initiatives in elections before and after the change to a 90-day legislative session.

As you know, the topics to be voted upon affect voter turnout significantly; nevertheless, far fewer voters typically turn out for primary elections than do those for general elections, as you can see from the following table.

Table 1: Votes Cast in Primary and General Elections, 2004 - 2012

year	Primary Election	% of registered voters	General Election	% of registered voters	Change	Percent of Change
2004	129,145	28%	309,540	66%	180,395	140%
2006	160,847	35%	238,307	51%	77,460	48%
2008	193,533	41%	327,341	66%	133,808	69%
2010	164,047	34%	258,746	52%	94,699	58%
2012	125,937	25%	301,694	60%	175,757	140%

NOTES: Measures to be voted upon affect voter turnout; nevertheless, primary elections typically receive lower voter interest and lower voter turnout than do general elections.

SOURCE: Division of Elections, Official Election Results, at www.elections.alaska.gov/ei_return.php.

In the 2006 general election, by a vote of 117,675 to 113,832, (51 percent in favor, 49 percent opposed), Alaskans passed an initiative to limit by statute the length of regular legislative sessions to no more than 90 days. That change went into effect with the second regular session of the 25th Legislature—2008.

Since that time, all initiatives have been before voters on primary election ballots. Table 2 lists the initiatives, the ballots they appeared on, the final votes, and the percentage of registered voters casting ballots on each initiative from 2004 to the present.

Table 3 shows votes cast and the percentage of registered voters in the 2012 statewide primary and general elections, by House district. We include the votes cast for the two initiatives that appeared on the primary ballot as well.

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Table 2: Votes on Initiatives, 2004 - 2012
% of Registered

Year	Primary	For	Against	Total	% of Registered Voters	General	For	Against	Total	Registered Voters
2004						Legalize Marijuana	134,647	169,908	304,555	65%
						Prohibit Bear Baiting	130,648	171,338	301,986	64%
						Fill Vacancy in US Senate	165,017	131,821	296,838	63%
2006	Cruise Ship Tax	81,963	75,432	157,395	34%	90-Day Legislative Session	117,675	113,832	231,507	50%
	Campaign Finance	113,130	41,836	154,966	34%	Natural Gas Tax & Credit	80,909	152,889	233,798	50%
2008	Gaming Commission	73,463	116,670	190,133	40%					
	Same Day Airborne Shooting	85,619	105,417	191,036	40%					
	Public Funding in Campaigns	67,162	120,875	188,037	39%					
	Water Quality Regulation	83,574	108,138	191,712	40%					
2010	Public Funds in Campaigns	62,909	97,478	160,387	33%					
	Parental Notification -Abortion	90,259	70,746	161,005	33%					
2012	Property Tax Exemption	61,804	61,495	123,299	25%					
	Coastal Management Program	46,678	76,440	123,118	25%					

NOTES: The 2006 initiative to limit regular sessions of the Legislature to 90 days went into effect at the beginning of 2008. Since that time, all initiatives have been on primary election ballots.

SOURCE: Division of Elections, Ballot Measures Pamphlets at www.elections.alaska.gov/pub_bmp.php, and Initiative History.

Table 3: Votes Cast in 2012 Statewide Elections

District	Primary				General	
	Number of Votes Cast	Percent of Registered Voters	#1-Property Tax Exemption	#2-Coastal Management Program	Number of Votes Cast	Percent of Registered Voters
1	2,763	20%	2,715	2,695	7,754	54%
2	3,852	28%	3,785	3,768	9,083	65%
3	1,823	15%	1,797	1,777	6,098	49%
4	2,658	21%	2,603	2,569	6,835	52%
5	4,209	32%	4,116	4,093	8,171	61%
6	3,407	28%	3,313	3,333	7,822	63%
7	2,968	24%	2,924	2,911	7,601	60%
8	3,280	26%	3,224	3,225	8,276	64%
9	2,735	22%	2,691	2,694	7,422	59%
10	2,204	20%	2,172	2,173	6,591	59%
11	3,321	26%	3,279	3,269	8,662	67%
12	1,947	17%	1,925	1,916	6,487	55%
13	1,515	13%	1,497	1,487	5,726	48%
14	2,822	23%	2,778	2,770	7,093	57%
15	2,328	20%	2,284	2,285	6,478	56%
16	3,140	25%	3,805	3,105	7,214	58%
17	1,798	19%	1,766	1,746	4,611	48%
18	3,011	24%	2,922	2,654	6,957	55%
19	3,859	30%	3,783	3,812	8,310	64%
20	3,403	28%	3,352	3,374	7,986	63%
21	3,728	28%	3,676	3,690	8,885	66%
22	2,421	21%	2,395	2,384	6,575	57%
23	3,234	25%	3,192	3,198	8,392	65%
24	2,564	22%	2,539	2,532	7,307	60%
25	4,049	30%	3,975	3,974	8,688	64%
26	4,778	32%	4,670	4,664	10,527	68%
27	5,088	34%	5,020	5,042	10,849	72%
28	3,663	28%	3,603	3,534	8,476	64%
29	3,873	29%	3,810	3,749	8,039	60%
30	5,195	35%	5,064	5,087	9,538	64%
31	3,821	27%	3,708	3,735	9,369	65%
32	4,478	30%	4,295	4,413	9,563	64%
33	3,500	27%	3,380	3,392	7,507	58%
34	3,283	24%	3,136	3,146	8,693	62%
35	2,481	20%	2,376	2,425	6,961	56%
36	2,530	26%	2,481	2,407	5,027	51%
37	1,364	14%	1,325	1,301	4,381	46%
38	3,111	28%	3,053	3,022	6,875	61%
39	3,209	27%	3,108	3,060	6,607	56%
40	2,522	30%	2,482	2,427	4,258	49%

SOURCE: Division of Elections, Official Election Results, available at www.elections.alaska.gov/ei_return.php.