

HOUSE BILL NO. 336

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN

Introduced: 2/16/22

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to election ballots."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 15.15.030 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 15.15.030. Preparation of official ballot.** The director shall prepare all
5 official ballots to facilitate fairness, simplicity, and clarity in the voting procedure, to
6 reflect most accurately the intent of the voter, and to expedite the administration of
7 elections. The following directives shall be followed when applicable:

8 (1) The director shall determine the size of the ballot, the type of print,
9 necessary additional instruction notes to voters, and other similar matters of form not
10 provided by law.

11 (2) The director shall number ballots in series to ensure simplicity and
12 secrecy and to prevent fraud.

13 (3) The director shall contract for the preparation of ballots under
14 AS 36.30 (State Procurement Code).

15 (4) The director may not include on the ballot, as a part of a candidate's

1 name, any honorary or assumed title or prefix but may include in the candidate's name
2 any nickname or familiar form of a proper name of the candidate.

3 (5) The names of the candidates shall be placed in separate sections on
4 the state general election ballot under the office designation to which they were
5 nominated. If a candidate is registered as affiliated with a political party or political
6 group, the party affiliation, if any, may be designated after the name of the candidate,
7 upon request of the candidate. If a candidate has requested designation as nonpartisan
8 or undeclared, that designation shall be placed after the name of the candidate. If a
9 candidate is not registered as affiliated with a political party or political group and has
10 not requested to be designated as nonpartisan or undeclared, the candidate shall be
11 designated as undeclared. The lieutenant governor and the governor shall be included
12 under the same section. **The director shall provide space to rank four** [PROVISION
13 SHALL BE MADE FOR VOTING FOR] write-in candidates within each section.
14 Paper ballots for the state general election shall be printed on white paper.

15 (6) The names of the candidates for each office shall be set out in the
16 same order on ballots printed for use in each house district. The director shall
17 randomly determine the order of the names of the candidates for state representative
18 for each house district. The director shall rotate the order of placement of the names of
19 candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, United States senator, United States
20 representative, and state senator on the ballot for each house district.

21 (7) The general election ballot shall be designed with the names of
22 candidates of each political party, and of any independent candidates qualified under
23 AS 15.30.026, for the office of President and Vice-President of the United States
24 placed in the same section on the ballot rather than the names of electors of President
25 and Vice-President.

26 (8) The general or special election ballot shall be designed with the
27 title and proposition for any initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment
28 formulated as prescribed by law and placed on the ballot in the manner prescribed by
29 the director. When placed on the ballot, a state ballot proposition or ballot question
30 shall carry the number that was assigned to the petition for the proposition or question.
31 Provision shall be made for marking the proposition "Yes" or "No."

1 (9) The general or special election ballot shall be designed with the
 2 question of whether a constitutional convention shall be called placed on the ballot in
 3 the following manner: "Shall there be a constitutional convention?" Provision shall be
 4 made for marking the question "Yes" or "No."

5 (10) A nonpartisan ballot shall be designed for each judicial district in
 6 which a justice or judge is seeking retention in office. The ballot shall be divided into
 7 four parts. Each part must bear a heading indicating the court to which the candidate is
 8 seeking approval, and provision shall be made for marking each question "Yes" or
 9 "No." Within each part, the question of whether the justice or judge shall be approved
 10 or rejected shall be set out in substantially the following manner:

11 (A) "Shall be retained as justice of the supreme court
 12 for 10 years?";

13 (B) "Shall be retained as judge of the court of appeals
 14 for eight years?";

15 (C) "Shall be retained as judge of the superior court
 16 for six years?"; or

17 (D) "Shall be retained as judge of the district court for
 18 four years?"

19 (11) When the legislature by law authorizes a state debt for capital
 20 improvements, the director shall place the question of whether the specific
 21 authorization shall be ratified by placing the ballot title and question on the next
 22 general election ballot, or on the special election ballot if a special election is held for
 23 the purpose of ratifying the state debt for capital improvements before the time of the
 24 next general election. Unless specifically provided otherwise in the Act authorizing
 25 the debt, the ballot title shall, by the use of a few words in a succinct manner, indicate
 26 the general subject of the Act. The question shall, by the use of a few sentences in a
 27 succinct manner, give a true and impartial summary of the Act authorizing the state
 28 debt. The question of whether state debt shall be contracted shall be assigned a letter
 29 of the alphabet on the ballot. Provision shall be made for marking the question
 30 substantially as follows:

31 "Bonds Yes" or "Bonds No,"

1 followed by an appropriate oval.

2 (12) The director may provide for the optical scanning of ballots where
3 the requisite equipment is available.

4 (13) The director may provide for voting by use of electronically
5 generated ballots by a voter who requests to use a machine that produces electronically
6 generated ballots.

7 (14) The director shall include the following statement on the ballot:

8 A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that
9 the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political
10 party or group or that the party or group approves of or
11 associates with that candidate, but only that the
12 candidate is registered as affiliated with the political
13 party or political group.

14 (15) Instead of the statement provided by (14) of this section, when
15 candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States appear on a general
16 election ballot, the director shall include the following statement on the ballot:

17 A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that
18 the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political
19 party or political group or that the political party or
20 political group approves of or associates with that
21 candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as
22 affiliated with the party or group. The election for
23 President and Vice-President of the United States is
24 different. Some candidates for President and Vice-
25 President are the official nominees of their political
26 party.

27 (16) The director shall design the general election ballots so that the
28 candidates are selected by ranked-choice voting.

29 (17) The director shall design the general election ballot to direct the
30 voter to mark candidates in order of preference and to mark as many choices as the
31 voter wishes, but not to assign the same ranking to more than one candidate for the

1 same office.