

HOUSE BILL NO. 19

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE RAUSCHER

Introduced: 1/22/25

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to elections."**

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

3 * **Section 1.** AS 15.10.120(c) is amended to read:

4 (c) An election supervisor shall appoint one nominee of the political party **of**
5 **which the governor is a member** [OR POLITICAL GROUP WITH THE LARGEST
6 NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE TIME OF THE PRECEDING
7 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION] and one nominee of the political party **that**
8 **received** [OR POLITICAL GROUP WITH] the second largest number of **votes**
9 **statewide in** [REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE TIME OF] the preceding
10 gubernatorial election. **If** [HOWEVER, THE ELECTION SUPERVISOR MAY
11 APPOINT A QUALIFIED PERSON REGISTERED AS A MEMBER OF A THIRD
12 POLITICAL PARTY OR POLITICAL GROUP OR AS A NONPARTISAN OR
13 UNDECLARED VOTER IF] a party district committee or state party central
14 committee of the party **of which the governor is a member** [OR GROUP WITH
15 THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS] or the party **that received**

1 [OR GROUP WITH] the second largest number of **votes statewide in** [REGISTERED
 2 VOTERS AT THE TIME OF] the preceding gubernatorial election fails to present the
 3 names prescribed by (b) of this section by April 15 of a regular election year or at least
 4 60 days before a special [PRIMARY] election, **the election supervisor may appoint**
 5 **any qualified individual registered to vote.**

6 * **Sec. 2.** AS 15.10.170 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers.** (a) The precinct
 8 party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party district
 9 committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party
 10 chairperson where neither a precinct nor a party district committee exists, may appoint
 11 one or more persons as watchers in each precinct and counting center for any election.
 12 Each candidate **not representing a political party** may appoint one or more watchers
 13 for each precinct or counting center in the candidate's respective district or the state for
 14 any election. Any organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes an
 15 initiative, referendum, or recall may have one or more persons as watchers at the polls
 16 and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director. A state party
 17 chairperson, a precinct party committee, a party district committee, or a candidate **not**
 18 **representing a political party or organization or organized group** may not have
 19 more than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct or counting center. A watcher
 20 must be a United States citizen. The watcher may be present at a position inside the
 21 place of voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election officials
 22 taken from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted and the
 23 results certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The
 24 election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to
 25 present written proof showing appointment by the precinct party committee, the party
 26 district committee, the organization or organized group, or the candidate the watcher
 27 represents **that is signed by the chairperson of the precinct party committee, the**
 28 **party district committee, the state party chairperson, the organization or**
 29 **organized group, or the candidate representing no party.**

30 (b) In addition to the watchers appointed under (a) of this section, in a primary
 31 election, [OR] special [PRIMARY] election [OR SPECIAL ELECTION] under

1 AS 15.40.140, or special runoff election under AS 15.40.143, each candidate may
 2 appoint one watcher in each precinct and counting center.

3 * **Sec. 3.** AS 15.13.020(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) The governor shall appoint two members of each of the two political
 5 parties whose candidate for governor received the highest number of votes in [OR
 6 POLITICAL GROUPS WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED
 7 VOTERS AT THE TIME OF] the most recent preceding general election at which a
 8 governor was elected. The two appointees from each of these two parties [OR
 9 GROUPS] shall be chosen from a list of four names to be submitted by the central
 10 committee of each party [OR GROUP].

11 * **Sec. 4.** AS 15.13.020(d) is amended to read:

12 (d) Members of the commission serve staggered terms of five years, or until a
 13 successor is appointed and qualifies. The terms of no two members who are members
 14 of the same political party [OR POLITICAL GROUP] may expire in consecutive
 15 years. A member may not serve more than one term. However, a person appointed to
 16 fill the unexpired term of a predecessor may be appointed to a successive full five-year
 17 term.

18 * **Sec. 5.** AS 15.13.074(c) is amended to read:

19 (c) A person or group may not make a contribution

20 (1) to a candidate or an individual who files with the commission the
 21 document necessary to permit that individual to incur certain election-related expenses
 22 as authorized by AS 15.13.100 when the office is to be filled at a general election
 23 before the date that is 18 months before the general election;

24 (2) to a candidate or an individual who files with the commission the
 25 document necessary to permit that individual to incur certain election-related expenses
 26 as authorized by AS 15.13.100 for an office that is to be filled at a special election or
 27 municipal election before the date that is 18 months before the date of the regular
 28 municipal election or that is before the date of the proclamation of the special election
 29 at which the candidate or individual seeks election to public office; or

30 (3) to any candidate later than the 45th day

31 (A) after the date of the primary [OR SPECIAL PRIMARY]

1 election if the candidate was **on the ballot and was** not **nominated** [CHOSEN
2 TO APPEAR ON THE GENERAL OR SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT] at
3 the primary [OR SPECIAL PRIMARY] election; or

4 (B) after the date of the general [OR SPECIAL] election, or
5 after the date of a municipal or municipal runoff election.

6 * **Sec. 6.** AS 15.13.110(f) is amended to read:

7 (f) During the year in which the election is scheduled, each of the following
8 shall file the campaign disclosure reports in the manner and at the times required by
9 this section:

10 (1) a person who, under the regulations adopted by the commission to
11 implement AS 15.13.100, indicates an intention to become a candidate for elective
12 state executive or legislative office;

13 (2) **a person who has filed a nominating petition under**
14 **AS 15.25.141 - 15.25.201 to become a candidate at the general election for elective**
15 **state executive or legislative office;**

16 (3) a person who campaigns as a write-in candidate for elective state
17 executive or legislative office at the general election; and

18 (4) [(3)] a group or nongroup entity that receives contributions or
19 makes expenditures on behalf of or in opposition to a person described in **(1) - (3)** [(1)
20 OR (2)] of this subsection, except as provided for certain independent expenditures by
21 nongroup entities in AS 15.13.135(a).

22 * **Sec. 7.** AS 15.13.110(j) is amended to read:

23 (j) Before the primary election, a candidate seeking nomination by petition
24 under **AS 15.25.141 - 15.25.201** [AS 15.25.140 - 15.25.200] for the office of
25 governor, lieutenant governor, state senator, or state representative shall file the
26 reports under (a)(1) and (2) of this section.

27 * **Sec. 8.** AS 15.13.400(4) is amended to read:

28 (4) "contribution"

29 (A) means a purchase, payment, promise or obligation to pay,
30 loan or loan guarantee, deposit or gift of money, goods, or services for which
31 charge is ordinarily made, and includes the payment by a person other than a

1 candidate or political party, or compensation for the personal services of
 2 another person, that is rendered to the candidate or political party, and that is
 3 made for the purpose of

4 (i) influencing the nomination or election of a
 5 candidate;

6 (ii) influencing a ballot proposition or question; or

7 (iii) supporting or opposing an initiative proposal
 8 application filed with the lieutenant governor under AS 15.45.020;

9 (B) does not include

10 (i) services provided without compensation by
 11 individuals volunteering a portion or all of their time on behalf of a
 12 political party, candidate, or ballot proposition or question;

13 (ii) ordinary hospitality in a home;

14 (iii) two or fewer mass mailings before each election by
 15 each political party describing **the party's slate of candidates for**
 16 [MEMBERS OF THE PARTY RUNNING AS CANDIDATES FOR
 17 PUBLIC OFFICE IN THAT] election, which may include photographs,
 18 biographies, and information about the **party's** candidates;

19 (iv) the results of a poll limited to issues and not
 20 mentioning any candidate, unless the poll was requested by or designed
 21 primarily to benefit the candidate;

22 (v) any communication in the form of a newsletter from
 23 a legislator to the legislator's constituents, except a communication
 24 expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or a
 25 newsletter or material in a newsletter that is clearly only for the private
 26 benefit of a legislator or a legislative employee;

27 (vi) a fundraising list provided without compensation
 28 by one candidate or political party to a candidate or political party; or

29 (vii) an opportunity to participate in a candidate forum
 30 provided to a candidate without compensation to the candidate by
 31 another person and for which a candidate is not ordinarily charged;

1 * **Sec. 9.** AS 15.15.030(5) is amended to read:

2 (5) The names of the candidates **and their party designations** shall be
 3 placed in separate sections on the state general election ballot under the office
 4 designation to which they were nominated. **The** [IF A CANDIDATE IS
 5 REGISTERED AS AFFILIATED WITH A POLITICAL PARTY OR POLITICAL
 6 GROUP, THE] party affiliation, if any, **shall** [MAY] be designated after the name of
 7 the candidate [, UPON REQUEST OF THE CANDIDATE. IF A CANDIDATE HAS
 8 REQUESTED DESIGNATION AS NONPARTISAN OR UNDECLARED, THAT
 9 DESIGNATION SHALL BE PLACED AFTER THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE.
 10 IF A CANDIDATE IS NOT REGISTERED AS AFFILIATED WITH A POLITICAL
 11 PARTY OR POLITICAL GROUP AND HAS NOT REQUESTED TO BE
 12 DESIGNATED AS NONPARTISAN OR UNDECLARED, THE CANDIDATE
 13 SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS UNDECLARED]. The lieutenant governor and the
 14 governor shall be included under the same section. Provision shall be made for voting
 15 for write-in **and no-party** candidates within each section. Paper ballots for the state
 16 general election shall be printed on white paper.

17 * **Sec. 10.** AS 15.15.360(a) is amended to read:

18 (a) The election board shall count ballots according to the following rules:

19 (1) A voter may mark a ballot only by filling in, making "X" marks,
 20 diagonal, horizontal, or vertical marks, solid marks, stars, circles, asterisks, checks, or
 21 plus signs that are clearly spaced in the oval opposite the name of the candidate,
 22 proposition, or question that the voter desires to designate. [IN A GENERAL
 23 ELECTION, A VOTER MAY MARK A BALLOT THAT REQUIRES THE VOTER
 24 TO VOTE FOR CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF RANKED PREFERENCE BY THE
 25 USE OF NUMERALS THAT ARE CLEARLY SPACED IN ONE OF THE OVALS
 26 OPPOSITE THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE THAT THE VOTER DESIRES TO
 27 DESIGNATE.]

28 (2) A failure to properly mark a ballot as to one or more candidates
 29 does not itself invalidate the entire ballot.

30 (3) **If a voter marks fewer names than there are persons to be**
 31 **elected to the office, a vote shall be counted for each candidate properly marked.**

1 (4) If a voter marks more names than there are persons to be elected to
2 the office, the votes for candidates for that office may not be counted.

3 (5) [(4)] The mark specified in (1) of this subsection shall be counted
4 only if it is substantially inside the oval provided, or touching the oval so as to indicate
5 clearly that the voter intended the particular oval to be designated.

6 (6) [(5)] Improper marks on the ballot may not be counted and do not
7 invalidate marks for candidates properly made.

8 (7) [(6)] An erasure or correction invalidates only that section of the
9 ballot in which it appears.

10 (8) [(7)] A vote marked for the candidate for President or Vice-
11 President of the United States is considered and counted as a vote for the election of
12 the presidential electors.

13 [(9) REPEALED

14 (10) REPEALED

15 (11) REPEALED

16 (12) REPEALED]

17 * **Sec. 11.** AS 15.15.370 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 15.15.370. Completion of ballot count; certificate.** When the count of
19 ballots is completed, and in no event later than the day after the election, the election
20 board shall make a certificate in duplicate of the results. The certificate includes the
21 number of votes cast for each candidate, [INCLUDING, FOR A CANDIDATE IN A
22 GENERAL ELECTION, THE NUMBER OF VOTES AT EACH ROUND OF THE
23 RANKED-CHOICE TABULATION PROCESS UNDER AS 15.15.350, THE
24 NUMBER OF VOTES] for and against each proposition, yes or no on each question,
25 and any additional information prescribed by the director. The election board shall,
26 immediately upon completion of the certificate or as soon thereafter as the local mail
27 service permits, send in one sealed package to the director one copy of the certificate
28 and the register. In addition, all ballots properly cast shall be mailed to the director in a
29 separate, sealed package. Both packages, in addition to an address on the outside, shall
30 clearly indicate the precinct from which they come. Each board shall, immediately
31 upon completion of the certification and as soon thereafter as the local mail service

1 permits, send the duplicate certificate to the respective election supervisor. The
 2 director may authorize election boards in precincts in those areas of the state where
 3 distance and weather make mail communication unreliable to forward their election
 4 results by telephone or radio. The director may authorize the unofficial totaling of
 5 votes on a regional basis by election supervisors, tallying the votes as indicated on
 6 duplicate certificates. To ensure adequate protection, the director shall prescribe the
 7 manner in which the ballots, registers, and all other election records and materials are
 8 thereafter preserved, transferred, and destroyed.

9 * **Sec. 12.** AS 15.15.450 is amended to read:

10 **Sec. 15.15.450. Certification of state ballot counting review.** Upon
 11 completion of the state ballot counting review, the director shall certify the person
 12 receiving the largest number of votes for the office for which that person was a
 13 candidate as elected to that office [NOMINATED OR ELECTED, AS
 14 APPLICABLE,] and shall certify the approval of a justice or judge not rejected by a
 15 majority of the voters voting on the question. The director shall issue to the elected
 16 candidates and approved justices and judges a certificate of their election or approval.
 17 The director shall also certify the results of a proposition and other question except
 18 that the lieutenant governor shall certify the results of an initiative, referendum, or
 19 constitutional amendment.

20 * **Sec. 13.** AS 15.20.081(a) is amended to read:

21 (a) A qualified voter may apply in person, by mail, or by facsimile, scanning,
 22 or other electronic transmission to the director for an absentee ballot under this
 23 section. Another individual may apply for an absentee ballot on behalf of a qualified
 24 voter if that individual is designated to act on behalf of the voter in a written general
 25 power of attorney or a written special power of attorney that authorizes the other
 26 individual to apply for an absentee ballot on behalf of the voter. The application must
 27 include the address or, if the application requests delivery of an absentee ballot by
 28 electronic transmission, the telephone electronic transmission number, to which the
 29 absentee ballot is to be returned, the applicant's full Alaska residence address, and the
 30 applicant's signature. However, a person residing outside the United States and
 31 applying to vote absentee in federal elections in accordance with AS 15.05.011 need

1 not include an Alaska residence address in the application. A person may supply to a
 2 voter an absentee ballot application form with a political party or group affiliation
 3 indicated only if the voter is already registered as affiliated with the political party or
 4 group indicated. Only the voter or the individual designated by the voter in a
 5 written power of attorney under this subsection may mark the voter's choice of
 6 primary ballot on an application. A person supplying an absentee ballot
 7 application form may not design or mark the application in a manner that
 8 suggests choice of one ballot over another, except that ballot choices may be listed
 9 on an application as authorized by the division. The application must be made on a
 10 form prescribed or approved by the director. The voter or registration official shall
 11 submit the application directly to the division of elections. For purposes of this
 12 subsection, "directly to the division of elections" means that an application may not be
 13 submitted to any intermediary that could control or delay the submission of the
 14 application to the division or gather data on the applicant from the application form.
 15 However, nothing in this subsection is intended to prohibit a voter from giving a
 16 completed absentee ballot application to a friend, relative, or associate for transfer to
 17 the United States Postal Service or a private commercial delivery service for delivery
 18 to the division.

19 * **Sec. 14.** AS 15.20.081(h) is amended to read:

20 (h) Except as provided in AS 15.20.480, an absentee ballot returned by mail
 21 from outside the United States or from an overseas voter qualifying under
 22 AS 15.05.011 that has been marked and mailed not later than election day may not be
 23 counted unless the ballot is received by the election supervisor not later than the close
 24 of business on the

25 (1) 10th day following a primary election or special [PRIMARY]
 26 election under AS 15.40.140; or

27 (2) 15th day following a general election, special runoff election, or
 28 special election, other than a special [PRIMARY] election described in (1) of this
 29 subsection.

30 * **Sec. 15.** AS 15.20.190(a) is amended to read:

31 (a) Thirty days before the date of an election, the election supervisors shall

1 appoint, in the same manner provided for the appointment of election officials
 2 prescribed in AS 15.10, district absentee ballot counting boards and district questioned
 3 ballot counting boards, each composed of at least four members. At least one member
 4 of each board must be a member of the same political party **of which the governor is**
 5 **a member** [OR POLITICAL GROUP WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF
 6 REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE TIME OF THE PRECEDING
 7 GUBERNATORIAL ELECTION], and at least one member of each board must be a
 8 member of the political party **whose candidate for governor received the second**
 9 **largest number of votes in** [OR POLITICAL GROUP WITH THE SECOND
 10 LARGEST NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE TIME OF] the
 11 preceding gubernatorial election. The district boards shall assist the election
 12 supervisors in counting the absentee and questioned ballots and shall receive the same
 13 compensation paid election officials under AS 15.15.380.

14 * **Sec. 16.** AS 15.20.203(i) is amended to read:

15 (i) The director shall mail the materials described in (h) of this section to the
 16 voter not later than

17 (1) 10 days after completion of the review of ballots by the state
 18 review board for a primary election or **for** a special [PRIMARY] election under
 19 AS 15.40.140 **that is followed by a special runoff election;**

20 (2) 60 days after certification of the results of a general election,
 21 **special runoff election,** or special election other than a special [PRIMARY] election
 22 described in (1) of this subsection.

23 * **Sec. 17.** AS 15.20.203(j) is amended to read:

24 (j) The director shall make available through a free access system to each
 25 absentee voter a system to check to see whether the voter's ballot was counted and, if
 26 not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted. The director shall make this
 27 information available through the free access system not less than

28 (1) 10 days after certification of the results of a primary election, or a
 29 special [PRIMARY] election under AS 15.40.140 **that is followed by a special**
 30 **runoff election;** and

31 (2) 30 days after certification of the results of a general or special

1 election, other than a special [PRIMARY] election described in (1) of this subsection.

2 * **Sec. 18.** AS 15.20.207(i) is amended to read:

3 (i) The director shall mail the materials described in (h) of this section to the
4 voter not later than

5 (1) 10 days after completion of the review of ballots by the state
6 review board for a primary election or **for** a special [PRIMARY] election under
7 AS 15.40.140 **that is followed by a special runoff election;**

8 (2) 60 days after certification of the results of a general or special
9 election, other than a special [PRIMARY] election described in (1) of this subsection.

10 * **Sec. 19.** AS 15.20.207(k) is amended to read:

11 (k) The director shall make available through a free access system to each
12 voter voting a questioned ballot a system to check to see whether the voter's ballot was
13 counted and, if not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted. The director
14 shall make this information available through the free access system not less than

15 (1) 10 days after **the** certification of the results of a primary election or
16 a special [PRIMARY] election under AS 15.40.140 **that is followed by a special**
17 **runoff election;** and

18 (2) 30 days after certification of the results of a general or special
19 election, other than a special [PRIMARY] election described in (1) of this subsection.

20 * **Sec. 20.** AS 15.20.211(d) is amended to read:

21 (d) The director shall mail the materials described in (c) of this section to the
22 voter not later than

23 (1) 10 days after completion of the review of ballots by the state
24 review board for a primary₂ election or **for** a special [PRIMARY] election under
25 AS 15.40.140 **that is followed by a special runoff election;**

26 (2) 60 days after certification of the results of a general or special
27 election, other than a special [PRIMARY] election described in (1) of this subsection.

28 * **Sec. 21.** AS 15.20.211(f) is amended to read:

29 (f) The director shall make available through a free access system to each
30 voter whose ballot was subject to partial counting under this section a system to check
31 to see whether the voter's ballot was partially counted and, if not counted, the reason

1 why the ballot was not counted. The director shall make this information available
2 through the free access system not less than

3 (1) 10 days after certification of the results of a primary election or a
4 special [PRIMARY] election under AS 15.40.140 **that is followed by a special**
5 **runoff election**; and

6 (2) 30 days after **the** certification of the results of a general or special
7 election, other than a special [PRIMARY] election described in (1) of this subsection.

8 * **Sec. 22.** AS 15.25.010 is amended to read:

9 **Sec. 15.25.010. Provision for primary election.** Candidates for the elective
10 state executive and state and national legislative offices shall be nominated in a
11 primary election by direct vote of the people in the manner prescribed by this chapter.
12 **Unless two or more political parties have jointly requested a combined primary**
13 **election ballot, the director shall prepare and provide a primary election ballot**
14 **for each political party. The director shall prepare and provide a combined**
15 **primary election ballot for two or more parties that have jointly requested a**
16 **combined primary election ballot. A voter registered as affiliated with a political**
17 **party may vote that party's ballot, or, a combined primary election ballot if the**
18 **party's candidates are listed on the combined primary election ballot. A voter**
19 **registered as nonpartisan or undeclared rather than as affiliated with a**
20 **particular political party may vote the political party ballot or combined primary**
21 **election ballot of the voter's choice unless prohibited from doing so under**
22 **AS 15.25.015. A voter registered as affiliated with a political party may not vote**
23 **the ballot of a different political party or a combined primary election ballot that**
24 **only includes candidates of political parties other than the party the voter is**
25 **registered as affiliated with unless permitted to do so under AS 15.25.015** [THE
26 PRIMARY ELECTION DOES NOT SERVE TO DETERMINE THE NOMINEE OF
27 A POLITICAL PARTY OR POLITICAL GROUP BUT SERVES ONLY TO
28 NARROW THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES WHOSE NAMES WILL APPEAR
29 ON THE BALLOT AT THE GENERAL ELECTION. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN
30 AS 15.25.100(d), ONLY THE FOUR CANDIDATES WHO RECEIVE THE
31 GREATEST NUMBER OF VOTES FOR ANY OFFICE SHALL ADVANCE TO

1 THE GENERAL ELECTION].

2 * **Sec. 23.** AS 15.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **Sec. 15.25.015. Participation in primary election selection of a political**
4 **party's candidates.** (a) Not later than 5:00 p.m., Alaska time, on September 1 of the
5 calendar year before the calendar year in which a primary election is to be held, a
6 political party shall submit a notice in writing to the director stating whether the party
7 bylaws expand or limit who may participate in the primary election for selection of the
8 party's candidates for elective state executive and state and national legislative offices
9 and whether the party requests a combined primary election ballot. If the party
10 requests a combined primary election ballot, the party shall request the combined
11 primary election ballot jointly with the other parties requesting the combined primary
12 election ballot. A copy of the party's bylaws expanding or limiting who may
13 participate in the primary election for selection of the party's candidates,
14 documentation required under (b) of this section, and other information required by
15 the director, must be submitted along with the notice. The notice, bylaws,
16 documentation, and other information required by the director shall be provided by the
17 party's chairperson or another party official designated by the party's bylaws.

18 (b) Once a political party timely submits a notice and bylaws under (a) of this
19 section and the director finds that the party has met the requirements of this chapter
20 and other applicable laws, the director shall permit a voter registered as affiliated with
21 another party to vote the party's ballot or a combined primary election ballot that
22 includes the party's candidates if the voter is permitted by the party's bylaws to
23 participate in the selection of the party's candidates and may not permit a voter
24 registered as nonpartisan or undeclared to vote a party's ballot or a combined primary
25 election ballot that includes the party's candidates if the party's bylaws restrict
26 participation by nonpartisan or undeclared voters in the party's primary; however, for a
27 subsequent primary election, the party shall timely submit another notice, bylaws,
28 documentation, and other information under (a) of this section if the party's bylaws
29 regarding who may participate in the primary election for selection of the party's
30 candidates change.

31 * **Sec. 24.** AS 15.25.030(a) is amended to read:

1 (a) A **member of a political party** [PERSON] who seeks to become a
 2 candidate **of the party** in the primary election [OR A SPECIAL PRIMARY
 3 ELECTION] shall execute and file a declaration of candidacy. The declaration shall be
 4 executed under oath before an officer authorized to take acknowledgments and must
 5 state in substance

6 (1) the full name of the candidate;

7 (2) the full mailing address of the candidate;

8 (3) if the candidacy is for the office of state senator or state
 9 representative, the house or senate district of which the candidate is a resident;

10 (4) the office for which the candidate seeks nomination;

11 (5) the **name of the** political party **of which the person is a candidate**
 12 **for nomination** [OR POLITICAL GROUP WITH WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS
 13 REGISTERED AS AFFILIATED, OR WHETHER THE CANDIDATE WOULD
 14 PREFER A NONPARTISAN OR UNDECLARED DESIGNATION PLACED
 15 AFTER THE CANDIDATE'S NAME ON THE BALLOT];

16 (6) the full residence address of the candidate, and the date on which
 17 residency at that address began;

18 (7) the date of the primary election [OR SPECIAL PRIMARY
 19 ELECTION] at which the candidate seeks nomination;

20 (8) the length of residency in the state and in the district of the
 21 candidate;

22 (9) that the candidate will meet the specific citizenship requirements of
 23 the office for which the person is a candidate;

24 (10) that the candidate is a qualified voter as required by law;

25 (11) that the candidate will meet the specific age requirements of the
 26 office for which the person is a candidate; if the candidacy is for the office of state
 27 representative, that the candidate will be at least 21 years of age on the first scheduled
 28 day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; if the
 29 candidacy is for the office of state senator, that the candidate will be at least 25 years
 30 of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened
 31 after the election; if the candidacy is for the office of governor or lieutenant governor,

1 that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the first Monday in December
 2 following election or, if the office is to be filled by special election under
 3 AS 15.40.230 - 15.40.310, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the
 4 date of certification of the results of the special election; or, for any other office, by
 5 the time that the candidate, if elected, is sworn into office;

6 (12) that the candidate requests that the candidate's name be placed on
 7 the primary [ELECTION OR SPECIAL PRIMARY] election ballot;

8 (13) that the required fee accompanies the declaration;

9 (14) that the person is not a candidate for any other office to be voted
 10 on at the primary or general election and that the person is not a candidate for this
 11 office under any other declaration of candidacy or nominating petition; **and**

12 (15) the manner in which the candidate wishes the candidate's name to
 13 appear on the ballot [;

14 (16) IF THE CANDIDACY IS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE
 15 GOVERNOR, THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE FOR LIEUTENANT
 16 GOVERNOR RUNNING JOINTLY WITH THE CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR;
 17 AND

18 (17) IF THE CANDIDACY IS FOR THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT
 19 GOVERNOR, THE NAME OF THE CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR RUNNING
 20 JOINTLY WITH THE CANDIDATE FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR].

21 * **Sec. 25.** AS 15.25 is amended by adding a new section to read:

22 **Sec. 15.25.057. Nomination by party petition where incumbent dies or is**
 23 **disqualified or incapacitated.** (a) If an unopposed incumbent candidate for
 24 renomination dies, becomes disqualified from holding the office the candidate is
 25 seeking, or is certified as being incapacitated between June 1 of the election year and
 26 that date which is more than 54 days before the date of the primary election, the
 27 candidate's place on the ballot may be filled by party petition. The petition shall state
 28 that the political party requests the name of the proposed candidate replace that of the
 29 incumbent on the primary election ballot and shall be accompanied by a declaration of
 30 candidacy from the person named in the petition. The petition must be received by the
 31 director not later than 14 days after the death, disqualification, or certification of

1 incapacity of the incumbent or 52 days before the primary election date, whichever
2 time is earlier.

3 (b) The method for certifying an incumbent candidate for nomination as being
4 incapacitated, the method for selecting the person who is to be named in the party
5 petition, and the method for placing the name of the person selected on the primary
6 nomination ballot are the same as those prescribed in AS 15.25.111 and 15.25.131
7 relating to filling vacancies of party nominees in a general election.

8 (c) The death, disqualification, or certification of incapacity of the incumbent
9 within 52 days before or on the primary election date does not affect the counting and
10 review of the ballots. If the result of the counting and review discloses that the
11 candidate, if the candidate had lived, would have been nominated, the candidate shall
12 be declared nominated. The vacancy may be filled by party petition as provided in
13 AS 15.25.111 - 15.25.131.

14 * **Sec. 26.** AS 15.25.060 is repealed and reenacted to read:

15 **Sec. 15.25.060. Preparation and distribution of ballots; appropriate ballot.**

16 (a) The primary election ballots shall be prepared and distributed by the director in the
17 manner prescribed in this section. Unless two or more political parties have jointly
18 requested a combined primary election ballot, the director shall prepare and provide a
19 primary election ballot for each political party that contains all of the candidates of
20 that party for elective state executive and state and national legislative offices and all
21 of the ballot titles and propositions required to appear on the ballot at the primary
22 election. Upon the joint request of two or more political parties, the director shall
23 prepare and provide a combined primary election ballot for those parties that contains
24 all of the candidates of the parties for elective state executive and state and national
25 legislative offices and all of the ballot titles and propositions required to appear on the
26 ballot at the primary election. The director shall print the ballots on white paper and
27 place the names of all candidates who have properly filed in groups according to
28 offices. The order of the placement of the names for each office shall be as provided
29 for the general election ballot. Blank spaces may not be provided on the ballot for the
30 writing or pasting in of names. The director shall also prepare and print a separate
31 primary election ballot including only the ballot titles and propositions required to

1 appear on the ballot.

2 (b) A voter may vote only one primary election ballot. A voter may vote a
3 political party ballot only if the voter is registered as affiliated with that party, is
4 allowed to participate in the party primary under the party's bylaws, or is registered as
5 nonpartisan or undeclared rather than as affiliated with a particular political party and
6 the party's bylaws do not restrict participation by nonpartisan or undeclared voters in
7 the party's primary. A voter may vote a combined primary election ballot only if the
8 voter is registered as affiliated with a party appearing on the ballot, is allowed to
9 participate in the party primary under the parties' bylaws, or is registered as
10 nonpartisan or undeclared rather than as affiliated with a particular political party and
11 the parties' bylaws do not restrict participation by nonpartisan or undeclared voters in
12 the parties' primaries. For the purpose of determining which primary election ballot a
13 voter may use, a voter's party affiliation is considered to be the affiliation registered
14 with the director as of the 30th day before the primary election. If a voter changes
15 party affiliation within the 30 days before the primary election, the voter's previous
16 party affiliation shall be used for the determination under this subsection.

17 (c) If a voter is not voting in person and has requested an absentee ballot or
18 special needs ballot but has not indicated a choice of ballot, the director shall provide
19 the voter with the ballot listing the candidates of the political party or group with
20 which the voter is affiliated, as determined under (b) of this section.

21 * **Sec. 27.** AS 15.25.100 is repealed and reenacted to read:

22 **Sec. 15.25.100. Placement of nominees on general election ballot.** The
23 director shall place the name of the candidate receiving the highest number of votes
24 for an office by a political party on the general election ballot.

25 * **Sec. 28.** AS 15.25.105(a) is amended to read:

26 (a) If a candidate does not appear on the primary election ballot or is not
27 successful in advancing to the general election and wishes to be a candidate in the
28 general election, the candidate may file as a write-in candidate. Votes for a write-in
29 candidate may not be counted unless that candidate has filed a letter of intent with the
30 director stating

31 (1) the full name of the candidate;

1 (2) the full residence address of the candidate and the date on which
2 residency at that address began;

3 (3) the full mailing address of the candidate;

4 (4) the name of the political party or political group of which the
5 candidate is a member, if any [WITH WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS
6 REGISTERED AS AFFILIATED, OR WHETHER THE CANDIDATE WOULD
7 PREFER A NONPARTISAN OR UNDECLARED DESIGNATION];

8 (5) if the candidate is for the office of state senator or state
9 representative, the house or senate district of which the candidate is a resident;

10 (6) the office that the candidate seeks;

11 (7) the date of the election at which the candidate seeks election;

12 (8) the length of residency in the state and in the house district of the
13 candidate;

14 (9) the name of the candidate as the candidate wishes it to be written
15 on the ballot by the voter;

16 (10) that the candidate meets the specific citizenship requirements of
17 the office for which the person is a candidate;

18 (11) that the candidate will meet the specific age requirements of the
19 office for which the person is a candidate; if the candidacy is for the office of state
20 representative, that the candidate will be at least 21 years of age on the first scheduled
21 day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; if the
22 candidacy is for the office of state senator, that the candidate will be at least 25 years
23 of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened
24 after the election; if the candidacy is for the office of governor or lieutenant governor,
25 that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the first Monday in December
26 following election or, if the office is to be filled by special election under
27 AS 15.40.230 - 15.40.310, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the
28 date of certification of the results of the special election; or, for any other office, by
29 the time that the candidate, if elected, is sworn into office;

30 (12) that the candidate is a qualified voter as required by law; and

31 (13) that the candidate is not a candidate for any other office to be

1 voted on at the general election and that the candidate is not a candidate for this office
2 under any other nominating petition or declaration of candidacy.

3 * **Sec. 29.** AS 15.25.105(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) If a write-in candidate is running for the office of governor, the candidate
5 must file a joint letter of intent together with a candidate for lieutenant governor. **Both**
6 **candidates must be of the same political party or group.**

7 * **Sec. 30.** AS 15.25 is amended by adding new sections to article 1 to read:

8 **Sec. 15.25.111. Filling vacancies by party petition.** If a candidate of a
9 political party nominated at the primary election dies, withdraws, resigns, becomes
10 disqualified from holding the office for which the candidate is nominated, or is
11 certified as being incapacitated in the manner prescribed by this section after the
12 primary election and 64 days or more before the general election, the vacancy may be
13 filled by party petition. The central committee of any political party or any party
14 district committee may certify as being incapacitated any candidate nominated by their
15 respective party by presenting to the director a sworn statement made by a panel of
16 three licensed physicians, not more than two of whom may be of the same political
17 party, that the candidate is physically or mentally incapacitated to an extent that
18 would, in the panel's judgment, prevent the candidate from active service during the
19 term of office if elected. The director shall place the name of the person nominated by
20 party petition on the general election ballot. The name of a candidate disqualified
21 under this section may not appear on the general election ballot.

22 **Sec. 15.25.121. Requirements for party petition.** Party petitions for the
23 nomination of candidates shall state in substance that the political party desires and
24 intends to support the named candidate for the named office and requests that the
25 name of the proposed candidate be placed on the general election ballot. The petition
26 may be filed not later than 64 days before the date of the general election.

27 **Sec. 15.25.131. Selection of nominees for party petition.** The nominees of
28 political parties by party petition may be selected for statewide offices by the state
29 party central committee or in any other manner prescribed by the party bylaws, and the
30 petition for statewide offices shall be signed by the state chairperson of the political
31 party or, in the absence of the state chairperson, by any two members of the state party

1 central committee. The nominees of political parties by party petition may be selected
2 for district-wide offices by the respective party district committee or in any other
3 manner prescribed by the party bylaws, and the petition for district-wide offices shall
4 be signed by the chairperson of the party district committee, or in the absence of the
5 chairperson, by any two members of the party district committee, or in any other
6 manner prescribed by the party bylaws. The petition may be delivered in person or by
7 mail, facsimile, or other reliable electronic transmission.

8 * **Sec. 31.** AS 15.25 is amended by adding new sections to article 2 to read:

9 **Sec. 15.25.141. Provision for no-party candidate nominations.** Candidates
10 not representing a political party are nominated by petition.

11 **Sec. 15.25.151. Date of filing petition.** A candidate seeking nomination by
12 petition shall submit the information required under AS 15.25.181(a)(1) - (8) and (11)
13 - (17) to the director in the time and manner specified in AS 15.25.040. The full
14 petition with voter signatures shall be filed with the director by actual physical
15 delivery in person at or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the day of the primary
16 election in the year in which a general election is held for the office, or by actual
17 physical delivery to the director by registered or certified mail return receipt requested
18 which is postmarked at or before 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the day of the primary
19 election in the year in which a general election is held for the office, and received not
20 more than 15 days after that time. If the postmark is illegible, a dated receipt from the
21 post office where dispatched shall be acceptable as evidence of mailing.

22 **Sec. 15.25.161. Required number of signatures for statewide office.**
23 Petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of governor, lieutenant
24 governor, United States senator, and United States representative shall be signed by
25 qualified voters of the state equal in number to at least one percent of the number of
26 voters who cast ballots in the preceding general election.

27 **Sec. 15.25.171. Required number of signatures for district-wide office.**
28 Petitions for the nomination of candidates for the office of state senator or state
29 representative shall be signed by qualified voters of the house or senate district in
30 which the proposed nominee desires to be a candidate equal in number to at least one
31 percent of the number of voters who cast ballots in the proposed nominee's respective

1 house or senate district in the preceding general election. A nominating petition may
2 not contain less than 50 signatures for any district.

3 **Sec. 15.25.181. Requirements for petition.** (a) The petition must state in
4 substance

- 5 (1) the full name of the candidate;
- 6 (2) the full residence address of the candidate and the date on which
7 residency at that address began;
- 8 (3) the full mailing address of the candidate;
- 9 (4) the name of the political group, if any, supporting the candidate;
- 10 (5) if the candidacy is for the office of state senator or state
11 representative, the house or senate district of which the candidate is a resident;
- 12 (6) the office for which the candidate is nominated;
- 13 (7) the date of the election at which the candidate seeks election;
- 14 (8) the length of residency in the state and in the district of the
15 candidate;
- 16 (9) that the subscribers are qualified voters of the state or house or
17 senate district in which the candidate resides;
- 18 (10) that the subscribers request that the candidate's name be placed on
19 the general election ballot;
- 20 (11) that the proposed candidate accepts the nomination and will serve
21 if elected with the statement signed by the proposed candidate;
- 22 (12) the name of the candidate as the candidate wishes it to appear on
23 the ballot;
- 24 (13) that the candidate is not a candidate for any other office to be
25 voted on at the primary or general election and that the candidate is not a candidate for
26 this office under any other nominating petition or declaration of candidacy;
- 27 (14) that the candidate meets the specific citizenship requirements of
28 the office for which the person is a candidate;
- 29 (15) that the candidate will meet the specific age requirements of the
30 office for which the person is a candidate; if the candidacy is for the office of state
31 representative, that the candidate will be at least 21 years of age on the first scheduled

1 day of the first regular session of the legislature convened after the election; if the
 2 candidacy is for the office of state senator, that the candidate will be at least 25 years
 3 of age on the first scheduled day of the first regular session of the legislature convened
 4 after the election; and if the candidacy is for the office of governor or lieutenant
 5 governor, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on the first Monday in
 6 December following the election or, if the office is to be filled by special election
 7 under AS 15.40.230 - 15.40.310, that the candidate will be at least 30 years of age on
 8 the date of certification of the results of the special election; or, for any other office,
 9 by the time that the candidate, if elected, is sworn into office;

10 (16) that the candidate is a qualified voter; and

11 (17) if the candidacy is for the office of the governor, the name of the
 12 candidate for lieutenant governor running jointly with the candidate for governor.

13 (b) A person filing a nominating petition under this section, other than a
 14 person subject to AS 24.60 who is filing a petition for a state legislative office, shall
 15 simultaneously file with the director a statement of income sources and business
 16 interests that complies with the requirements of AS 39.50. A person who is subject to
 17 AS 24.60 and is filing a nominating petition for state legislative office shall
 18 simultaneously file with the director a disclosure statement that complies with the
 19 requirements of AS 24.60.200.

20 (c) An incumbent public official, other than a legislator, who has a current
 21 statement of income sources and business interests under AS 39.50 on file with the
 22 Alaska Public Offices Commission, or an incumbent legislator who has a current
 23 disclosure statement under AS 24.60.200 on file with the Alaska Public Offices
 24 Commission, is not required to file a statement of income sources and business
 25 interests or a disclosure statement with the nominating petition under (b) of this
 26 section.

27 **Sec. 15.25.186. Eligibility of candidate.** The provisions of AS 15.25.042 and
 28 15.25.043 apply to determinations of a candidate's eligibility when a candidate seeks
 29 nomination by petition under AS 15.25.141 - 15.25.201.

30 **Sec. 15.25.191. Placement of names on general election ballot.** The director
 31 shall place the names and the political group affiliation of persons who have been

1 properly nominated by petition on the general election ballot.

2 **Sec. 15.25.201. Withdrawal of candidate's name.** If a candidate nominated
3 by petition dies or withdraws after the petition has been filed and 64 days or more
4 before the general election, the director may not place the name of the candidate on
5 the general election ballot.

6 * **Sec. 32.** AS 15.30.010 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 15.30.010. Provision for selection of electors.** Electors of President and
8 Vice President of the United States are selected by election at the general election in
9 presidential election years [, IN THE MANNER AND AS DETERMINED BY THE
10 RANKED-CHOICE METHOD OF TABULATING VOTES DESCRIBED IN
11 AS 15.15.350 - 15.15.370].

12 * **Sec. 33.** AS 15.40.140 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 15.40.140. Condition of calling [SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION**
14 **AND] special election.** When a vacancy occurs in the office of United States senator
15 or United States representative, the governor shall, by proclamation, call a special
16 [PRIMARY] election under AS 15.40.144(a); however, [TO BE HELD ON A DATE
17 NOT LESS THAN 60, NOR MORE THAN 90, DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE
18 VACANCY OCCURS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY A SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE
19 FIRST TUESDAY THAT IS NOT A STATE HOLIDAY OCCURRING NOT LESS
20 THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION. HOWEVER, IN
21 AN ELECTION YEAR IN WHICH A CANDIDATE FOR THAT OFFICE IS NOT
22 REGULARLY ELECTED,] if the vacancy occurs on a date that is [NOT] less than 60
23 days [, NOR MORE THAN 90,] before or is on or after the date of

24 [(1)] the primary election in the general election year during which
25 a candidate to fill the office is regularly elected, the governor may not call a [,
26 THE] special [PRIMARY] election [SHALL BE HELD ON THE DATE OF THE
27 PRIMARY ELECTION WITH THE SUBSEQUENT SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE
28 HELD ON THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION; OR

29 (2) THE GENERAL ELECTION, THE SPECIAL PRIMARY
30 ELECTION SHALL BE HELD ON THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION
31 WITH THE SUBSEQUENT SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST

1 TUESDAY THAT IS NOT A STATE HOLIDAY OCCURRING NOT LESS THAN
2 60 DAYS AFTER THE SPECIAL PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION].

3 * **Sec. 34.** AS 15.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

4 **Sec. 15.40.143. Condition of calling a special runoff election.** (a) If no
5 candidate in a special election called under AS 15.40.140 receives over 50 percent of
6 the votes cast for the office, the governor shall, by proclamation, call a special runoff
7 election under AS 15.40.144(b).

8 (b) In a special runoff election called under (a) of this section, the director
9 shall place the names of the candidates receiving the greatest number of votes and the
10 second greatest number of votes in the special election on the special runoff election
11 ballot.

12 **Sec. 15.40.144. Time of calling the special election and special runoff**
13 **election.** (a) Except as provided in (c) of this section, if a special election is called
14 under AS 15.40.140, it shall be held on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days
15 after the date the vacancy occurs.

16 (b) Except as provided in (c) of this section, a special runoff election under
17 AS 15.40.143 shall be held on the first Tuesday that is not a state holiday occurring
18 not less than 60 days after the special election.

19 (c) In an election year in which a candidate for the vacant office is not
20 regularly elected, and the vacancy occurs on a date that is not less than 60, nor more
21 than 90, days before the date of

22 (1) the primary election, the special election shall be held on the date
23 of the primary election with any subsequent special runoff election under
24 AS 15.40.143 to be held on the date of the general election; or

25 (2) the general election, the special election shall be held on the date of
26 the general election with any subsequent special runoff election under AS 15.40.143 to
27 be held on the first Tuesday that is not a state holiday occurring not less than 60 days
28 after the special and general election.

29 * **Sec. 35.** AS 15.40 is amended by adding a new section to read:

30 **Sec. 15.40.151. Condition for holding special election with primary.** If the
31 vacancy occurs on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days before the date of

1 the primary election, the governor shall, by proclamation, call the special election to
2 be held on the date of the primary election.

3 * **Sec. 36.** AS 15.40.160 is amended to read:

4 **Sec. 15.40.160. Proclamation.** The governor shall issue the proclamation
5 [CALLING THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND SPECIAL ELECTION] at
6 least 50 days before the

7 **(1) special [PRIMARY] election; and**

8 **(2) if a special runoff election is required under AS 15.40.143(a),**
9 **special runoff election.**

10 * **Sec. 37.** AS 15.40.165 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 15.40.165. Term of elected senator.** At the special election, **or, as**
12 **provided by AS 15.40.143, at the special runoff election,** a United States senator
13 shall be elected to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. The person elected shall
14 take office on the date the United States Senate meets, convenes, or reconvenes
15 following the certification of the results of the special election **or special runoff**
16 **election** by the director.

17 * **Sec. 38.** AS 15.40.170 is amended to read:

18 **Sec. 15.40.170. Term of elected representative.** At the special election, **or, as**
19 **provided by AS 15.40.143, at the special runoff election,** a United States
20 representative shall be elected to fill the remainder of the unexpired term. The person
21 elected shall take office on the date the United States house of representatives meets,
22 convenes, or reconvenes following the certification of the results of the special
23 election **or special runoff election** by the director.

24 * **Sec. 39.** AS 15.40.190 is amended to read:

25 **Sec. 15.40.190. Requirements of petition for no-party candidates.** Petitions
26 for the nomination of candidates **not representing a political party shall be signed**
27 **by qualified voters of the state equal in number to at least one percent of the**
28 **number of voters who cast ballots in the preceding general election and shall**
29 [MUST BE EXECUTED UNDER OATH,] state in substance that which is required
30 for **nomination petitions by AS 15.25.181** [A DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY
31 UNDER AS 15.25.030, AND INCLUDE THE FEE REQUIRED UNDER

1 AS 15.25.050(a)].

2 * **Sec. 40.** AS 15.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

3 **Sec. 15.40.201. Requirements of party petition.** Petitions for the nomination
4 of candidates of political parties shall state in substance that the party desires and
5 intends to support the named candidate for the office of United States senator or
6 United States representative, as appropriate, at the special election and requests that
7 the name of the candidate nominated be placed on the ballot.

8 **Sec. 15.40.211. Selection of party nominees.** The nominees of political
9 parties may be selected by the state convention or in any other manner prescribed by
10 the party bylaws, and the petition shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of
11 the state convention, or if the nominees are selected by the party central committee,
12 the petition shall be signed by the chairperson of the central committee or in any other
13 manner prescribed by the party bylaws.

14 * **Sec. 41.** AS 15.40.220 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 15.40.220. General provisions for conduct of [THE] special**
16 **[PRIMARY] election and special runoff election.** Unless specifically provided
17 otherwise, all provisions regarding the conduct of the [PRIMARY ELECTION AND]
18 general election shall govern the conduct of the special [PRIMARY] election and **the**
19 special **runoff** election of the United States senator or United States representative,
20 including provisions concerning voter qualifications; provisions regarding the duties,
21 powers, rights, and obligations of the director, of other election officials, and of
22 municipalities; provision for notification of the election; provision for payment of
23 election expenses; provisions regarding employees being allowed time from work to
24 vote; provisions for the counting, reviewing, and certification of returns; **provisions**
25 **for running as, voting for, and counting ballots for a write-in candidate;**
26 provisions for the determination of the votes and of recounts, contests, and appeal; and
27 provision for absentee voting.

28 * **Sec. 42.** AS 15.40.230 is amended to read:

29 **Sec. 15.40.230. Condition and time of calling [SPECIAL PRIMARY**
30 **ELECTION AND] special election.** When a person appointed to succeed to the
31 office of lieutenant governor succeeds to the office of acting governor, the acting

1 governor shall, by proclamation, call a special [PRIMARY] election to be held on a
 2 date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days after the date the vacancy in the office of
 3 the governor occurred [AND A SUBSEQUENT SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD
 4 ON THE FIRST TUESDAY THAT IS NOT A STATE HOLIDAY OCCURRING
 5 NOT LESS THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION].
 6 However, if the vacancy occurs on a date that is less than 60 days before or is on or
 7 after the date of the primary election in years in which a governor is regularly elected,
 8 the acting governor shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term and may not call a
 9 special election.

10 * **Sec. 43.** AS 15.40.240 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 15.40.240. Conditions for holding special [PRIMARY ELECTION**
 12 **AND SPECIAL] election with primary or general election.** If the vacancy occurs
 13 on a date not less than 60, nor more than 90, days before the date of the primary
 14 election in years in which a governor is regularly elected [IN AN ELECTION
 15 YEAR IN WHICH A GOVERNOR IS NOT REGULARLY ELECTED, THE
 16 ACTING GOVERNOR SHALL, BY PROCLAMATION, CALL THE SPECIAL
 17 PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE DATE OF THE PRIMARY
 18 ELECTION AND THE SPECIAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE DATE OF
 19 THE GENERAL ELECTION,] or [,] if the vacancy occurs on a date not less than 60,
 20 nor more than 90, days before the date of the primary election or general election in
 21 election years in which a governor is not regularly elected, the acting governor shall,
 22 by proclamation, call the special [PRIMARY] election to be held on the date of the
 23 primary election or general election [WITH THE SUBSEQUENT SPECIAL
 24 ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST TUESDAY THAT IS NOT A STATE
 25 HOLIDAY OCCURRING NOT LESS THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE SPECIAL
 26 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION].

27 * **Sec. 44.** AS 15.40.250 is amended to read:

28 **Sec. 15.40.250. Proclamation of [SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND]**
 29 **special election.** The acting governor shall issue the proclamation [CALLING THE
 30 SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND SPECIAL ELECTION] at least 50 days
 31 before the [SPECIAL PRIMARY] election.

1 * **Sec. 45.** AS 15.40.280 is amended to read:

2 **Sec. 15.40.280. Requirements of petition for no-party candidates.** Petitions
3 for the nomination of candidates **not representing a political party shall be signed**
4 **by qualified voters of the state equal in number to at least one percent of the**
5 **number of voters who cast ballots in the preceding general election, shall include**
6 **nominees for the office of governor and lieutenant governor, and shall** [MUST BE
7 EXECUTED UNDER OATH,] state in substance that which is required for
8 **nomination petitions by AS 15.25.181** [A DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY
9 UNDER AS 15.25.030, AND INCLUDE THE FEE REQUIRED UNDER
10 AS 15.25.050(a).]

11 * **Sec. 46.** AS 15.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

12 **Sec. 15.40.291. Requirements of party petition.** Petitions for the nomination
13 of candidates of political parties shall state in substance that the party desires and
14 intends to support the named candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant
15 governor at the special election and requests that the names of the two candidates
16 nominated be placed on the ballot.

17 **Sec. 15.40.301. Selection of party nominees.** The nominees of political
18 parties may be selected by state convention or in any other manner prescribed by the
19 party bylaws, and the petition shall be signed by the chairperson and secretary of the
20 state convention, or, if the nominees are selected by the party central committee, the
21 petition shall be signed by the state chairperson of the political party or in any other
22 manner prescribed by the party bylaws.

23 * **Sec. 47.** AS 15.40.310 is amended to read:

24 **Sec. 15.40.310. General provisions for conduct of [THE SPECIAL**
25 **PRIMARY ELECTION AND] special election.** Unless specifically provided
26 otherwise, all provisions regarding the conduct of the [PRIMARY AND] general
27 election shall govern the conduct of the special [PRIMARY ELECTION AND
28 SPECIAL] election of the governor and lieutenant governor, including provisions
29 concerning voter qualifications; provisions regarding the duties, powers, rights, and
30 obligations of the director, of other election officials, and of municipalities; provision
31 for notification of the election; provision for payment of election expenses; provisions

1 regarding employees being allowed time from work to vote; provisions for the
 2 counting, reviewing, and certification of returns; provisions for the determination of
 3 the votes and of recounts, contests, and appeal; and provision for absentee voting.

4 * **Sec. 48.** AS 15.40.330 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 15.40.330. Qualification and confirmation of appointee.** (a) The
 6 appointee shall meet the qualifications of a member of the legislature as prescribed in
 7 art. II, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, [AND, IF THE PREDECESSOR IN
 8 OFFICE WAS A MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY OR POLITICAL GROUP
 9 AT THE TIME OF THE VACANCY, (1)] shall be a member of the same political
 10 party [OR POLITICAL GROUP] as **that which nominated** the predecessor in office,
 11 [;] and [(2)] shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the members of the
 12 legislature who are members of the same political party **which nominated** [OR
 13 POLITICAL GROUP AS] the predecessor in office and of the same house as was the
 14 predecessor in office. If the predecessor in office was not **nominated by** [A
 15 MEMBER OF] a political party or [POLITICAL GROUP AT THE TIME OF THE
 16 VACANCY, OR,] if no other member of the predecessor's political party [OR
 17 POLITICAL GROUP] is a member of the predecessor's house of the legislature, the
 18 governor may appoint any qualified person. If the appointee is not a member of a
 19 political party [OR POLITICAL GROUP, AS PROVIDED IN (b) OF THIS
 20 SECTION], the appointment is not subject to confirmation. If the appointee is a
 21 member of a political party [OR POLITICAL GROUP], the appointment is subject to
 22 confirmation as provided by [(b) OF] this section for the confirmation of political
 23 party [OR POLITICAL GROUP] appointees.

24 (b) A member of a political party [OR POLITICAL GROUP] is a person who
 25 supports the political program of a [POLITICAL] party [OR POLITICAL GROUP].
 26 The **filing for office of a candidate as an independent or no-party candidate**
 27 [ABSENCE OF A POLITICAL PARTY OR POLITICAL GROUP DESIGNATION
 28 AFTER A CANDIDATE'S NAME ON AN ELECTION BALLOT] does not preclude
 29 a candidate from being a member of a political party [OR POLITICAL GROUP].
 30 Recognition of **an independent or no-party** [A] candidate as a member of a
 31 [POLITICAL] party [OR POLITICAL GROUP] caucus of members of the legislature

1 at the legislative session following the election of the **independent or no-party**
 2 candidate is recognition of that person's [POLITICAL] party [OR POLITICAL
 3 GROUP] membership **at the time filings were made by party candidates for the**
 4 **preceding general election** [FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONFIRMATION UNDER
 5 THIS SECTION].

6 * **Sec. 49.** AS 15.40.380 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 15.40.380. Conditions for part-term senate appointment and special**
 8 **election.** If the vacancy is for an unexpired senate term of more than two years and
 9 five full calendar months, the governor shall call a special [PRIMARY ELECTION
 10 AND A SPECIAL] election by proclamation and the appointment shall expire on the
 11 date the state senate first convenes or reconvenes following the certification of the
 12 results of the special election by the director.

13 * **Sec. 50.** AS 15.40.390 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 15.40.390. Date of special [PRIMARY ELECTION AND SPECIAL]**
 15 **election.** The special [PRIMARY] election to fill a vacancy in the state senate shall be
 16 held on the date of the first **general** [PRIMARY] election held more than **three full**
 17 **calendar months** [60 DAYS] after the senate vacancy occurs [, AND THE SPECIAL
 18 ELECTION SHALL BE HELD ON THE DATE OF THE FIRST GENERAL
 19 ELECTION THEREAFTER].

20 * **Sec. 51.** AS 15.40.400 is amended to read:

21 **Sec. 15.40.400. Proclamation of [SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION AND]**
 22 **special election.** The governor shall issue the proclamation calling the [SPECIAL
 23 PRIMARY ELECTION AND] special election at least 50 days before the [SPECIAL
 24 PRIMARY] election.

25 * **Sec. 52.** AS 15.40.440 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 15.40.440. Requirements of petition for no-party candidates.** Petitions
 27 for the nomination of candidates **not representing a political party shall be signed**
 28 **by qualified voters equal in number to at least one percent of the number of**
 29 **voters who cast ballots in the proposed nominee's respective house or senate**
 30 **district in the preceding general election. A nominating petition may not contain**
 31 **less than 50 signatures for any district and** must [BE EXECUTED UNDER

1 OATH,] state in substance that which is required in petitions for nomination by
 2 AS 15.25.181 [A DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY UNDER AS 15.25.030, AND
 3 INCLUDE THE FEE REQUIRED UNDER AS 15.25.050(a)].

4 * **Sec. 53.** AS 15.40 is amended by adding new sections to read:

5 **Sec. 15.40.451. Requirements of petition by political party.** Petitions for the
 6 nomination of candidates of political parties shall state in substance that the party
 7 desires and intends to support the named candidate for the office of state senator at the
 8 special election and requests that the name of the candidate be placed on the ballot.

9 **Sec. 15.40.461. Selection of political party nominees.** The nominees of
 10 political parties may be selected by the respective party district committee or by any
 11 other manner as provided by the party bylaws, and the petition shall be signed by the
 12 chairperson of the party district committee or by any other party official designated by
 13 the party bylaws.

14 * **Sec. 54.** AS 15.40.470 is amended to read:

15 **Sec. 15.40.470. General provision for conduct of [THE SPECIAL**
 16 **PRIMARY ELECTION AND] special election.** Unless specifically provided
 17 otherwise, all provisions regarding the conduct of the [PRIMARY ELECTION AND]
 18 general election shall govern the conduct of the special [PRIMARY ELECTION AND
 19 SPECIAL] election of state senators, including provisions concerning voter
 20 qualifications; provisions regarding the duties, powers, rights, and obligations of the
 21 director, of other election officials, and of municipalities; provision for notification of
 22 the election; provision for payment of election expenses; provisions regarding
 23 employees being allowed time from work to vote; provisions for the counting,
 24 reviewing, and certification of returns; provisions for the determination of the votes
 25 and of recounts, contests, and appeal; and provision for absentee voting.

26 * **Sec. 55.** AS 15.45.190 is amended to read:

27 **Sec. 15.45.190. Placing proposition on ballot.** The lieutenant governor shall
 28 direct the director to place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot of the
 29 first statewide general, special, special runoff [PRIMARY], or primary election that is
 30 held after

31 (1) the petition has been filed;

1 (2) a legislative session has convened and adjourned; and

2 (3) a period of 120 days has expired since the adjournment of the
3 legislative session.

4 * **Sec. 56.** AS 15.45.420 is amended to read:

5 **Sec. 15.45.420. Placing proposition on ballot.** The lieutenant governor shall
6 direct the director to place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot for the
7 first statewide general, special, special **runoff** [PRIMARY], or primary election held
8 more than 180 days after adjournment of the legislative session at which the act was
9 passed.

10 * **Sec. 57.** AS 15.58.010 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 15.58.010. Election pamphlet.** Before each state general election, and
12 before each state primary, special, or special **runoff** [PRIMARY] election at which a
13 ballot proposition is scheduled to appear on the ballot, the lieutenant governor shall
14 prepare, publish, and mail at least one election pamphlet to each household identified
15 from the official registration list. The pamphlet shall be prepared on a regional basis as
16 determined by the lieutenant governor.

17 * **Sec. 58.** AS 15.58.020(b) is amended to read:

18 (b) Each primary, special, or special **runoff** [PRIMARY] election pamphlet
19 shall contain only the information specified in (a)(6) and (a)(9) of this section for each
20 ballot measure scheduled to appear on the primary, special, or special **runoff**
21 [PRIMARY] election ballot.

22 * **Sec. 59.** AS 15.58.030(b) is amended to read:

23 (b) Not later than July 22 of a year in which a state general election will be
24 held, an individual who becomes a candidate for the office of United States senator,
25 United States representative, governor, lieutenant governor, state senator, or state
26 representative under AS 15.25.030 **or 15.25.181** may file with the lieutenant governor
27 a photograph and a statement advocating the candidacy. **An individual who becomes**
28 **a candidate for the office of United States senator, United States representative,**
29 **governor, lieutenant governor, state senator, or state representative by party**
30 **petition filed under AS 15.25.111 may file with the lieutenant governor a**
31 **photograph and a statement advocating the candidacy within 10 days of**

1 **becoming a candidate.**

2 * **Sec. 60.** AS 15.80.010(9) is amended to read:

3 (9) "federal election" means a general, special, special **runoff**
4 [PRIMARY], or primary election held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting,
5 nominating, or electing a candidate for the office of President, Vice-President,
6 presidential elector, United States senator, or United States representative;

7 * **Sec. 61.** AS 39.50.020(b) is amended to read:

8 (b) A public official or former public official other than an elected or
9 appointed municipal officer shall file the statement with the Alaska Public Offices
10 Commission. Candidates for the office of governor and lieutenant governor and, if the
11 candidate is not subject to AS 24.60, the legislature shall file the statement under
12 AS 15.25.030 **or 15.25.181**. Municipal officers, former municipal officers, and
13 candidates for elective municipal office shall file with the municipal clerk or other
14 municipal official designated to receive their filing for office. All statements required
15 to be filed under this chapter are public records.

16 * **Sec. 62.** AS 15.15.025, 15.15.030(14), 15.15.030(15), 15.15.030(16), 15.15.030(17),
17 15.15.060(e), 15.15.350(c), 15.15.350(d), 15.15.350(e), 15.15.350(f), 15.15.350(g);
18 AS 15.58.020(a)(13), 15.58.020(c); AS 15.80.008(a)(2), and 15.80.010(34) are repealed.