

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2025 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSSB 64(STA)
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(S) Publish Date:	3/28/2025

Identifier: SB064-OOG-DOE-01-25-25
 Title: ELECTIONS
 Sponsor: RLS
 Requester: (S) State Affairs

Department: Office of the Governor
 Appropriation: Elections
 Allocation: Elections
 OMB Component Number: 21

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2026	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2026 Request	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2026	FY 2026						
Personal Services			141.2	141.2	141.2	141.2	141.2	141.2
Travel			5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0
Services			41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1	41.1
Commodities			3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)			190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3
Total	0.0	0.0	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3	190.3

Positions

Full-time			1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Part-time							
Temporary			5.0		5.0		5.0

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2025) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2026) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? **Yes**
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? **07/01/26**

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable, initial version.

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Division:	Division of Elections	Date:	01/25/2025 02:00 PM
Approved By:	Cheri Lowenstein, Administrative Services Director	Date:	01/25/25
Agency:	Office of the Governor		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Analysis

This bill proposes numerous changes to election laws that will impact the Division of Elections. Concerning the specific changes that result in fiscal impacts, the bill:

- Requires the division to hire a rural community liaison.
- Amends AS 15.20.030 relating the preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other materials to provide for postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for absentee ballots.
- Allows for the option of continuous absentee voting.
- Requires a ballot tracking system.
- Requires drop boxes for by-mail elections conducted in municipalities with 20,000 or more residents
- Implements a cure process for deficient ballots.

All costs presented are unrestricted general fund. This fiscal note assumes legislation is enacted in 2025 allowing time to implement required regulatory and systems changes for the 2026 election.

Requiring postage-paid envelopes for all absentee ballots in all districts. The number of absentee vote envelopes is based on 2024 numbers.

	Biennial cost
Primary Election: 9,504 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope =	\$ 6.9
General Election: 51,212 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope =	<u>\$ 37.4</u>
Contractual Services	\$ 44.3

*Note: Primary and General Election costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the increment language section should be **half this amount or \$22.5.***

	Annual cost
REAA Election: 5,000 absentee voters x 73-cent stamp/envelope =	<u>\$ 3.6</u>
Contractual Services	\$ 3.6

Cost of staff required by this legislation:

One full-time position as Rural Community Liaison Range 16	Annual Cost
Personal Services	\$ 101.2
Travel	\$ 5.0
Contractual Services	\$ 15.0
Commodities	<u>\$ 3.0</u>
Total Annual Cost	\$ 124.2

	Biennial cost
Personal Services five temporary staff for managing the cure process	\$ 80.0

*Note: Primary and General Election costs are smoothed over two years in the operating appropriations bill language section. If enacted, the increment should be **half this amount or 40.0.***

FY26 Capital Costs for new systems required by this legislation:

Ballot tracking system and software	\$ 100.0
Voter registration system modifications for language preference	\$ 500.0
Legislative report recommending options for expanding early voting in rural precincts	\$ 65.0
Drop Boxes (15) for by-mail elections in municipalities of 20,000 or more residents	<u>\$ 100.0</u>
TOTAL Capital Costs	\$ 765.0