

HB

289

Alaska
MUNICIPAL
League

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March 31, 1983

To: House State Affairs
From: Ginny Chitwood, Executive Director *g.c.*
Re: HB 289 - Opening Polls at 7:00 a.m.

The Alaska Municipal League opposes HB 289 based on recommendations from the municipal clerks who say that experience has shown that extension of polling hours has not increased voter turnout and has been costly. We are presently checking with clerks who are meeting this week in Anchorage to find out which municipalities have tried poll hour extensions and the individual results.

LEGISLATION, ELECTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONS

Table 6
POLLING HOURS: GENERAL ELECTIONS

State or other jurisdiction	Polls open	Polls close	Notes on hours
Alabama	8 a.m.	6 p.m.	Opening and closing times not mandatory; polls must be open at least 10 consecutive hours.
Alaska	8 a.m.	8 p.m.	
Arizona	6 a.m.	7 p.m.	
Arkansas	8 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	Polls may open at 7 a.m.
California	7 a.m.	8 p.m.	(Charter cities may set different hours for municipal elections.)
Colorado	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	
Connecticut	6 a.m.	8 p.m.	
Delaware	7 a.m.	8 p.m.	
Florida	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	
Georgia	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	In cities of 300,000 or more, polls remain open until 8 p.m.
Hawaii	7 a.m.	6 p.m.	Voters standing in line at 6 p.m. may vote. No one may join line after 6 p.m.
Idaho	8 a.m.	8 p.m.	Polls close 8 p.m. or earlier when all registered electors of the precinct have appeared and voted. County clerk has option of opening polls at 7 a.m.
Illinois	6 a.m.	7 p.m.	
Indiana	6 a.m.	6 p.m.	
Iowa	7 a.m.	9 p.m.	
Kansas	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	Hours may be changed by election authorities, but polls must be kept open at least 12 consecutive hours between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m.
Kentucky	6 a.m.	6 p.m.	Persons in line may vote until 7 p.m.
Louisiana	6 a.m.	8 p.m.	Persons in line at 8 p.m. are entitled to vote.
Maine	Between 6 a.m. & 10 a.m.	Between 8 p.m. & 9 p.m.	Only municipalities using voting machines have the option of staying open until 9 p.m.
Maryland	7 a.m.	3 p.m.	
Massachusetts	May open as early as 5:45 a.m.; must be opened by 10 a.m.	8 p.m.	In cities and towns, the polls shall be kept open at least 10 hours.
Michigan	7 a.m.	8 p.m.	
Minnesota	7 a.m.	8 p.m.	Municipalities of less than 1,000 may establish hours of 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Mississippi	7 a.m.	6 p.m.	
Missouri	6 a.m.	7 p.m.	
Montana	8 a.m. 12 p.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m. or earlier when all registered in any precinct have voted.	In precincts of less than 100 registered voters.
Nebraska	7 a.m. 8 a.m.	7 p.m. 8 p.m.	Mountain Time Zone. Central Time Zone.
Nevada	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	
New Hampshire	Varies	Varies	Cities: Polls open not less than 4 hours and may be opened not earlier than 6 a.m. nor later than 8 p.m. Small towns: In towns of less than 700 population the polls shall be open not less than 5 consecutive hours. On written request of 7 registered voters the polls shall be kept open until 6 p.m. In towns of less than 100 population, the polls shall close if all on the checklist have voted. Other towns: Polls shall open not later than 10 a.m. and close not earlier than 6 p.m. On written request of 10 registered voters the polls shall be kept open until 7 p.m.
New Jersey	7 a.m.	8 p.m.	
New Mexico	8 a.m.	7 p.m.	
New York	6 a.m.	9 p.m.	
North Carolina	6:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	In voting precincts where voting machines are used, county board of elections may permit closing at 8:30 p.m.
North Dakota	Between 7 a.m. & 9 a.m.	Between 7 p.m. & 9 p.m.	
Ohio	6:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.	
Oklahoma	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	
Oregon	8 a.m.	8 p.m.	
Pennsylvania	7 a.m.	8 p.m.	
Rhode Island	Between 7 a.m. & 12 noon	9 p.m.	

State or other jurisdiction

South Carolina

South Dakota

Tennessee

Texas

Utah

Vermont

Virginia

Washington

West Virginia

Wisconsin

Wyoming

Dist. of Col.

American Samoa

Guam

Puerto Rico

ELECTIONS

<i>State or other jurisdiction</i>	<i>Polls open</i>	<i>Polls close</i>	<i>Notes on hours</i>
South Carolina	8 a.m.	7 p.m.	Lancaster County is allowed to keep polls open until 8 p.m.
South Dakota	7 a.m. 8 a.m.	7 p.m. 8 p.m.	Mountain Time Zone. Central Time Zone.
Tennessee	Varies.	8 p.m. EST 7 p.m. CST	Polls must be open minimum of 10 and maximum of 13 continuous hours.
Texas	7 a.m.	7 p.m.	In counties of more than one million population the polls may be opened at 6 a.m.
Utah	7 a.m.	8 p.m.
Vermont	Between 6 a.m. & 10 a.m.	Not later than 7 p.m.	Polls must be open at least 9 consecutive hours during the day.
Virginia	6 a.m.	7 p.m.
Washington	7 a.m.	8 p.m.
West Virginia	6:30 a.m.	7:30 p.m.
Wisconsin	7 a.m. 9 a.m.	8 p.m. 8 p.m.	1st, 2nd and 3rd class cities. 4th class cities, villages and towns. Opening hours extendable by governing body to not earlier than 7 a.m.
Wyoming	8 a.m.	7 p.m.
Dist. of Col.	7 a.m.	8 p.m.
American Samoa	6 a.m.	6 p.m.
Guam	8 a.m.	8 p.m.
Puerto Rico	9 a.m.	3 p.m.