

HB

141

HFIN

FILE

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSSHB 141(STA)

Title: An Act relating to preferential voting
Sponsor: Representative Kott
Requestor: _____

Dept. Affected: Office of the Governor
BRU: Elections
Components: _____
Serial #: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

OPERATING	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	175.0	295.0	0.0	295.0	0.0	295.0
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants, Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	175.0	295.0	0.0	295.0	0.0	295.0

CAPITAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
----------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

REVENUE	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
----------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

FUNDING: (THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS)

General Fund	175.0	295.0	0.0	295.0	0.0	295.0
Federal Fund						
Other						
TOTAL	175.0	295.0	0.0	295.0	0.0	295.0

POSITIONS:

Full-Time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-Time	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary	0	0	0	0	0	0

ANALYSIS: (ATTACH A SEPARATE PAGE IF NECESSARY)

See attached sheet for additional details.

FY 2000 expenditure of \$175.0 is for programming enhancements to the GEMS software.

The subsequent odd year funding includes: \$150.0 for ballot printing; \$20.0 for voter education/advertising; \$40.0 for training; \$40.0 for postage/shipping; and \$45.0 for election worker payments.

Prepared by: _____
Representative Gene Therriault
Representative Eldon Mulder

Date: 04/28/99
Phone: 465-4797
Phone: 465-2647

FISCAL NOTE

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STATE OF ALASKA
 1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Office of the Governor
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 Component _____
 Sponsor Representative Kott
 Requester House Finance Committee Component Serial No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual	1,872.0	535.0	35.0	535.0	35.0	535.0
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	1,872.0	535.0	35.0	535.0	35.0	535.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF	1,872.0	535.0	35.0	535.0	35.0	535.0
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	1,872.0	535.0	35.0	535.0	35.0	535.0

Estimate of any current year (FY99) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The \$1,872.0 includes the following: \$290.0 for increase in ballot printing costs; \$250.0 for programming enhancements to the GEMS software; \$1,092.0 for the purchase of 168 Accu-Vote precinct tabulators; \$40.0 for voter education/advertising; \$50.0 for an increase in election worker training; \$80.0 for an increase in postage and shipping; \$45.0 for additional election worker payments; \$25.0 for a contract with an outside accounting firm.

The division believes that in order to get the most accurate and quickest results, an Accu-Vote precinct tabulator must be purchased for the 168 hand-count precincts. If an Accu-Vote is not purchased in each hand-count precinct, the inaccuracy and timeliness of the ballot count will increase significantly. The division would prefer to deal with the logistics of shipping and storage of the additional Accu-Vote units versus the increase risk of counting errors in the 168 hand-count precincts.

Prepared by Gail Fenumai Phone 465-3935
 Division Division of Elections Date/Time 4/6/99 9:42 AM
 Approved by Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer Date 4/6/99
 Agency Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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Fiscal Note - CSSH 141(STA)
Prepared by the Division of Elections, 4/6/99
Page 2 of 2

Analysis continued

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STATE OF ALASKA
DEMONSTRATION BALLOT

August 29, 1999

Completely fill in the oval opposite the name of each candidate for which you wish to vote. ●

UNITED STATES
SENATOR
(Vote for one)

CRANE, MIKE Green
TRIGG, SANDI Democrat
VALENTINE, JUDY Republican

UNITED STATES
REPRESENTATIVE
(Vote for one)

THOMPSON, PAM Republican
GIANG, MELISSA Alaskan Independence
CARTER, SHELLY Democrat

GOVERNOR
(Vote for one)

CROW, BARBARA Green
WHITING, GAIL Alaskan Independence
DANIELS, DANA Republican

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
(Vote for one)

ALLRED, SANDRA Democrat
BREEZE, JOHN Republican
RUSH, MARILYN Alaskan Independence

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT A
(Vote for one)

CURRIER, ELVA Alaskan Independence
SIMS, MITCH Democrat
COLLINS, LORRAINE Republican

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 10
(Vote for one)

PRYOR, ALYCE Republican
HOUSTON, LYNDIA Alaskan Independence
SPEEGLE, MEGAN Democrat

CSSS HB141 ()
FISCAL NOTE EXPLANATION
Prepared by the Division of Elections, 4/27/99

\$1,092.0	Cost of purchasing precinct tabulators and ballot boxes for the 168 hand count precincts.
\$250.0	Anticipated cost of modifying the GEMS software to accommodate preferential voting.
\$290.0	Increase in ballot printing Doubled the cost of printing ballots for the 1998 primary and general elections. It is anticipated that preferential voting will double the size of the ballot.
\$40.0	Voter education/advertising Statewide voter education drive with radio, tv, printed media, newspaper advertising. Voters must be educated about this new voting method prior to going to the polls on election day where their confusion may lead to potential problems for election workers, create long lines and turn people away from voting.
\$50.0	Increase in election worker training We anticipate the number of hours required in a training will increase. Election workers are paid for their training hours. If it takes longer in each community to train, there can be fewer communities trained in a day. Therefore the travel costs to the division staff will also increase. Includes production of a training video for backup purposes.
\$80.0	Increase in postage and shipping With an increase in ballot size, it will cost more to ship ballots to the precincts from the regional offices and from the precincts back to Juneau after the election. This also includes an increase cost in mailing absentee by mail ballots.
\$45.0	Increase in election worker payments Additional election workers will be needed to count write in votes. During the 98 general election it cost approximately \$12.0 to count write in votes for only the gubernatorial race. Every write in vote will need to be counted for all races before the redistribution can take place.
\$25.0	Contract with outside accounting firm Division staff are not math majors/statisticians. The redistribution process will be entirely new to the division and is complex. We would feel much more comfortable having an independent authority overseeing the redistribution process to ensure that it is done correctly.
\$1,872.0	TOTAL

**Timeline for Certification
Under HB141
Prepared by the Division of Elections, 4/27/99**

Primary Election

The timeframe between the primary and general election is very tight. There are generally 10-11 weeks between the primary and general election.

During the 1998 primary election, the certification timeline went as follows:

Election day	8/25
SRB begins	9/4
15 th day	9/9
HD31 recount	9/16
Senate R recount	9/17
Certification target date	9/18
Actual certification date	9/18

Under HB141, it is anticipated that the certification timeline for the primary election would look as follows under the most optimistic of scenarios:

Election day	8/22
Determine redistribution races	8/23
15th day	9/6
Redistribution process	9/7 - 9/13 (5 working days)
Prep for SRB	9/14
SRB process	9/15 - 9/29 (11 working days)
Election certified	10/2
Five days are allowed asking for recount:	10/3 - 10/9 (5 working days)
1 day to 5 days for house or statewide recounts respectively:	10/10 - 10/16

Ballots for the precincts must be in the division of election offices no later than 25 days before an election (10/13). This timeframe puts us past the deadline of needing to have ballots in our office. This timeframe did not take into account any court challenges that could arise from close races in the primary election.

Certification Timeline
HB141

General Election

During the 1998 general election, the certification timeline went as follows:

Election day	11/3
SRB begins	11/13
15 th day	11/18
HD35 recount	11/23
HD36 recount	11/24
Certification target date	11/30
Actual certification date	12/1
Gov/Lt. Gov sworn in	12/7

Under HB141, it is anticipated that the certification timeline would look as follows under the most optimistic of scenarios:

Election day	11/7
Determine what races redistribution will most likely need to be done	11/8
Write-in votes counted	11/9-22
15 th day	11/22
Redistribution process	11/23-27
SRB process	11/27-12/11
Potential recounts	approx. 1 day required for legislative race approx. 1 week minimum for statewide race
Gov/Lt Gov sworn in	12/5 (according to article 3, section 4 AK Const.)
Election certified	12/12

Under Article 3, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution, the governor is to be sworn into office at noon on the first Monday in December. With a preferential voting system, it is extremely unlikely that this could happen.

SCENARIO 2 - Many mod rights and mod lefts only have first choices.

<u>Party:</u>	<u>MODRIGHT</u>	<u>MODLEFT</u>	<u>FLAT EARTH</u>	<u>NEO NAZI</u>
<u>Voters:</u>				
(ROUND 1)	mm rr ww	v aa ff	k p u	a f
	in ss xx	w bb gg	l q	b g
	oo tt yy	x cc hh	m r	c h
	pp uu zz	y dd ii	n s	d i
	qq vv	z ee jj	o t	e i
	<hr/> 14	kk	<hr/> 11	<hr/> 10
		ll		
		<hr/> 17		

	<u>MODRIGHT</u>	<u>MODLEFT</u>	<u>FLAT EARTH</u>
(ROUND 2) Add:	<hr/> h	i	a f
	1	<hr/> j	b
	+14	2	c
	<hr/> 15	+17	d
		19	e
			<hr/> 7
			+11
			<hr/> 18

	<u>MODLEFT</u>	<u>FLAT EARTH</u>
(ROUND 3) Add:		uu
		vv
		ll
	<hr/> ww	<hr/> mm
	1	4
	+19	+18
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 22
	(xx, yy, zz had only 1st choice)	(nn, oo, pp, qq, rr, ss, tt, had only 1st choice)

Third choice wins, still no majority.

Surprising Results from HB 141

The following example of a general election shows that HB 141 does not keep candidates who are out of step with the public from being elected into office. In fact, it can hand them the election.

I. *A Simple Scenario*

A. Three parties each place a candidate in the race

- Alaska Party
- Frontier Party
- Oddball Party

B. 100 voters participate in election

C. Each voter remembers to rank each candidate with a 1, 2, or 3.

D. Each voter has one of five attitudes toward each candidate

- Love
- Like
- Neutral
- Dislike
- Hate

II. *On Election Eve, A Poll of All 100 Voters*

A. Alaskan Candidate

- 49 love
- 26 ~~like~~ dislike
- 25 hate
- Approval rating: $49 + 26 = 75$
- Disapproval rating: 25

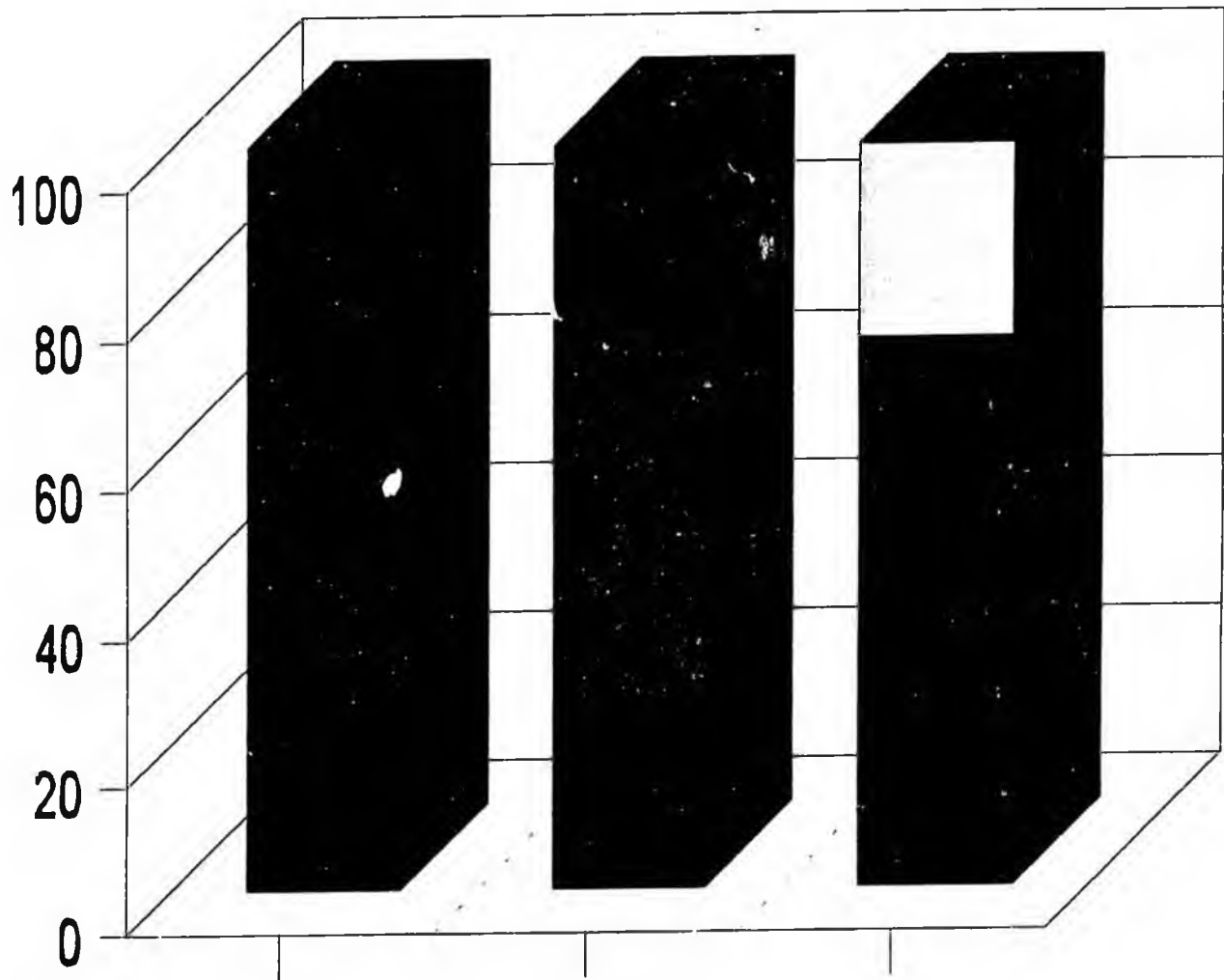
B. Frontier Candidate

- 49 like
- 26 hate
- 25 love
- Approval rating: $49 + 25 = 74$
- Disapproval rating: 26

C. Oddball Candidate

- 26 neutral
- 25 dislike
- 49 hate
- Approval rating: 0
- Disapproval rating: $49 + 25 = 74$

Voter Attitudes



Alaskan

Frontier

Oddball



Love



Like



Neutral



Dislike



Hate

III. *The 100 Voters Cast Their Ballots*

A. 49 voters

- Love Alaskan 13 1
- Like Frontier 13 2
- Hate Oddball 13 3

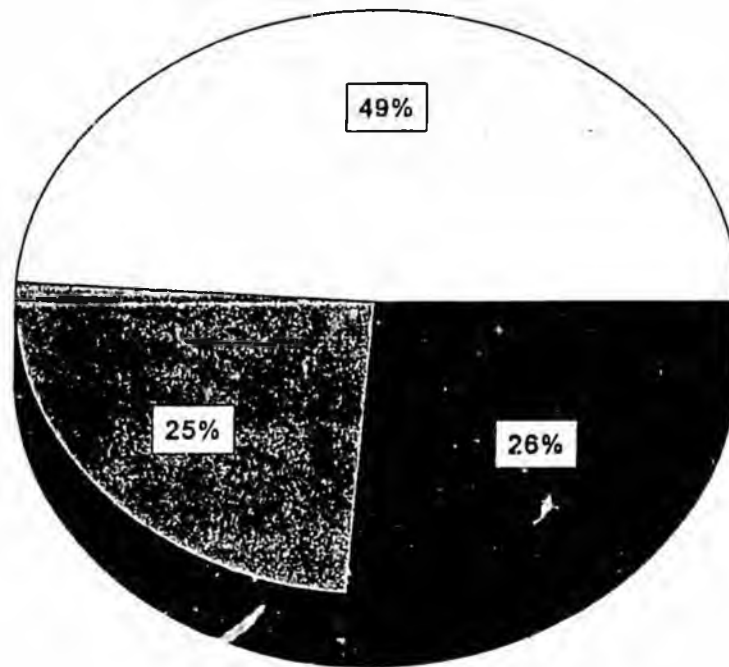
B. 26 voters

- Neutral toward Oddball 13 1
- Dislike Alaskan 13 2
- Hate Frontier 13 3

C. 25 voters

- Love Frontier 13 1
- Dislike Oddball 13 2
- Hate Alaskan 13 3

Current Law

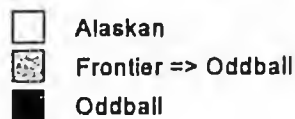
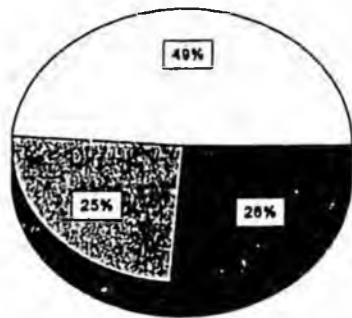


Alaskan Frontier Oddball

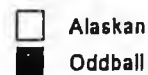
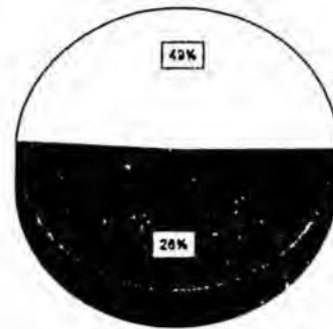
Under current law, which only counts first place votes, the winner is obvious

- Alaskan is first, with 49 votes
- Oddball is second, with 26 votes
- Frontier is third, with 25 votes

Current Law



HB 141



Under HB 141, which gives the last place finisher's votes to other candidates, the winner is surprising

- Alaskan again has 49 votes
- With just 25 votes, Frontier is eliminated
- The 25 votes Frontier received are given to Oddball, the second choice of Frontier's voters
- The 25 votes from Frontier are added to Oddball's 26 first place votes for a total Oddball vote of 51
- Oddball defeats Alaskan, 51-49

IV. *Why Oddball's Win under HB 141 is Surprising*

- A. Not one voter loves or likes Oddball, yet Oddball wins**
- B. 74 out of 100 voters dislike or hate Oddball, yet Oddball wins**
- C. 74 love or like Frontier, yet Frontier loses**
- D. 74 prefer Frontier to Oddball, yet Oddball wins**

HB 141 SECTIONAL ANALYSIS

- Section 1: This section defines "political party".
- Section 2: This section provides that the director will design the ballot to accommodate preferential voting for the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, legislature, President and Vice-President, and United States Congress.
- The ballot shall direct the voter to mark candidates in order of preference for up to five choices, and not to assign a particular ranking to more than one candidate. This ballot will also permit the ranking of write-in candidates, which will remain as one write-in per office.
- Section 3: This section sets forth the general procedure for ballot count. It gives the director the authority to adopt any and all regulations defining the manner in which ballot count is accomplished, so as to expedite the process.
- Section 4: This section explains how preferential voting works. The first choice votes shall be counted first. If after the first counting, a candidate has received a majority (50% + 1), there will be no further counting. If no candidate, after the first count, has received a majority, than all candidates with fewer than two percent of the first choice votes are declared defeated simultaneously, and their votes re-distributed. The process of elimination will continue until one candidate has received a majority of the votes.
- This section also explains what to do in the case of a mis-marked ballot. If a more than one candidate is given the same ranking (like three different candidates on one ballot all being ranked first), than that ballot will be declared invalid. However if only one candidate is ranked on the ballot, that one vote shall be counted. If a ballot skips a ranking, then all accurate rankings will be counted. This section also provides statutory language for ties.
- Section 5: This section provides for the completion of ballot count and directs the election board to make a certificate in duplicate of the results. It also directs the board where to send the certificates. The director is given the authority to prescribe the manner in which the ballots, registers and all other materials are thereafter preserved, transferred and destroyed.
- Section 6: This section authorizes payment of election board members, changing the language from "chairman" and "chairmen" to "chairs".
- Section 7: This section sets forth and defines "a review" of ballots. It removes language in accordance with punch-card ballots.

- Section 8: This section sets forth the certification of state ballot counting review. It adds "a majority" to the language and removes "the largest number" language.
- Section 9: This section provides the manner in which special state absentee ballots are handled.
- Section 10: This section defines the procedure for recount. It removes the language regarding punch-card ballots.
- Section 11: This section regards the preparation and distribution for the primary election ballots.
- Section 12: This section instructs the director to include instructions on blanket primary election ballots, for ranking candidates within each political party.
- Section 13: This section involves the placement of nominees on general election ballots.
- Section 14: This section defines "ballot" and takes out the language involving punch-card ballots.
- Section 15: This defines "political party", adding the language "first choice" votes cast where applicable.
- Section 16: This section adds a subsection that provides municipalities with the option to provide for preferential voting.
- Section 17: This section repeals all statutes necessary to accommodate preferential voting.

CSSS HB141 ()
FISCAL NOTE EXPLANATION
Prepared by the Division of Elections, 4/27/99

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Prepared by the Division of Elections, 4/27/99**

Primary Election

The timeframe between the primary and general election is very tight. There are generally 10-11 weeks between the primary and general election.

During the 1998 primary election, the certification timeline went as follows:

Election day	8/25
SRB begins	9/4
15 th day	9/9
HD31 recount	9/16
Senate R recount	9/17
Certification target date	9/18
Actual certification date	9/18

Under HB141, it is anticipated that the certification timeline for the primary election would look as follows under the most optimistic of scenarios:

Election day	8/22
Determine redistribution races	8/23
15 th day	9/6
Distribution process	9/7 - 9/13 (5 working days)
Prep for SRB	9/14
SRB process	9/15 - 9/29 (11 working days)
Election certified	10/2
Five days are allowed asking for recount:	10/3 - 10/9 (5 working days)
1 day to 5 days for house or statewide recounts respectively:	10/10 - 10/16

Ballots for the precincts must be in the division of election offices no later than 25 days before an election (10/13). This timeframe puts us past the deadline of needing to have ballots in our office. This timeframe did not take into account any court challenges that could arise from close races in the primary election.

Certification Timeline
HB141

General Election

During the 1998 general election, the certification timeline went as follows:

Election day	11/3
SRB begins	11/13
15 th day	11/18
HD35 recount	11/23
HD36 recount	11/24
Certification target date	11/30
Actual certification date	12/1
Gov/Lt. Gov sworn in	12/7

Under HB141, it is anticipated that the certification timeline would look as follows under the most optimistic of scenarios:

Election day	11/7
Determine what races redistribution will most likely need to be done	11/8
Write-in votes counted	11/9-22
15 th day	11/22
Redistribution process	11/23-27
SRB process	11/27-12/11
Potential recounts	approx. 1 day required for legislative race approx. 1 week minimum for statewide race
Gov/Lt Gov sworn in	12/5 (according to article 3, section 4 AK Const.)
Election certified	12/12

Under Article 3, Section 4 of the Alaska Constitution, the governor is to be sworn into office at noon on the first Monday in December. With a preferential voting system, it is extremely unlikely that this could happen.

1-LS0669\S
Kurtz/
4/19/99

adopted N/D 4/20/99

CS FOR SPONSOR SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 141()

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES KOTT, Porter, Cowdery, Green

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act providing for preferential voting in federal, state, and local elections;
2 relating to the preparation of ballots; relating to the definition of 'political party';
3 relating to the counting of ballots; and repealing punch-card voting."

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

5 * Section 1. AS 15.13.400(10) is amended to read:

6 (10) "political party" means

7 (A) an organized group of voters that represents a political
8 program and that nominated a candidate for governor who received at least
9 three percent of the total first choice votes cast at any one of the last five
10 preceding general elections for governor; and

11 (B) a subordinate unit of the organized group of voters
12 qualifying as a political party under (A) of this paragraph if, consistent with the
13 rules or bylaws of the political party, the unit conducts or supports campaign
14 operations in a municipality, neighborhood, election district, or precinct;

1 * Sec. 2. AS 15.15.030 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

2 (14) The director shall design the ballot to accommodate preferential
3 voting for candidates for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor, for
4 candidates for the legislature, for candidates for the offices of President and Vice-
5 President of the United States, and for candidates for the United States Congress. The
6 ballot shall direct the voter to mark candidates in order of preference and to mark no
7 more than five choices, but not to assign the same ranking to more than one candidate.
8 The ballot shall permit the ranking of write-in candidates as well as candidates whose
9 names are printed on the ballot.

10 * Sec. 3. AS 15.15.350 is amended to read:

11 **Sec. 15.15.350. General procedure for ballot count.** (a) The director may
12 adopt regulations prescribing the manner in which the [PRECINCT] ballot count is
13 accomplished so as to assure accuracy in the count and to expedite the process.

14 (b) An [THE] election board shall account for all ballots in its precinct by
15 completing a ballot statement containing (1) the number of official ballots received;
16 (2) the number of official ballots voted; (3) the number of official ballots spoiled; (4)
17 the number of official ballots unused and destroyed. The board shall count the number
18 of questioned ballots and shall compare that number to the number of questioned
19 voters in the register. Discrepancies shall be noted and the numbers included in the
20 certificate prescribed by AS 15.15.370. The election board shall count the ballots in
21 a manner that allows watchers to see the ballots when opened and read. A [NO]
22 person handling the ballot after it has been taken from the ballot box and before it is
23 placed in the envelope for mailing may not have a marking device in hand or remove
24 a ballot from the immediate vicinity of the polls.

25 (c) [(b)] Ballots may not be counted before 8:00 p.m., local time, on the day
26 of the election.

27 * Sec. 4. AS 15.15.350 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (d) The first choice votes shall be counted first. If, after all ballots are
29 counted, a candidate has obtained a majority of the first choice votes, further counting
30 is not necessary. If no candidate has obtained a majority of the first choice votes, then
31 all candidates with fewer than two percent of the first choice votes shall be declared

1 defeated simultaneously. Ballots cast for these defeated candidates shall be transferred
2 to the next choice candidate marked on each ballot. If no candidate receives a
3 majority of the retabulated votes, then the remaining candidate with the fewest first
4 choice votes shall be declared defeated. This process of elimination and transfer shall
5 be continued until one candidate has a majority of the votes or is the sole remaining
6 candidate, or there is a tie vote between all remaining candidates. If a ballot has no
7 more available preferences, that ballot shall be declared exhausted. A ballot assigning
8 the same ranking to more than one candidate for an office shall be declared invalid
9 when the double ranking is reached. If a ballot skips a ranking, then the next ranking
10 shall be counted. If there is a tie vote between all remaining candidates, the
11 procedures in AS 15.15.460 and AS 15.20.430 - 15.20.530 shall be followed.

12 * Sec. 5. AS 15.15.370 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 15.15.370. Completion of ballot count.** When the count of ballots is
14 completed, and in no event later than the day after the election, the election board shall
15 make a certificate in duplicate of the results. The certificate includes the number of
16 first choice votes cast for each candidate, votes for and against each proposition, yes
17 or no votes on each question, and any additional information prescribed by the
18 director. The election board shall, immediately upon completion of the certificate or
19 as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits, send in one sealed package to the
20 director one copy of the certificate and the register. In addition, all ballots properly
21 cast shall be mailed to the director in a separate, sealed package. Both packages, in
22 addition to an address on the outside, shall clearly indicate the precinct from which
23 they come. Each board shall, immediately upon completion of the certification and
24 as soon thereafter as the local mail service permits, send the duplicate certificate to the
25 respective election supervisor. The director may authorize election boards in precincts
26 in those areas of the state where distance and weather make mail communication
27 unreliable to forward their election results by telephone, telegram, or radio. The
28 director may authorize the unofficial totaling of votes on a regional basis by election
29 supervisors, tallying the votes as indicated on duplicate certificates. To assure
30 adequate protection, the director shall prescribe the manner in which the ballots,
31 registers, and all other election records and materials are thereafter preserved,

1 transferred, and destroyed.

2 * Sec. 6. AS 15.15.390 is amended to read:

3 **Sec. 15.15.380. Payment of election board members.** The director shall pay
4 each election board member for time spent at election duties, including the receiving
5 of instructions. Election board chairs [CHAIRMEN] and the chair [CHAIRMAN] and
6 members of the absentee ballot review board, questioned ballot review board and
7 state ballot counting review boards shall be paid for time spent at their election duties.

8 The director shall set the compensation to be paid under this section by regulation.

9 * Sec. 7. AS 15.15.430(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) The review of ballot counting by the director shall include only a review

11 (1) [A REVIEW] and comparison of the tallies of hand-marked ballots
12 in the election poll books with the precinct election certificates to correct any
13 mathematical error in the count of hand-marked ballots; and

14 (2) [A REVIEW OF THE TALLIES OF WRITE-IN VOTES AND A
15 REVIEW OF ELECTION CERTIFICATES AS PROVIDED BY LAW FROM
16 PRECINCTS USING PUNCH-CARD BALLOTS;

17 (3) A REVIEW] of absentee and questioned ballots as prescribed by
18 law.

19 * Sec. 8. AS 15.15.450 is amended to read:

20 **Sec. 15.15.450. Certification of state ballot counting review.** Upon
21 completion of the state ballot counting review, the director shall certify the person
22 receiving a majority [THE LARGEST NUMBER] of votes for the office for which
23 that person was a candidate as elected to that office and shall certify the approval of
24 a justice or judge not rejected by a majority of the voters voting on the question. The
25 director shall issue to the elected candidates and approved justices and judges [,] a
26 certificate of their election or approval. The director shall also certify the results of
27 a proposition and other question except that the lieutenant governor shall certify the
28 results of an initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment.

29 * Sec. 9. AS 15.20.082(c) is amended to read:

30 (c) A special state absentee ballot prepared for the state general election or for
31 a state special election shall, if the names of candidates are not yet certified, permit

1 a voter to cast a ballot for all the candidates of a particular political party that expects
2 to have candidates appear on the ballot; for this purpose, the director shall prepare the
3 ballot with party boxes and a blank line for each office to be voted on in that election.
4 The voter may vote for a candidate for that office by writing in the name of a person
5 and marking the box to the right of that name, or the voter may mark one of the party
6 boxes. If the voter puts a mark in a party box for that office, the director shall count
7 the mark as a vote cast for the candidate for that office nominated by that party. If
8 the voter writes in a name for an office, the vote shall be counted as a write-in vote
9 for that office. The director shall count the ballots under AS 15.15.350 and 15.15.360
10 [AS 15.15.360]. The director shall provide the voter with the names of each candidate
11 appearing on the primary election ballot and the names of any candidates who have
12 qualified by petition to appear on the general election ballot.

13 * **Sec. 10.** AS 15.20.480 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 15.20.480. Procedure for recount.** In conducting the recount, the
15 director shall review all ballots whether the ballots were counted at the precinct or by
16 computer or by the district absentee counting board or the questioned ballot counting
17 board to determine which ballots, or part of ballots, were properly marked and which
18 ballots are to be counted in the recount, and shall check the accuracy of the original
19 count, the precinct certificate and the review. The director shall check the number of
20 ballots and questioned ballots cast in a precinct against the registers and shall check
21 absentee ballots voted against absentee ballots distributed. The director shall count
22 absentee ballots received before the completion of the recount. For administrative
23 purposes, the director may join and include two or more applications in a single review
24 and count of votes. The rules in AS 15.15.360 governing the counting of hand-marked
25 ballots [AND THE RULES IN AS 15.20.730 GOVERNING THE COUNTING OF
26 PUNCH-CARD BALLOTS] shall be followed in the recount. The ballots and other
27 election material must remain in the custody of the director during the recount, and the
28 highest degree of care shall be exercised to protect the ballots against alteration or
29 mutilation. The recount shall be completed within 10 days. The director may employ
30 additional personnel necessary to assist in the recount.

31 * **Sec. 11.** AS 15.25.060 is amended to read:

1 **Sec. 15.25.060. Preparation and distribution of ballots.** The primary
2 election ballot shall be prepared and distributed by the director in the manner
3 prescribed for general election ballots except as specifically provided otherwise for the
4 primary election. The director shall print the ballot on white paper and place the
5 names of all candidates who have properly filed in groups according to offices filed
6 for and [, WITHOUT REGARD TO] party affiliation. The order of the placement of
7 the names for each office shall be as provided for the general election ballot. Blank
8 spaces may not be provided on the ballot for the writing or pasting in of names.

9 * **Sec. 12.** AS 15.25.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

10 (b) The director shall include instructions on blanket primary election ballots
11 directing the voter to mark candidates for an office within a single political party in
12 order of preference and to mark as many choices as the voter wishes within a single
13 political party, but not to assign the same ranking to more than one candidate or to
14 rank candidates from more than one party.

15 * **Sec. 13.** AS 15.25.100 is amended to read:

16 **Sec. 15.25.100. Placement of nominees on general election ballot.** Except
17 when an election results in a tie vote, [THE] director shall place the name of the
18 candidate receiving a majority [THE HIGHEST NUMBER] of votes for an office by
19 a political party on the general election ballot.

20 * **Sec. 14.** AS 15.60.010(2) is amended to read:

21 (2) "ballot" means a hand-marked ballot [AND A PUNCH-CARD
22 BALLOT];

23 * **Sec. 15.** AS 15.60.010(20) is amended to read:

24 (20) "political party" means an organized group of voters that
25 represents a political program and that either nominated a candidate for governor who
26 received at least three percent of the total first choice votes cast for governor at the
27 preceding general election or has registered voters in the state equal in number to at
28 least three percent of the total votes cast for governor at the preceding general election;

29 * **Sec. 16.** AS 29.26.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

30 (d) A municipality may, by ordinance, provide for preferential voting under
31 which voters rank candidates in order of preference, and, if no candidate obtains a

1 majority of first choice votes, votes are transferred in sequential tabulations according
2 to voters' preferences in the manner set out in AS 15.15.350(c).

3 * Sec. 17. AS 15.15.030(12), 15.15.360(c); AS 15.20.190(b), 15.20.590, 15.20.600,
4 15.20.609, 15.20.610, 15.20.620, 15.20.630, 15.20.640, 15.20.650, 15.20.660, 15.20.670,
5 15.20.680, 15.20.685, 15.20.690, 15.20.700, 15.20.710, 15.20.720, 15.20.730, 15.20.740; and
6 AS 15.60.010(24) are repealed.

5-14-99

adopted NO/UBJ

#1

I-LS0669\S.1
Kurtz
4/20/99

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE THERRIAULT

TO: CSSSHB 141(), Draft Version "S"

- 1 Page 2, line 8:
- 2 Following "of":
- 3 Insert "one"
- 4 Following "write-in":
- 5 Delete "candidates"
- 6 Insert "candidate for each office"

5-14-99

#2

adopted as amended

NO OBJ

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

TO: CSSHPR 141()
Version "S" 4/19/99

add

Page 3, line 3:

After "fewest" rehabilitated"

Delete "~~first choice~~"

Amendment

#3

Failed

Offered in the House

CSHB 141 (STA)

Representative John Davies

Delete

Page 2, Sec. 14 Lines 4 and 5

“for the offices of President and Vice-President of the United States.”

**STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICIAL BALLOT
PRIMARY ELECTION
AUGUST 25, 1998**

Completely fill in the oval opposite the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote.

UNITED STATES SENATOR			
(Mark your choice by preference. You may not vote for candidates from different political parties.)			
		1 st choice	2 nd choice
VONDERSAAR, FRANK	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SONNEMAN, JOSEPH A. "JOE"	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GOTTLIEB, JEFFREY	Green	<input type="radio"/>	
KOHLHAAS, SCOTT A.	Libertarian	<input type="radio"/>	
MURKOWSKI, FRANK H.	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HALE, WILLIAM L. "BILL"	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE			
(Mark your choice by preference. You may not vote for candidates from different political parties.)			
		1 st choice	2 nd choice
PECHEK, STUART D. "STU"	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DUNCAN, JIM	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
GRAMES, JOHN J.G. "JOHNNY"	Green	<input type="radio"/>	
YOUNG, DON	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
DORE, JIM	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

GOVERNOR				
(Mark your choice by preference. You may not vote for candidates from different political parties.)				
		1 st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
GIGLER, ROBERT ALAN	AK Independence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HALDANE, HAROLD A. "SANDY"	AK Independence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SULLIVAN, SYLVIA C.	AK Independence	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
WRIGHT, DON	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ANDERSON, NELS, JR.	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
KNOWLES, TONY	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SYKES, JIM	Green	<input type="radio"/>		
LINDAUER, JOHN	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
TAYLOR, ROBIN L.	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ROSS, WAYNE A.	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
METCALFE, RAY	Rep Moderate	<input type="radio"/>		

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

(Mark your choice by preference. You may not vote for candidates from different political parties.)

		1 st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	4th choice
HARRISON, DAVID	AK Independence	<input type="radio"/>			
ULMER, FRAN	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>			
WINN, DAN	Green	<input type="radio"/>			
HOLMES, DOYLE E.	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SMITH, DON	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
WARD, JERRY	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
COLLINS, VIRGINIA	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
BAXLEY, CLYDE P.	Rep Moderate	<input type="radio"/>			

**STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT R**

(Mark your choice by preference. You may not vote for candidates from different political parties.)

		1 st choice	2nd choice
COTTLE, BERT L.	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	
TATE, PHYLLIS M.	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
SMITH, SCOTT	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 35**

(Mark your choice by preference. You may not vote for candidates from different political parties.)

		1 st choice	2nd choice
VAN BROCKLIN, THOMAS	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	
VARNES, EDWARD A. "ED"	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
MAUER, ANNE	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT R (Vote for candidates in order of preference.)				
		1 st choice	2 nd choice	3 rd choice
SMITH, SCOTT	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LINCOLN, GEORGIANNA "GEORGE"	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 35 (Vote for candidates in order of preference.)				
		1 st choice	2 nd choice	3 rd choice
VAN BROCKLIN, THOMAS	Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
HARRIS, JOHN L.	Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

SUPREME COURT

Shall ROBERT L. EASTAUGH be retained as justice of the supreme court for ten years?

YES
NO

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT

Shall JOHN R. LOHFF be retained as judge of the district court for four years?

YES
NO

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT SUPERIOR COURT

Shall BEVERLY W. CUTLER be retained as judge of the superior court for six years?

YES
NO

Shall GREGORY J. MOTYKA be retained as judge of the district court for four years?

YES
NO

Shall SIGURD E. MURPHY be retained as judge of the district court for four years?

YES
NO

Shall JOHN E. REESE be retained as judge of the superior court for six years?

YES
NO

Shall M. FRANCIS NEVILLE be retained as judge of the district court for four years?

YES
NO

Shall STEPHANIE RHOADES be retained as judge of the district court for four years?

YES
NO

BALLOT MEASURES

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 1
HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3 (FIN)
Constitutional Amendment Limiting Prisoners'
Rights**

Ballot Measure No. 1 was removed by an order of the Supreme Court on September 22, 1998.

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 2
HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 42 (RLS)
Constitutional Amendment Limiting Marriage**

This measure would amend the Declaration of Rights section of the Alaska Constitution to limit marriage. The amendment would say that to be valid, a marriage may exist only between one man and one woman. Should this amendment be adopted?

YES

NO

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 3
SENATE CS FOR CS FOR
HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44 (JUD)
Constitutional Amendment to Reorganize
Reapportionment Board**

This measure changes the name, power and membership of the reapportionment board. Under existing law, the governor selects the reapportionment board. With the advice of the board, the governor draws the boundaries of election districts after each federal census. This measure creates a redistricting board and gives it the power to draw boundaries for 40 House and 20 Senate districts. Two members of the board would be chosen by the governor, and one each by the House speaker, the Senate president, and the chief justice of the Supreme Court. The board would have 90 days to act after being appointed. Should this amendment be adopted?

YES

NO

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 4

Ballot Measure No. 4 was not assigned for the 1998 general election.

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 5
INITIATIVE NO. 97BILL
An Act Prohibiting Billboards**

The bill states findings and intent that Alaska be forever free of billboards. It defines billboards as any signs or forms of outdoor advertising not allowed by law. The bill also repeals a law recently passed by the legislature which allows a new class of road signs outside of the right-of-way, visible from highways, off-site from where businesses are located. Those tourism directional signs have a standard format and size of 90 by 18 inches. The bill changes the penalty from a violation back to a misdemeanor for those who break the laws on outdoor advertising near state roads.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 6
INITIATIVE NO. 97ENGL
Requiring Government To Use English**

This bill requires the state to use English in all government functions and actions. State records must be in English. "The state" means the legislature, all state agencies, local governments, school districts, public corporations and the university. Those entities may use non-English languages for international trade, emergencies, teaching languages, court suits, criminal inquiries, for elected officials to talk to constituents or to comply with federal law. Costs of non-English records must be identified. Persons who speak only English may not be denied state jobs or services. The bill does not affect private sector use of non-English languages.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 7
INITIATIVE NO. 97TERM
Term Limits Pledge For Candidates**

This bill would require the lieutenant governor to allow candidates for the United States Congress or Alaska Legislature to make a term limits pledge. A candidate would pledge to limit service to three terms in the U.S. House and two in the Senate or to eight out of 16 years in the Alaska Legislature. The bill would require printing "signed term limits pledge" next to the pledging candidate's name on the ballot and other state election material. It would similarly require printing "broke term limits pledge" if a pledging candidate seeks a term exceeding the term limits in the pledge.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 8
INITIATIVE NO. 97PSDM
Bill Allowing Medical Use of Marijuana**

This bill would allow patients to use marijuana for certain medical purposes. A doctor must find that the patient has a debilitating medical condition that might benefit from marijuana. An eligible minor could use medical marijuana only under the consent and control of a parent. There would be limits on how much medical marijuana a patient could possess. Patients and their primary care-givers who comply with this law would not be guilty of a crime. The state would create a confidential registry of patients who may use medical marijuana. Non-medical use of marijuana would still be a crime.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO

**BALLOT MEASURE NO. 9
INITIATIVE NO. 97TRAP
Bill Prohibiting Trapping Wolves With Snares**

This bill would prohibit a person from using a snare with the intent of trapping a wolf. It would also prohibit a person from possessing, buying, selling, or offering to sell the skin of a wolf known by the person to have been caught with a snare. Breaking the law would be a Class A misdemeanor.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO

**School Committee
for Term of Two Years**

Instructions to Voters

**MARK YOUR CHOICES
BY FILLING IN THE
NUMBERED OVALS ONLY**

Fill in the number one (1) oval next to your first choice; fill in the number two (2) oval next to your second choice; fill in the number three (3) oval next to your third choice, and so on. You may fill in as many choices as you please.

Fill in no more than one oval per candidate.

Fill in no more than one oval per column.

To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in a numbered oval next to the name you have written, showing your choice as a number for a candidate.

If you spoil this ballot, return it for cancellation to the election officer in charge of the ballots and get another from such officer.

CANDIDATE FOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Only one vote per candidate.
Only one vote per column.

ALFRED B. FANTINI, 4 Canal Park	CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION	(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
JOSEPH G. GRASSI, 95-1/2 Spring Street	CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION	(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
ROBIN A. HARRIS, 23 Hews Street		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
DAVID P. MAHER, 120 Appleton Street	CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION	(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
SUSANA M. SEGAT, 94 Wendell Street	CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION	(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
DENISE SIMMONS, 188 Harvard Street	CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION	(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
CHARLES L. STEAD, SR., 40 Clifton Street		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
ALICE L. TURKEL, 12 Upton Street	CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION	(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
WRITE-IN _____		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
WRITE-IN _____		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
WRITE-IN _____		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
WRITE-IN _____		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
WRITE-IN _____		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)
WRITE-IN _____		(1) (2) (3)	(4) (5) (6)	(7) (8)

DO NOT USE RED TO MARK BALLOT

APPENDIX G.

Ballot A.

BALLOTING PAPER

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF THE MURFUMBIDGEE
Polling day the 2nd day of January 1875

NAMES OF CANDIDATES

THOMAS HODGES MATE

CHARLES DARBY BARDWELL

JOSEPH LEARY

WILLIAM FORSTER

Above is a reproduction of an 1875 Australian ballot from New South Wales. Vermont's adoption of the "Australian ballot" in 1890 was based on this concept of government-printed ballots that listed all qualifying candidates. This replaced the practice in which parties, candidates, employers, and newspapers provided ballots listing only the candidates they endorsed. With minor modifications (such as providing a box to check) Vermont has maintained this kind of balloting up to the present.

Ballot C.


Instructions for Voter

1. Mark your first-choice candidate by filling in the oval next to the candidate's name
2. You may mark a different second choice, and third choice, by filling in the oval in line with each candidate's name, in the columns labeled "second choice," and "third choice."

Rank Your Choices For Governor

	<i>first choice</i>	<i>second choice</i>	<i>third choice</i>
JANE CROSS, Republican	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
STEVEN PICHER, Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
PAUL TUCKER, Independent	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write in _____	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Ballot B.



BALLOT PAPER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
ELECTORAL DIVISION OF
CANBERRA

Number the boxes from 1 to 6 in the order of your choice.

KELLY, Ros
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

KELLY, Sally Christine
NATURAL LAW PARTY

MYERS, Peter
AUSTRALIAN DEMOCRATS

TREVETHAN, Mike
ABOLISH SELF GOVERNMENT COALITION

ADAMSON, Greg
ACT GREEN DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

STEFANIAK, Bill
LIBERAL

Remember...number every box to make your vote count

Australian Electoral Commission **AEC**

Above is a sample of a modern Australian ballot used for an IRV election. Australia abandoned the single-choice ballot (still called the "Australian ballot" here) 80 years ago, in favor of preferential voting.

At left, and on the next page, are a few alternative designs for a Vermont IRV ballot.

Ballot D.

Instructions for Voter

1. For each office mark your first-choice candidate by marking the box next to the candidate's name.
2. You may also indicate which candidates are your second choice, third choice, and so on, in case your first choice doesn't win, by writing the numeral "2", "3", and so on in the column labeled "alternate choice #" in line with those candidates' names.
3. You may indicate as many or as few alternate choices as you please. Making a second choice cannot help defeat your first choice, making a third choice cannot help defeat your first or second choice, and so on.
4. Do not mark the same number choice for more than one candidate running for the same office.

FOR GOVERNOR	first choice	alternate choice #
CHRISTOPHER BATES, Brantford, Libertarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	2
KAREN MICHAELS, Manchester, Republican	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ANTHONY TOWNSEND, Springfield, Independent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SUSAN VANKAMP, Colchester, Democrat	<input type="checkbox"/>	3
Write in _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The voter likes Townsend the best, so marks the first-choice box by Townsend's name *

The voter likes Bates second best, so writes a two here

The voter is neutral about VanKamp, but dislikes Michaels, so ranks VanKamp third.

* A voter can write a number "1", or use an "x", a check, or other mark in the first choice box.

Ballot E.

Instructions for Voter

1. Vote for your most-preferred candidate by filling in the oval next to that candidate's name in the first-choice column.
2. You may indicate a second-choice, and third-choice (in case your first-choice candidate doesn't win) by filling in the oval in line with those alternate candidates' names, in the second-choice, and third-choice columns.

VOTE FOR GOVERNOR					
Your <u>FIRST</u> choice for U.S. Senator	1 st	Your <u>SECOND</u> choice for U.S. Senator	2 nd	Your <u>THIRD</u> choice for U.S. Senator	3 rd
DOUGLAS AMBROSE Newport, Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	DOUGLAS AMBROSE Newport, Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	DOUGLAS AMBROSE Newport, Democrat	<input type="radio"/>
SALLY GENOVESE Putney, Vt. Grass Roots	<input type="radio"/>	SALLY GENOVESE Putney, Vt. Grass Roots	<input type="radio"/>	SALLY GENOVESE Putney, Vt. Grass Roots	<input type="radio"/>
SEAN T. O'DELL Burlington, Progressive	<input type="radio"/>	SEAN T. O'DELL Burlington, Progressive	<input type="radio"/>	SEAN T. O'DELL Burlington, Progressive	<input type="radio"/>
PETER J. WHITTEN Richmond, Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	PETER J. WHITTEN Richmond, Democrat	<input type="radio"/>	PETER J. WHITTEN Richmond, Democrat	<input type="radio"/>

Alaska State Legislature



House of Representatives

SPONSOR STATEMENT

HB 141- An Act providing for preferential voting in state and local and federal elections.

Alaska has a history of electing minority candidates who collected a plurality of vote's cast, but not a majority. The most important principle of a democratic form of government is that the majority rules. HB 141 eliminates the possibility of having a minority candidate win an election.

An example of a minority candidate winning an election would be a three-way race in which no candidate received over 50% of the votes cast. HB 141 would allow a voter to prioritize their preferences by ranking each candidate. If no candidate received 50 % of the votes cast, then the candidate with the least votes would be eliminated, and the votes re-tabulated. Using a ranking system in state and local elections would insure that the winning candidate received at least 50% of the votes cast.

The bill goes into some length to explain the procedures necessary to manage a preferential style of voting. It is the sponsor's belief that this is a fairer and more democratic process than our current system. It is requested that HB 141 be debated and passed out.

League of Women Voters of Alaska

P. O. Box 484
Kasilof, Alaska 99610
(907)262-3941

April 19, 1999

The Alaska House of Representatives
Finance Committee

Dear Finance Committee Member,

I have faxed a copy of the League of Women Voters of Alaska Resolution 99-1 to the House Finance Committee's secretary to include in your bill packet for April 20, 1999. We adopted this resolution last weekend and it was slated to be mailed on April 20th. But since it appeared on you calendar for that day, I felt that a faxed copy would have to do.

The League of Women Voters of Alaska urges you to refrain from taking action on HB 141.

League members are concerned that this bill radically changes our current voting method. We feel that more time is required to determine how well preferential voting would serve Alaskans and to evaluate the changes to the mechanics of the voting process.

The League has not taken a position on preferential voting. We respectfully ask that you provide us with the opportunity to "rank" the existing pros and cons.

Sincerely,



Diana McKenney, President
League of Women Voters of Alaska

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALASKA
RESOLUTION 99-1**

**A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO HB141 - "AN ACT...
PROVIDING FOR PREFERENTIAL VOTING
IN STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS...."**

Whereas, a purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government; and

Whereas, the League of Women Voters encourages a simple and efficiently administered electoral process; and

Whereas, the League of Women Voters believes that democratic government requires that governmental bodies protect citizens' right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions; and

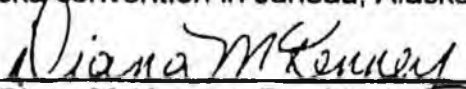
Whereas, HB141, "An Act Providing for Preferential Voting in State and Local Elections," was first introduced in the Alaska State House on March 17, 1999, and appears to be moving rapidly through the legislative process; and

Whereas, HB141 constitutes a major change in our traditional voting process; and

Whereas, neither members of the League of Women Voters nor the public at large have had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the full implications and impact of HB141,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the League of Women Voters of Alaska requests that the legislature hold in abeyance any further action on HB141 until the public has had sufficient opportunity to determine the effects of this bill.

Passed and approved this 11th day of April, 1999, by the delegates to the 199 League of Women Voters of Alaska convention in Juneau, Alaska.


Diana McKenney, President
League of Women Voters of Alaska