

SCR

8

SENATOR KIM ELTON

Memo

To: Senator Therriault

From: ~~Senator Elton~~

Date: March 9, 2001

Re: SCR 8: Political Parties Blanket Primary Elections

I respectfully request that you schedule a committee hearing on SCR 8. Attached you will find a copy of the bill, along with the sponsor statement.

My staff will provide additional materials for the bill packet.

SENATOR KIM ELTON

Sponsor Statement

Senate Concurrent Resolution 8

“A Resolution urging Alaska’s political parties to use a State of Alaska freedom of choice blanket primary election.”

The blanket primary has been used in Alaska since 1947 with only a few exceptions. With 51 percent of Alaska voters not registered with a major political party, Alaska is full of independent voters who, through the initiative process, have adopted and maintained the blanket primary as our state’s primary of choice.

Last year, however, Alaska was forced to reorganize their election system into a partially closed primary. This was because of a U.S. Supreme Court decision stating that the blanket primary infringed upon political parties’ right to free association, and because the Republican Party of Alaska wished to restrict who is able to vote for Republican candidates.

The result of last year’s partially closed primary ballot was an extra cost of nearly a quarter of a million dollars, an all-time low voter turnout (17 percent), and an overwhelming amount of calls to the Division of Elections from unhappy voters.

According to the Supreme Court ruling, political parties are free to choose their candidates whichever way they deem most appropriate. If all parties agree on the blanket primary, then the state of Alaska will still be able to use this method. SCR 8 encourages Alaska’s political parties to choose the blanket primary election.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SCR 8
 (S) Publish Date: _____

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title: Political Parties Blanket Primary Elections BRU: _____
 Sponsor: Senator Elton Component: _____
 Requester: Senate State Affairs Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

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

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
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FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: SENATE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE Phone 465-4522

Senator: /s/ SENATOR THERRIALT Date 2/21/01
Committee Chair