

**HB**

**1**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 1</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
1</SUBJECT><COMM>HJUD30</COMM></TARGET>



# Representative Chris Tuck

## House Majority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

District 23 - Representing Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku,  
Campbell, Northwood and Windemere

### MEMORANDUM

April 3, 2017

**TO:** Representative Matt Claman  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Rep. Chris Tuck  
House Majority Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "CT", enclosed in a blue oval.

**SUBJ:** Hearing Request for House Bill 1

I respectfully request a hearing for House Bill 1: Election Registration and Voting.

This legislation would provide same day voter registration to allow all eligible Alaskans the opportunity to vote, enhance online voter registration with electronic signatures to make the registration process quicker and easier, ensure the same early voting locations are available during every election, create an option for permanent absentee voting for individuals that plan to vote by mail every year, and clarify terminology for early voting to remove confusion between early voting and absentee in-person voting.

Included in the bill packet:

- House Bill 1 version U
- Fiscal Note
- Memo of Changes
- Sectional Analysis
- Sponsor Statement
- Support Letters
- Fact Sheet

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or my staff Kendra Kloster at 465-3579.

Thank you for your consideration.



# Representative Chris Tuck

## House Majority Leader

Serving House District 23 • Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Campbell, Northwood, and Windemere

### Sponsor Statement House Bill 1 Election Registration and Voting

The right to vote embodies the spirit of American democracy. Casting a vote is the most discretely effective way to have one's voice heard in the political process. When we exercise our right to vote we impact our community far beyond an election. We are able to elect individuals who will make decisions on our behalf about how our government will be run, set the policies that will guide our state, and how resources, both national and local, are distributed.

Unfortunately, a surprising number of Americans don't exercise their right to vote. On average, only about half of eligible US voters cast ballots. Although, Alaska is one the states which exceeded that number in 2016 with a turnout of 60.77% in the general election. However, forty percent of Alaskan voters are still not being heard.

House Bill 1 includes a series of changes designed to increase voter participation and access to voting across the state by improving and clarifying the voting process. These changes include:

- Providing same day voter registration to allow all eligible Alaskans the opportunity to vote;
- Enhancing online voter registration with electronic signatures to make the registration process quicker and easier;
- Ensuring the same early voting locations are available during every election;
- Creating an option for permanent absentee voting for individuals that plan to vote by mail every year; and
- Clarifying and unifying terminology for early voting to remove confusion between early voting and absentee in-person voting.

By adopting the changes in House Bill 1, we can take a step forward to increase the voice of all Alaskans.

Session (January-April):  
State Capitol, Room 204  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182  
Phone (907) 465-2095

Rep.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov  
www.RepChrisTuck.com  
Toll-Free (866) 465-2095

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1500 W Benson Blvd, Ste 217  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Phone (907) 269-0240



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### MEMORANDUM

April 3, 2017

**TO:** Representative Matt Claman  
Chair, House Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Rep. Chris Tuck  
House Majority Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "C. Tuck", is written over the printed name "Rep. Chris Tuck".

**SUBJ:** Memo of Changes for House Bill 1

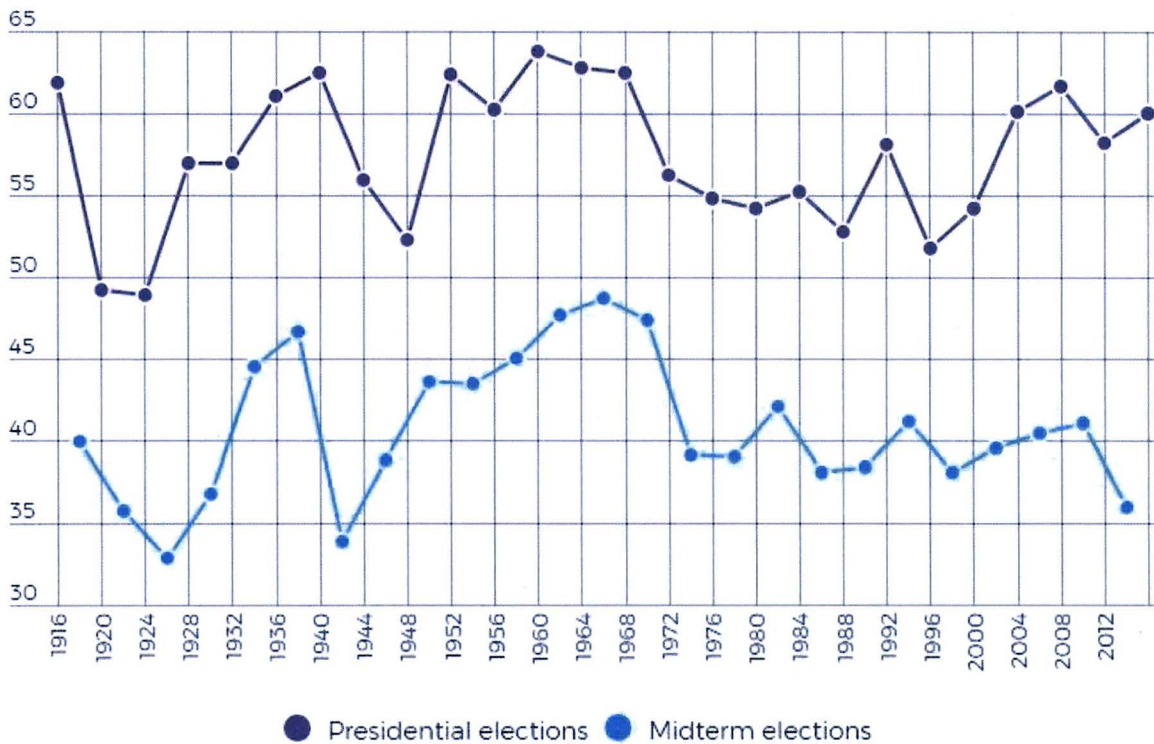
The following changes were made in the House State Affairs Committee:

- Clarified the definition of electronic signature in sections 2 and 3.
- Additional conforming changes needed to be added to reflect same day voter registration changes. This included adding sections 7, 8, 9, 10, 23, 25, 28, and 29.
- Section 14, 15, 16, and 17 were added at the Division of Elections request to include a declaration to be completed by the voter stating the information they are providing is true and accurate on all questioned ballots.
- Section 24 relating to receiving a permanent absentee ballot each year, there was a change to reflect that if any mail has been returned from the voter's address that they will be removed from receiving a ballot in the mail automatically.
- Due to outdated statutes, some sections were amended within Title 15 to reflect the Division of Elections current processes.
  - Section 5: added registration for party affiliation to the voter's certificate process and added special needs ballots to be reflected as well.
  - Section 6: added a new subsection that absentee and questioned ballot also includes the use of special needs ballot.
  - Sections 12 and 13: Appointment and privileges of poll watchers was updated to reflect poll watchers for ballot propositions and for candidates are permitted.

### Voting Information and Statistics

Voter turnout in the United States fluctuates in national elections. In recent elections, about 60% of the voting eligible population votes during presidential election years, and about 40% votes during midterm elections. Turnout is lower for odd year, primary and local elections.<sup>1</sup>

## Voter Turnout Rates, 1916 - 2016



National estimates of voter turnout expressed as a percentage of the voting eligible population.

Source: United States Elections Project (<http://www.electproject.org/>)

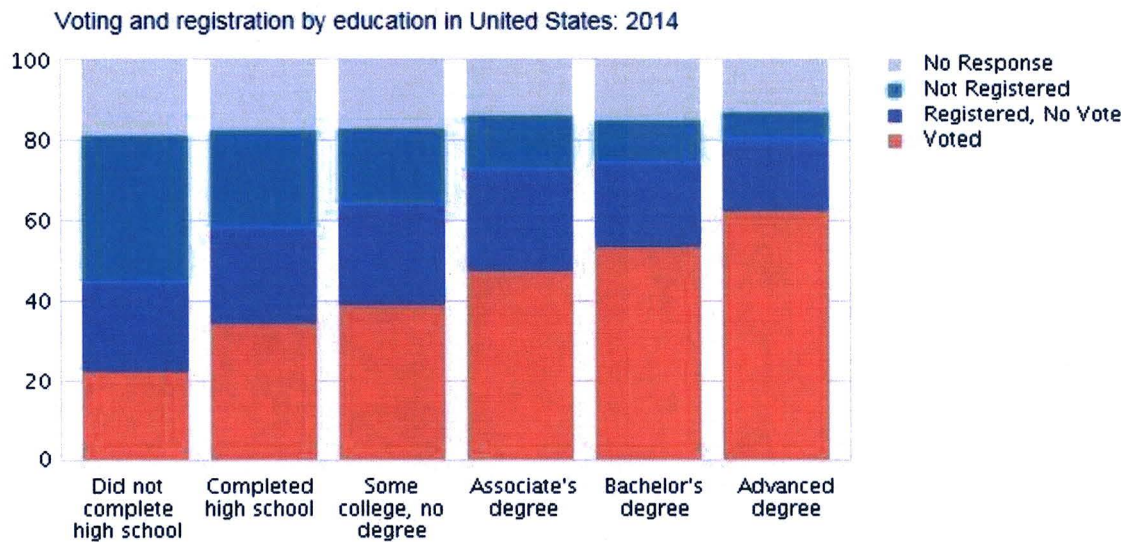
<sup>1</sup> FairVote [http://www.fairvote.org/voter\\_turnout#voter\\_turnout\\_101](http://www.fairvote.org/voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101) and United States Elections Project <http://www.electproject.org/>

## What determines voter turnout?

- The level of education of state residents appears to be a relatively strong predictor of voter turnout. While there are a number of exceptions, states with higher college attainment rates tend to have greater voter participation. Of the 20 states with the lowest voter turnout, 16 have a bachelor's attainment rate below the national share of 30.6% of adults.<sup>2</sup> - U.S Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey
- One of the main predictors of voter turnout is whether the election is closely contested. When a candidate appears poised to run away with an election, turnout tends to be much lower. When polls appear to be heavily favoring one candidate, voters may feel they cannot make much of a difference.<sup>3</sup>
- On the other hand, turnout may be lower in this election because of the candidates. One recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center showed that about 40% of eligible voters said they had difficulty choosing between the two major party candidates because neither was worthy of the presidency.<sup>4</sup>

## Voting and registration rates tend to increase with education

Voting and registration rates tend to increase with education. In 2014 in the United States, the voting rate for citizens with at least a bachelor's degree was 56.3 compared to 22.2 percent for those who had not received a high school diploma.



Source: Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration Supplement

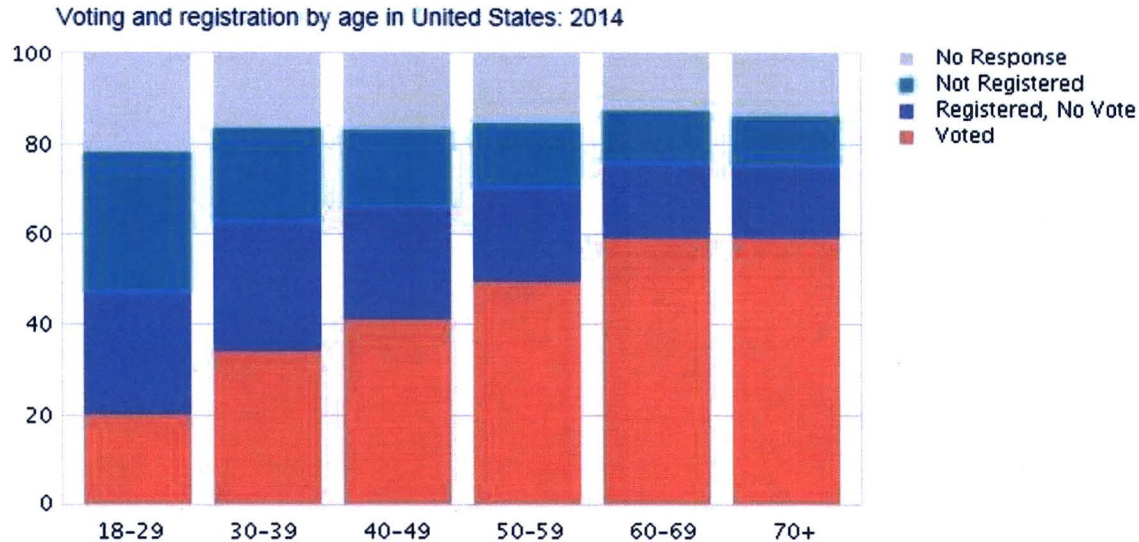
<sup>2</sup> The percentage of adults who have at least a bachelor's degree and poverty rates came from the U.S Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout\\_us\\_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout_us_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a)

<sup>3</sup> States with the Highest and Lowest Voter Turnout. Huffington Post, October 2016 [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout\\_us\\_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout_us_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a)

<sup>4</sup> States with the Highest and Lowest Voter Turnout. Huffington Post, October 2016 [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout\\_us\\_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout_us_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a)

## Voting and registration rates tend to increase with age

Voting and registration rates tend to increase with age. In the United States in 2014 only 17.1 percent of 18-to-24-year-olds voted, compared with 59.4 percent of those 65 and older.



## Other Miscellaneous Election Information

- Other democracies around the world typically hold elections on the weekend or declare Election Day a national holiday. Presidential elections in the United States, however, are held during the work day. For this reason, individuals living in poverty are far less likely to vote than higher income individuals, at least in part due to lack of flexibility in the workplace. On the state level, however, the share of workers employed hourly did not appear to be the greatest single factor in voter turnout. – Huffington Post, States with the Highest (and Lowest) Voter Turnout, October 2016
- At least 51 million, or nearly 1 in 4 eligible citizens are not registered to vote. That's more than 24% of the eligible population. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- Online voter registration costs less – 3 cents per registration, compared to 83 cents paper form. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- 4 out of 5 registrations in state with online registration conducted electronically. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- 39% of adults do political or civic activities on social networking sites. – PEW Charitable Trusts
- Political engagement on social networking sites is especially commonplace among the youngest Americans, as two-thirds (67%) of all 18-24 year olds (and nearly three quarters of those young adults who use social networking sites) engaged in some sort of social network-related political activity in the 12 months preceding the PEW Research Center Survey.

## Political engagement on social networking sites

60% of American adults use social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter; these are some of the civic behaviors they have taken part in on these sites:

	% of SNS users who have done this	% of all adults who have done this
"Like" or promote material related to political/social issues that others have posted	38%	23%
Encourage other people to vote	35	21
Post your own thoughts/comments on political or social issues	34	20
Repost content related to political/social issues	33	19
Encourage others to take action on political/social issues that are important to you	31	19
Post links to political stories or articles for others to read	28	17
Belong to a group that is involved in political/social issues, or working to advance a cause	21	12
Follow elected officials, candidates for office or other public figures	20	12
<b>Total who said yes to any of the activities listed above</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>39%</b>

## Contributing Factors to High Voter Turnout

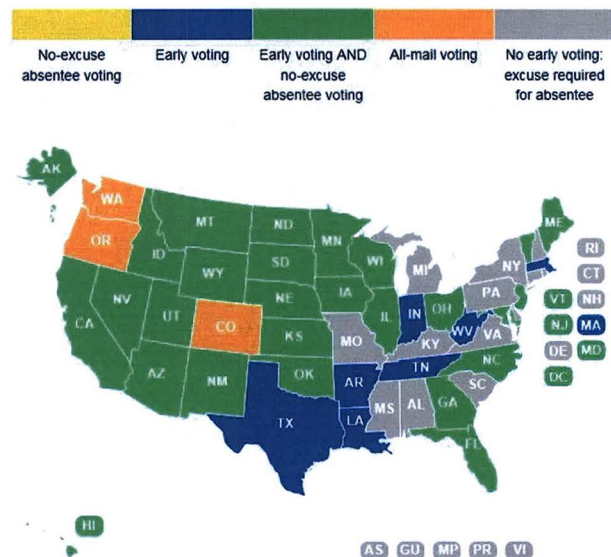
Wisconsin, Maine and Minnesota, who have higher than average voter turnout, attributes their success to allowing new voters to register and vote on Election Day. Same-day registration is the biggest factor in generating high voter turnout as it generates a possible voter increase of 10 percent.<sup>5</sup>

Minnesota Secretary of State Mark Ritchie attributes the state's consistently high rating to state policies and an emphasis on reducing barriers to voting access. The most effective policy is same-day registration, Ritchie says. Election officials also go to high school civics classes or assemblies, and they bring voting machines to the state fair to show people how easy it is to vote.<sup>6</sup>

Vote by mail is relatively new on our electoral landscape and advantages of this procedure has taken form in cost savings, increased voter participation, convenience for voters, and easier for election officials.

For example, between 1995 and 1997 in Oregon, counties saved over \$1 million on three vote-by-mail special elections. If, during that same period, primary and general elections had been conducted by mail, Oregon counties could have saved an additional \$3 million.

Since Oregon adopted a vote by mail system, they have continued to be in the top 10 states for voter turnout.



<sup>5</sup> Eric Ostermeier, Ph.D., Research Associate at University of Minnesota, Department of Political Science

<sup>6</sup> Project Vote. Voter Turnout: the 6 states that rank highest, and why by Allison Terry. And FairVote.org/turnout

## Early Voting: What Works by the Brennan Center for Justice

### Key benefits of early in person voting are:

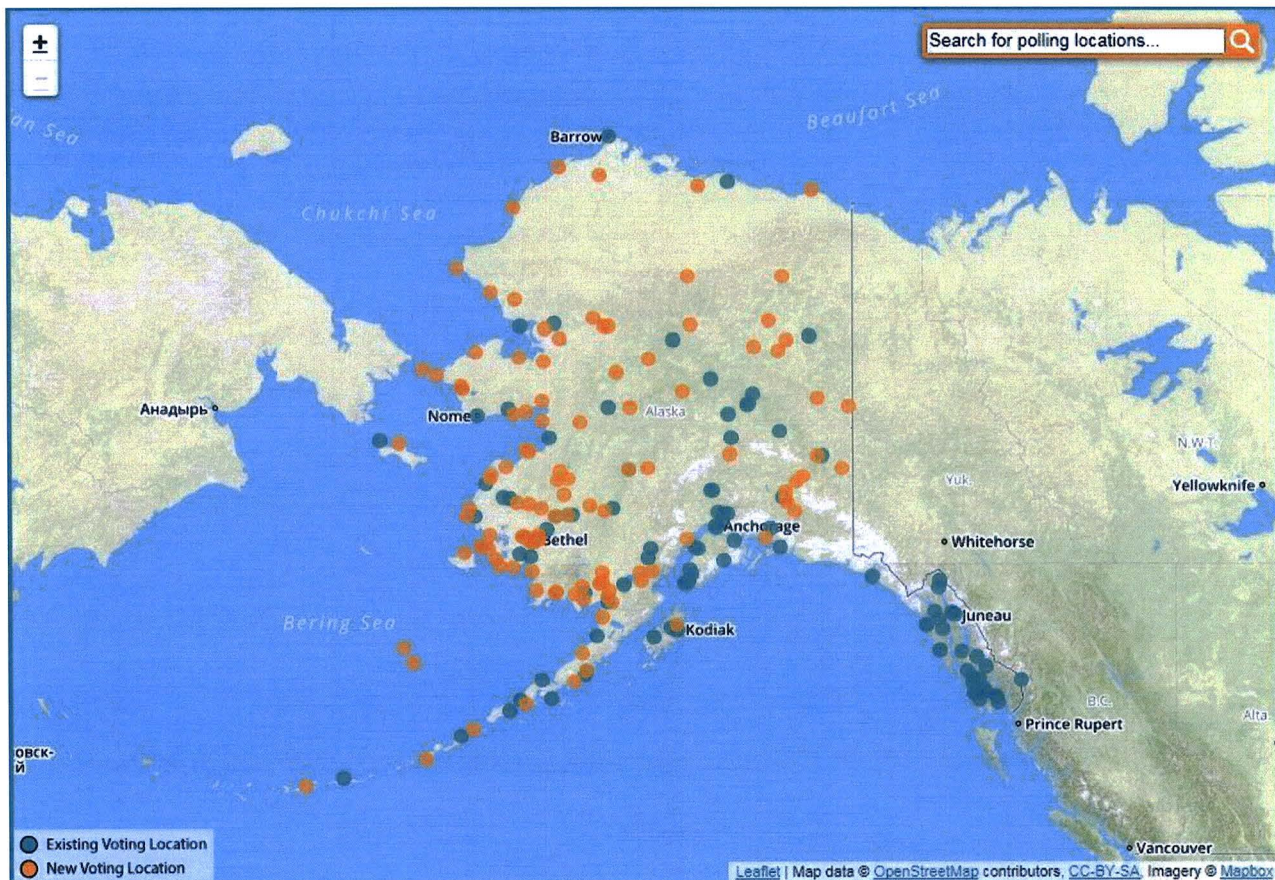
1. Reduced stress on the voting system on Election Day
2. Shorter lines on Election Day
3. Improved poll worker performance
4. Early identification and correction of registration errors and voting system glitches
5. Greater access to voting and increased voter satisfaction

### Based on this research, the following policy recommendations for early in person voting:

1. Begin early in person voting a full two weeks before Election Day
2. Provide weekend voting, including the weekend before Election Day
3. Set minimum daily hours for early voting, provide extended hours outside standard business hours
4. Allow use of both private and public facilities
5. **Distribute early voting places fairly and equitably**
6. Update poll books daily
7. **Educate the electorate about early voting.**

## Efforts to increase voter access in rural Alaska

To increase voter access across the state, particularly in rural areas, the Alaska Federation of Natives, ANCSA Regional Association, Get Out the Native Vote and numerous Native Corporations worked with communities to set up 128 new early voting locations in 2014.



## Barriers to Equal Voting Rights in Alaska

Not all communities in Alaska have an early voting location.

Hospitals should also be included as early voting sights as many individuals travel from rural areas to receive medical care and are unable to be transported outside the hospital to vote.

Language barriers: Toyukak v. Treadwell case demonstrated the state was not adequately providing language assistance according to the Voting Rights Act.

Insufficient training for early voting officials.

Requirement to register to vote 30 days before election.

## The Future of Elections

Technology and social media have been changing the face of voting:

- There are new innovation like electronic poll books that would bring benefits to voters and officials in polling places.<sup>7</sup>
- A study published in 2012 found that Facebook feeds have a significant impact on voting patterns. The findings indicate that certain messages increased turnout directly and indirectly by a total of 340,000 votes. Close ties were also found to be far more influential than weaker ties.<sup>8</sup>
- The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is a multistate partnership that uses a sophisticated and secure data matching tool to improve the accuracy and efficiency of state voter registration systems.<sup>9</sup>
- A number of states are reviewing or implementing new voting equipment. For example, Louisiana authorized the Secretary of State to develop and implement a piolet program for new voting equipment.

Another issue taking off now is the improvement of state voter registration systems and management. During the last five years, more than 30 states have made online voter registration available. Alaska implemented online voter registration in November 2015.<sup>10</sup>

At least 22 states have provisions allowing certain elections to be conducted entirely by mail. Oregon, Washington, and Colorado have implemented all-mail elections. California will be following vote by mail elections taking effect in 2018. Permanent absentee voting is available in 7 states and DC.<sup>11</sup>

Hawaii approved electronic ballot transmission and return for permanent absentee voters. Louisiana, and Virginia approved electronic transmission for certain voters.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, The Canvass: States and Election Reform. Issue 75. January 2017

<sup>8</sup> Robert Bond and James Fowler, et. al. "A 61 Million Person Experiment in Social Influence and Political Mobilization, September 2012.

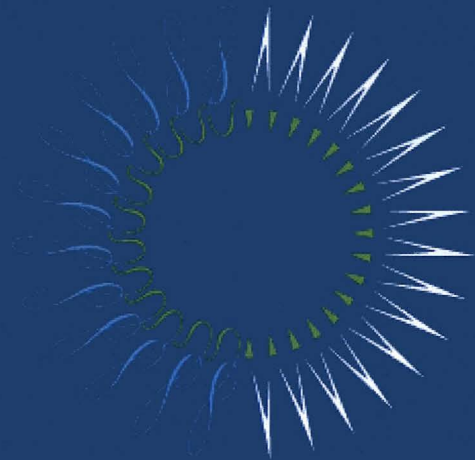
<sup>9</sup> PEW Charitable Trusts. Electronic Registration Information Center. <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/election-initiatives/about/upgrading-voter-registration/eric>

<sup>10</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures, The Canvass: States and Election Reform. Issue 75. January 2017

<sup>11</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures. Early Voting, Absentee Voting and Voting by Mail.

[http://www.ncsl.org/documents/summit/summit2015/onlineresources/Stewart\\_Early\\_Voting\\_Absentee\\_Voting.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/documents/summit/summit2015/onlineresources/Stewart_Early_Voting_Absentee_Voting.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures. The Canvass, State and Election Reform. December 2016.



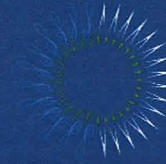
THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Bringing Elections into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
*Data, Technology & the Future of Registration*

**Zachary Markovits**

Manager, Election Initiatives

# Pew Election Initiatives



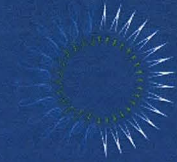
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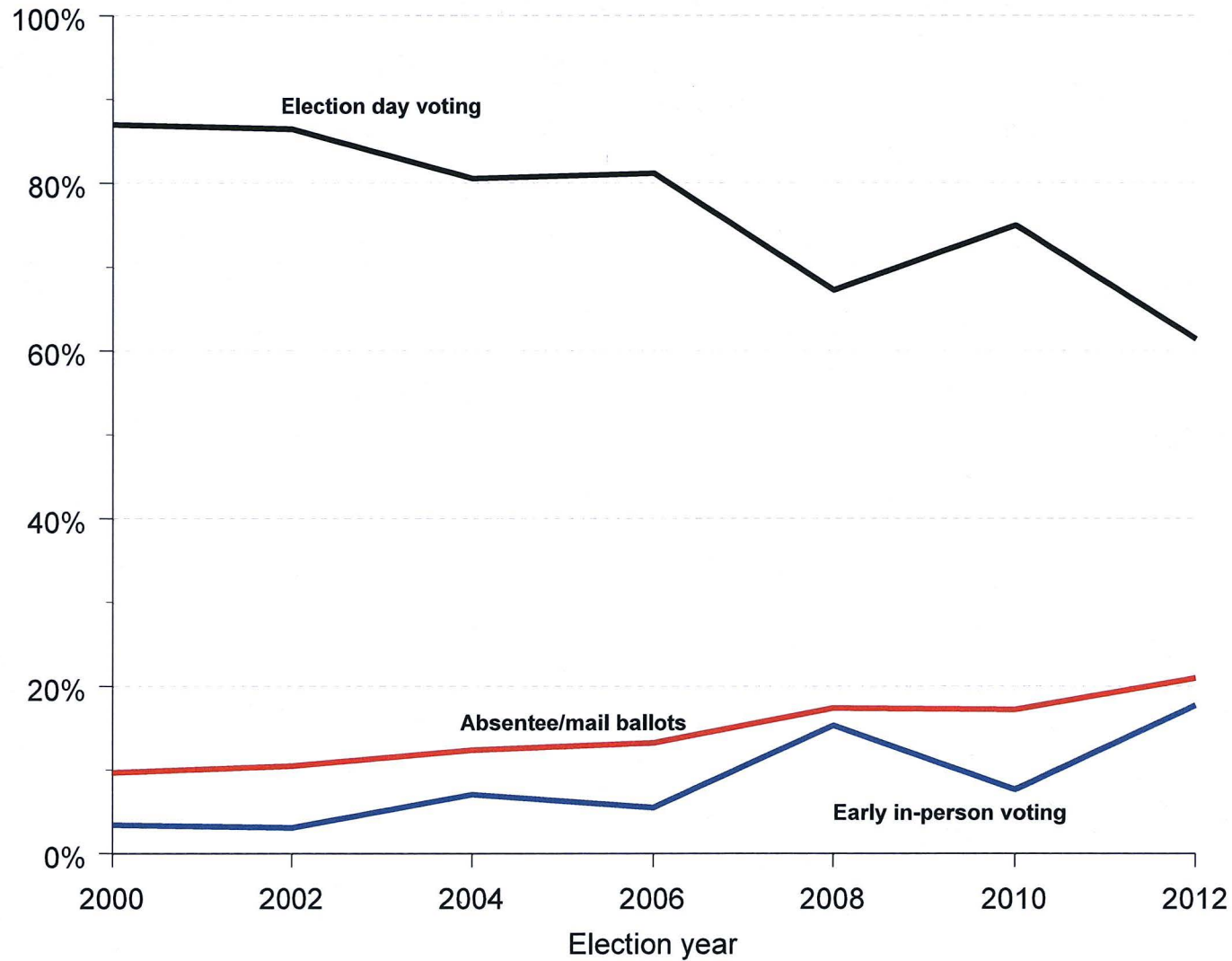
**VOTE  
HERE**

Works with state and local election officials to improve the nation's system of election administration by examining options for building a system that is more efficient and accurate, while reducing costs and administrative burdens

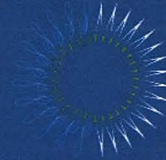
# How we vote has changed



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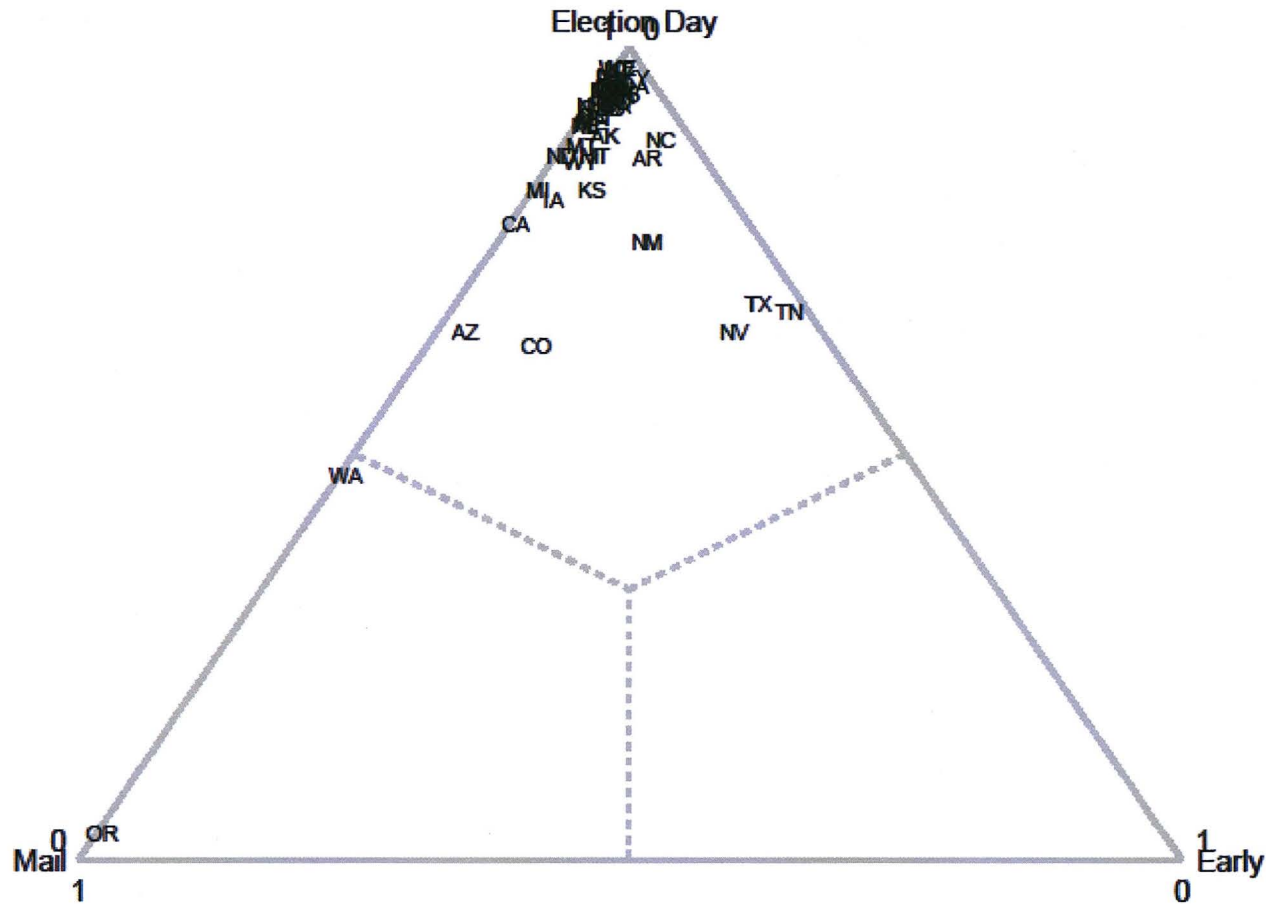


# How we vote has changed

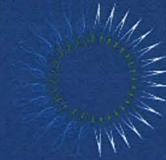


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## 2000 Presidential Election

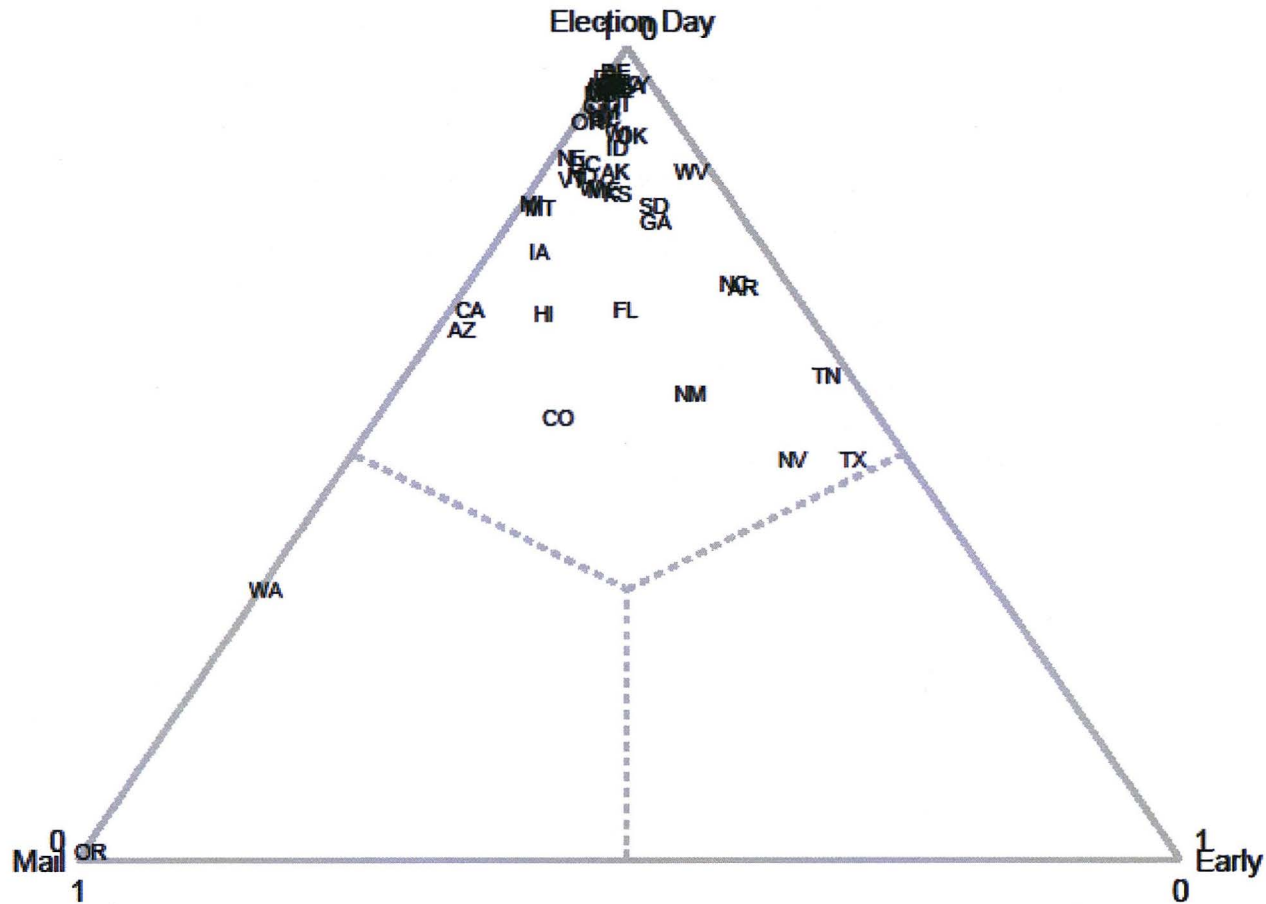


# How we vote has changed

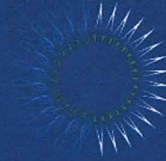


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## 2004 Presidential Election

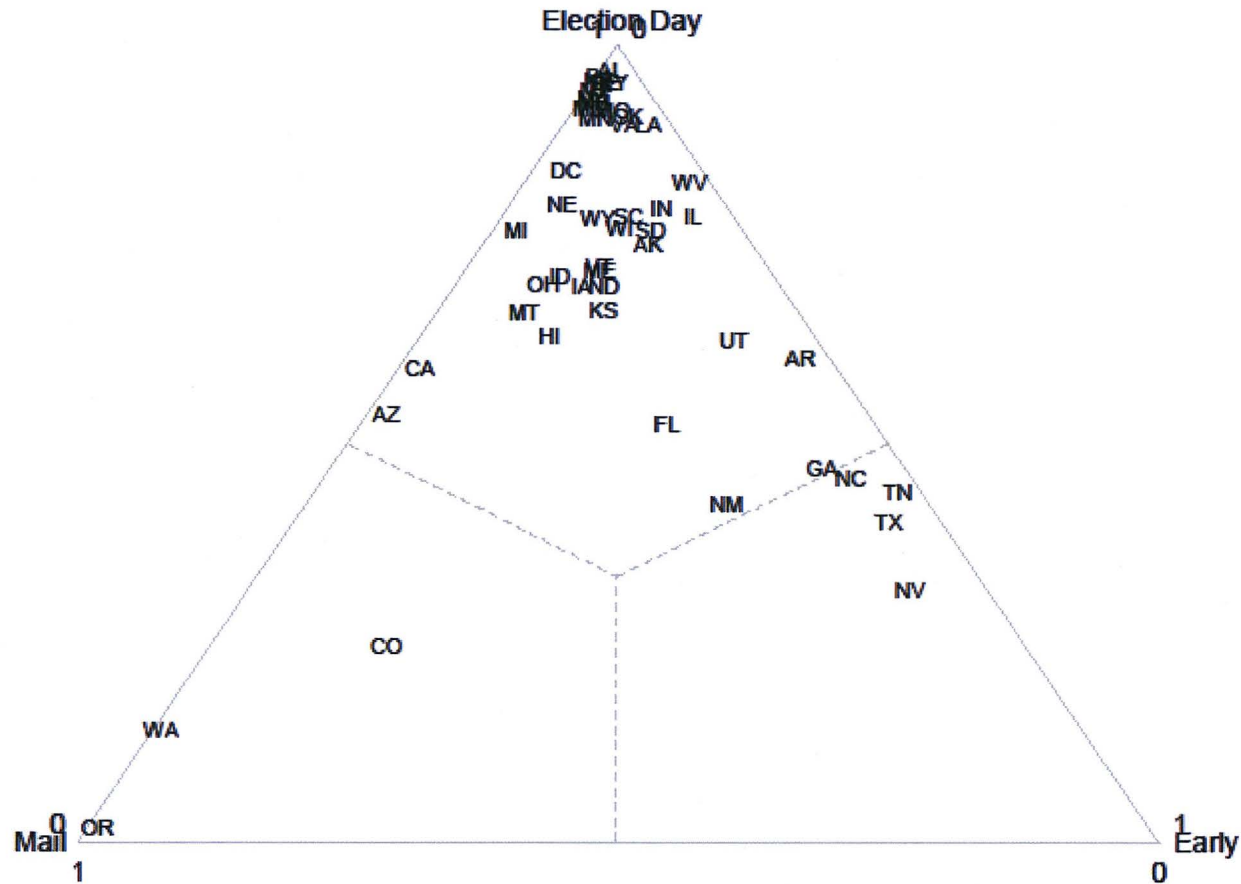


# How we vote has changed

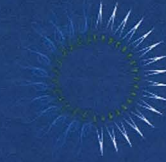


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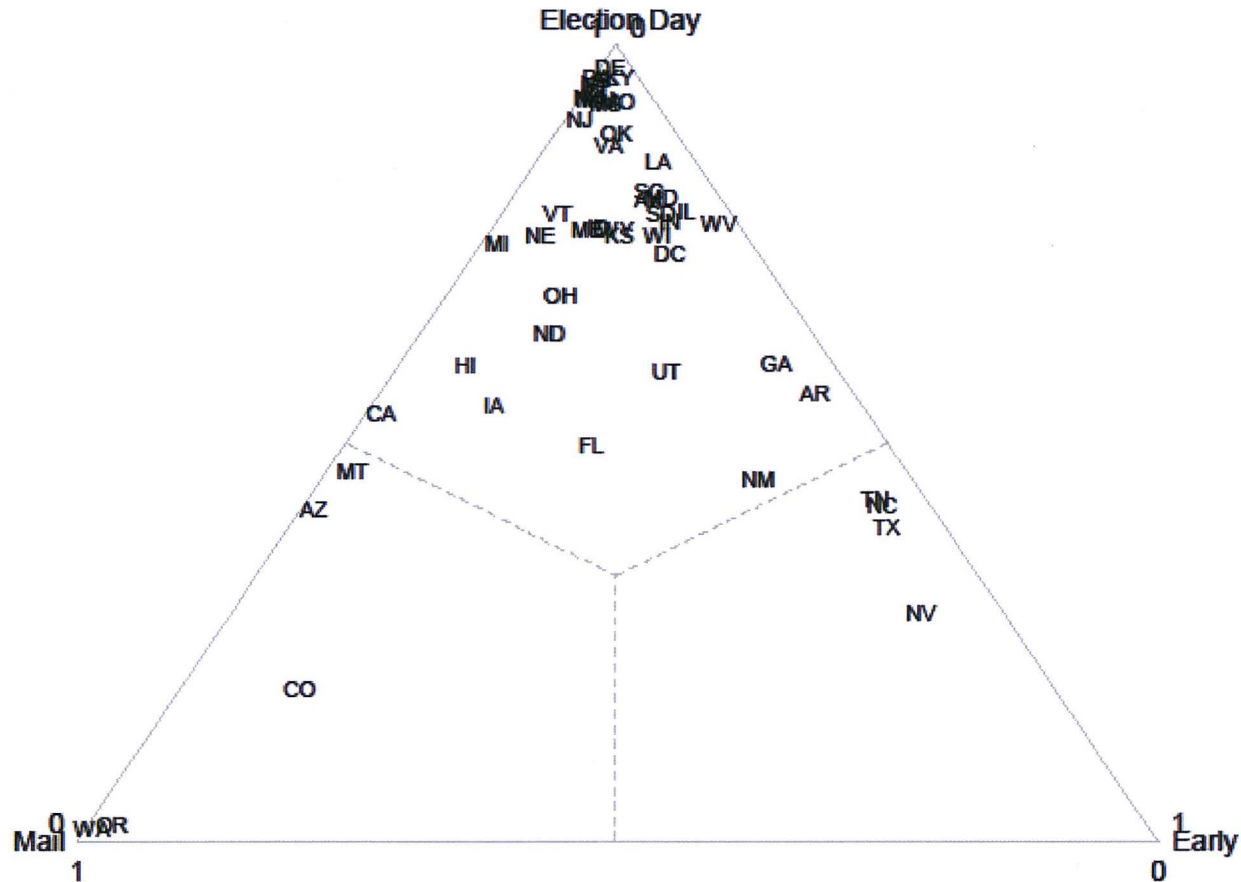
## 2008 Presidential Election

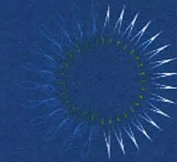


# How we vote has changed



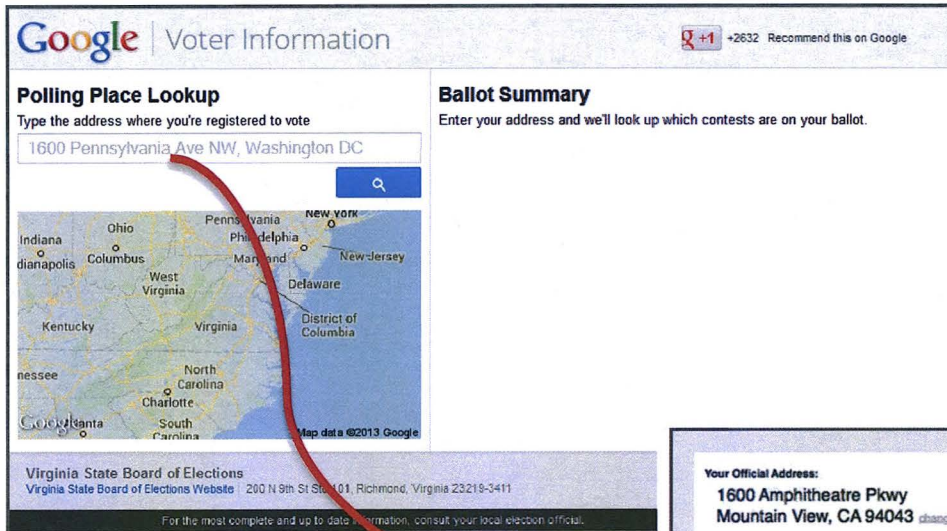
## 2012 Presidential Election





# New ways of providing voting information

# The Voting Information Project



Google | Voter Information

+2632 Recommend this on Google

### Polling Place Lookup

Type the address where you're registered to vote

1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC

Ballot Summary

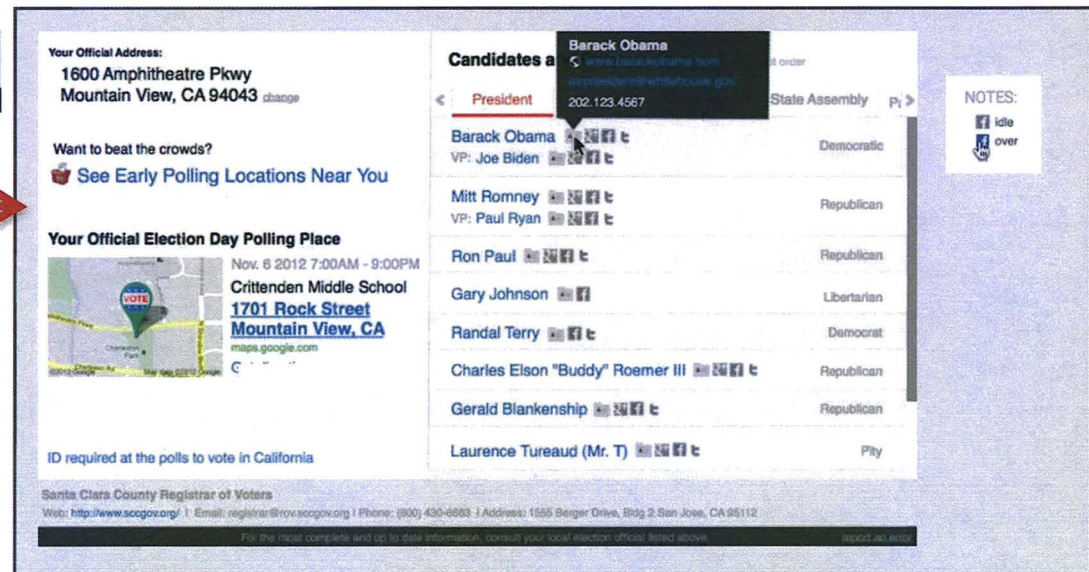
Enter your address and we'll look up which contests are on your ballot.

Virginia State Board of Elections  
Virginia State Board of Elections Website | 200 N 9th St Ste 101, Richmond, Virginia 23219-3411

For the most complete and up to date information, consult your local election official.

VIP tools were embedded on over 600 websites on Election Day in 2012, including CNN, *The Washington Post*, Fox News, Facebook, and various campaigns and organizations

Over 25 million voters used VIP tools on Election Day 2012 to find the information they needed to vote



Your Official Address:  
1600 Amphitheatre Pkwy  
Mountain View, CA 94043

Want to beat the crowds?  
See Early Polling Locations Near You

Your Official Election Day Polling Place  
Nov. 6 2012 7:00AM - 9:00PM  
Crittenden Middle School  
1701 Rock Street  
Mountain View, CA  
maps.google.com

ID required at the polls to vote in California

Santa Clara County Registrar of Voters  
Web: <http://www.sccgov.org/> | Email: [registrar@rov.sccgov.org](mailto:registrar@rov.sccgov.org) | Phone: (800) 430-6883 | Address: 1555 Berger Drive, Bldg 2, San Jose, CA 95112

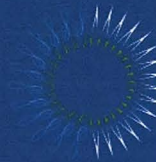
For the most complete and up to date information, consult your local election official listed above.

### Candidates a

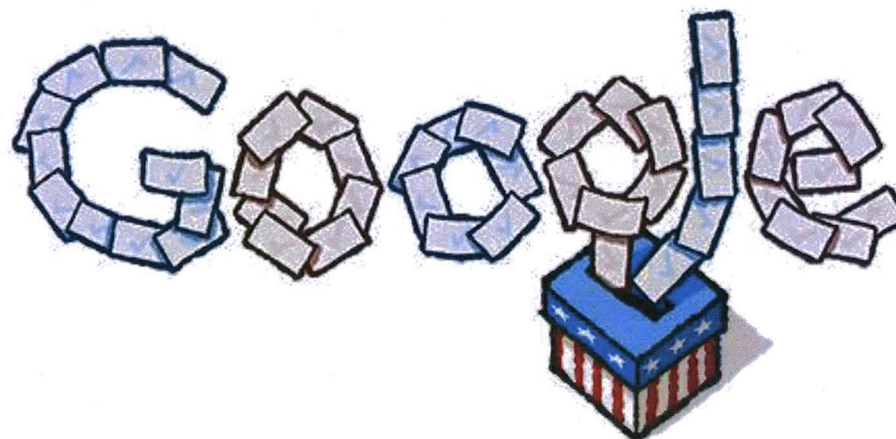
Candidate	Party
Barack Obama VP: Joe Biden	Democratic
Mitt Romney VP: Paul Ryan	Republican
Ron Paul	Republican
Gary Johnson	Libertarian
Randal Terry	Democrat
Charles Elson "Buddy" Roemer III	Republican
Gerald Blankenship	Republican
Laurence Tureaud (Mr. T)	Party

NOTES:  
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# The Voting Information Project: Election Day 2012



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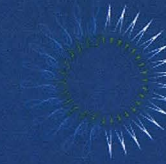


Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

**Vote!** It's Election Day. Find your voting location and hours

# Mobile Polling Place Locator



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**In 2012, 85% of American adults own a cell phone...**

## Cell Phone Activities

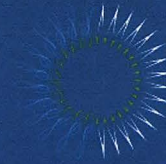
*The % of cell phone owners who use their cell phone to...*

82	Take a picture
80	Send or receive text messages
56	Access the internet
50	Send or receive email
44	Record Video*
43	Download Apps*
31	Look for health or medical information online
29	Check bank account balance or do any online banking

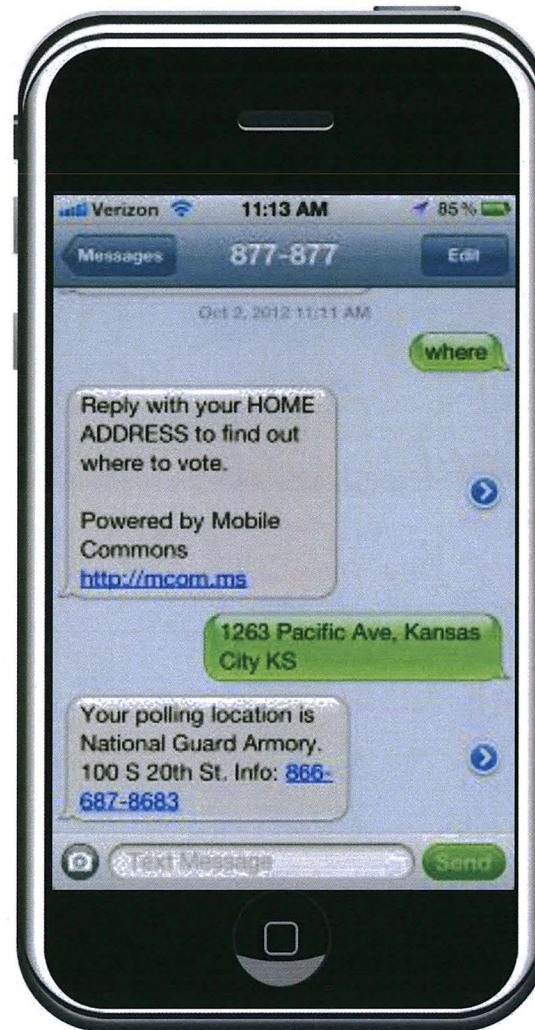
Source: Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project, Summer Tracking Survey, August 7-September 6, 2012. N=2,581 cell phone owning adults ages 18 and older. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish and on landline and cell phones (1,206 cell calls were completed). Margin of error is +/- 2.2 percentage points.

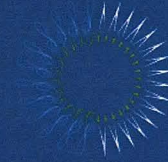
\* Video and Apps data from Pew Internet's Spring Tracking Survey, March 15-April 3, 2012. N= 1,954 cell phone owning adults 18 and older. Margin of error is +/- 2.6 percentage points.

# Mobile Polling Place Locator



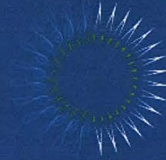
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# Upgrading our Voter Registration System

# The Problem with Registration



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- Inaccurate voter registration records:

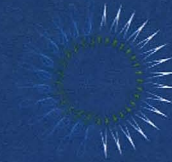
**24 million**

- Votes lost in 2012 due to registration problems:

**1.2 million**



# The Problem with Registration

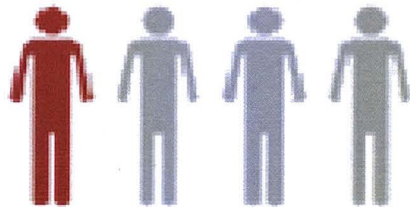


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at least

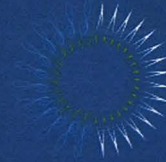
**51 million**

or **nearly 1 in 4** eligible citizens  
are not registered to vote.



That's more than **24%** of  
the eligible population.

# Upgrading Voter Registration

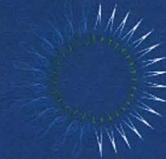


THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

The future of voter registration:

- Shift registration activity **online**, instead of paper
- **Automate** the “**motor voter**” registration process
- Better **data sharing** between the states

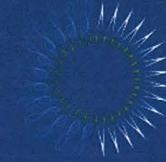
# Upgrading Voter Registration: Online Voter Registration



THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

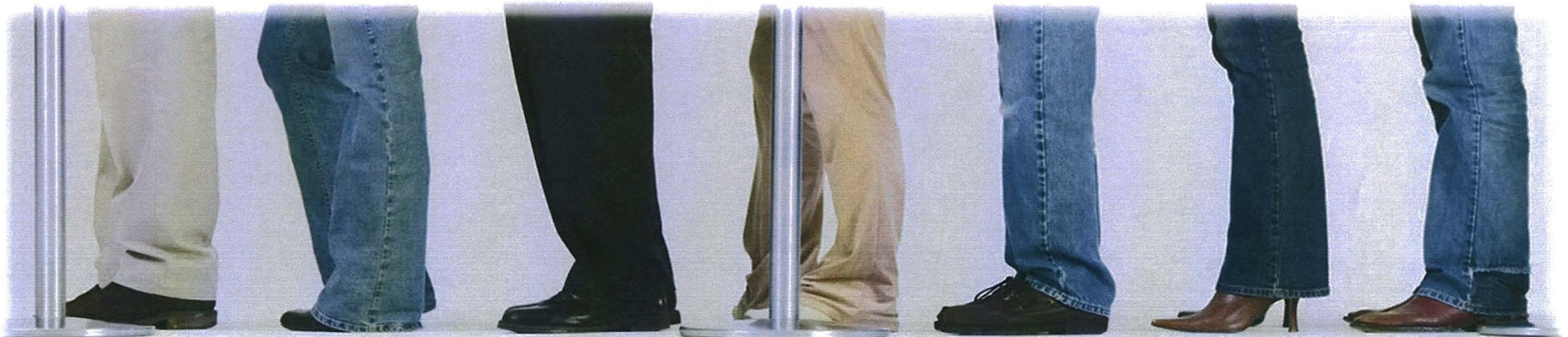
- More accurate
  - Voters directly input their information
- Costs less
  - 3¢ per registration, compared to 83¢ per paper form
- Voters prefer it
  - 4 out of 5 registrations in states with online registration conducted electronically
- 13 states offer online registration in 2012, compared to only 2 states in 2008

# Upgrading Voter Registration: Automating “Motor Voter”



THE  
**PEW**  
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

- States do a poor job of offering voter registration at motor vehicle and public assistance agencies despite federal requirements
- States miss out on opportunity to collect high-quality, timely data when voters move, change names, or come of age
- Delaware’s e-Signature program offers a promising model





THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of  
Health and Social Services

ALASKA COMMISSION ON AGING

P.O. Box 110693  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0693  
Main: 907.465.3250  
Fax: 907.465.1398

February 27, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 7  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

**Subject: Support for HB 1, Election Registration and Voting**

Dear Representative Tuck:

The Alaska Commission on Aging is pleased to offer our support for HB 1, a bill authored by you, which is designed to increase voter participation and access to voting statewide. The right to vote is the most effective way for citizens to have a voice in the democratic process by electing officials to make decisions about government operations and policies that guide our great state and nation. Seniors are "super voters" as they are proud to exercise their right to vote in almost every election. The Commission supports many of the provisions in HB 1 to improve voter participation among all Alaskans, particularly in places such as rural and remote areas of the state, and among younger voters, where voter participation can be lower.

While we agree with most of the provisions in HB 1 to increase voter access, we are concerned about the statute change that would allow for same day registration and voting for two reasons. First, citizens who register and vote on the same day do not receive and have time to consider the brochures and political information that are sent to registered voters prior to elections. This information prepares citizens to cast their ballots responsibly as informed voters for the election of officials and consideration of ballot initiatives. Second, same day registration and voting has the potential to lead to accusations of voter fraud. Pending passage of this legislation, we recommend that the Office of the Lieutenant Governor implement safeguards, such as separating ballots casted by voters who registered and voted on the same day for greater scrutiny as is currently done with absentee ballots, to ensure that all votes are legitimately cast.

The Commission supports HB 1 and appreciates your consideration of our concerns. We thank you for your leadership of this legislation to promote greater voter participation in Alaska. Please feel free to include the Commission's letter in the bill packet for HB 1.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of David A. Blacketer in blue ink.

David A. Blacketer  
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Denise Daniello in blue ink.

Denise Daniello  
ACoA Executive Director



March 28, 2017

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Representative Chris Tuck  
State Capitol Room 204  
Juneau AK, 99801  
Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov

Re: Support for HB 1 "Electronic Registration and Voting"

Dear Representative Tuck,

On behalf of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), I would like to express our support for H.B. 1 "Electronic Registration and Voting." AFN is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Our membership is comprised of 152 federally recognized Indian tribes, 152 village corporations, 12 regional corporations, and 12 nonprofit organizations and tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs. The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community.

AFN supports House Bill 1 because the right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. AFN supports many of the changes in H.B. 1 that will clarify the voting process, improve access to voting, and increase voter participation. In the 2014 general election, AFN, ANCSA Regional Association, and Get Out The Native Vote coordinated with the Division of Elections to create absentee in-person voting sites in rural Alaskan communities. This collaborative effort helped create the same access to voting in many of our rural locations that urban areas of Alaska currently benefit. From these efforts and outreach at the Annual AFN Convention it was evident that there is widespread confusion among the public regarding the terminology for early voting and absentee-in person voting and how they differ. H.B. 1 would eliminate this confusion by uniformly identifying the locations as "early" voting stations.

AFN additionally supports H.B.1 because it will enhance the voter registration process by allowing for electronic signatures. Currently, applicants are required to go through a cumbersome process to print and sign an application, then scan or fax the signed application to the Division of Elections. In addition to this process many rural Alaskans lack access to a printer, scanner or a fax machine and H.B. 1 would permit applicants to complete a form in person at one of the five Alaska Division of Elections regional offices.

Furthermore, many rural Alaskan residents lack the means to travel to an elections office due to the high cost of airfare. By allowing electronic signatures under H.B 1, it would streamline the voter registration

process that has proven advancement with the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividends ((seems like an abrupt end, what does this mean?))

Lastly, AFN is supportive of H.B.1 due to its enhanced voter participation and access through the establishment of a permanent absentee voting option that would develop an avenue for voting by mail. Voting by mail would eliminate the pressure and rush to a polling site by offering the option to vote from home. This would be very beneficial to many Alaskan residents who are often busy fishing and hunting in August during the primary election, or during potential inclement weather in November during the general election.

H.B. 1 will be a huge step forward in Alaska's history by making voting more accessible, easier, and equitable for all Alaskans. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions regarding this letter, please call me at 907-274-3611.

Sincerely,



Julie Kitka

Board of Directors

*Chair*

**Gabriel Kompkoff**  
CEO  
Chugach Alaska Corp.

*Vice-Chair*

**Gail Schubert**  
President and CEO  
Bering Straits Native  
Corp.

*Treasurer*

**Sophie Minich**  
President and CEO  
CIRI

*Secretary*

**Thomas Mack**  
President  
Aleut Corp.

**Michelle Anderson**  
President  
Ahtna, Inc.

**Rex Rock, Sr.**  
President and CEO,  
Arctic Slope Regional  
Corp.

**Jason Metrokin**  
President and CEO  
Bristol Bay Native  
Corp.

**Andrew Guy**  
President and CEO  
Calista Corp.

**Aaron Schutt**  
President and CEO  
Doyon, Ltd.

**Elizabeth Perry**  
CEO  
Koniag, Inc.

**Wayne Westlake**  
President and CEO  
NANA Regional Corp.

**Anthony Mallott**  
President and CEO  
Sealaska Corp.

**Julie Kitka**  
President  
Alaska Federation of  
Natives



**ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION**  
Bringing Together Regional Corporation Presidents and CEOs

PO Box 240766 • Anchorage, AK 99524 • 907 339 6052

February 28, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck  
State Capitol Room 204  
Juneau AK, 99801  
[Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Chris.Tuck@akleg.gov)

Sent Via Electronic Mail

Re: Support for House Bill 1, An Act Relating to Absentee Voting, Voting and Voter Registration; Relating to Early Voting Locations and Which Persons May Vote Absentee Ballots; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Dear Representative Tuck:

On behalf of the ANCSA Regional Association (the Association), we write to express our support for House Bill 1, Electronic Registration and Voting. The ANCSA Regional Association represents the Chief Executive Officers of the twelve land-based regional Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs), as well as the President of the Alaska Federation of Natives. Our corporations are owned by over 121,000 Alaska Native people and were formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, 43 U.S.C. § 1601, et. seq. (ANCSA). Our mission is to promote and foster the continued growth and economic strength of the Alaska Native Regional Corporations on behalf of our shareholders. When measured against the top 49 Alaska-owned companies, ANCs account for 75 percent of the revenue earned, 69 percent of Alaskan jobs, and 86 percent of the global employment. Making up 20 of the top 49 Alaska-owned companies, Alaska Native Corporations have become an economic engine of Alaska.

The Association respectfully writes in support of House Bill 1. As many of you know and appreciate, the right to vote is a cornerstone of our democracy. ANCSA Regional Association is supportive of H.B. 1 because we believe it includes important changes that will clarify the voting process, improve access to voting, and increase voter participation.

During the 2014 primary and general election, representatives from ANCSA Regional Association, Get Out The Native Vote and the Alaska Federation of Natives assisted the Division of Elections in creating absentee in-person voting sites in villages that either did not have one or needed to reestablish themselves officially with the state. In assisting with this process, it was clear there was a widespread confusion among the public regarding the terminology for early voting and absentee-in person voting. We believe H.B. 1 helps alleviate this confusion by uniformly calling the voting stations "early" voting stations.

The ANCSA Regional Association supports H.B.1 because it will enhance voter registration process by allowing for electronic signatures. Currently, applicants are required to print and sign an application, then scan or fax the signed application to the Division of Elections. Another option is for the applicant to complete a form in person at one of the five Alaska Division of Elections regional offices. Many residents in rural Alaska may lack access to a printer, scanner or a fax machine. Furthermore, rural residents may lack the means to travel to an elections office due to the high cost of airfare. We believe allowing electronic signatures will make the registration process quicker and easier.

Representative Chris Tuck  
Letter of Support for House Bill 1  
February 27, 2017  
Page 2 of 2

The ANCSA Regional Association supports H.B.1 because it will enhance voter participation and access through the creation of a permanent absentee voting option. Voting by mail removes the pressure to rush through the process of picking candidates and understanding complex ballot initiatives. By voting at home, individuals have the opportunity to research the issues, vote at their convenience, and have available language assistance. Many residents in rural Alaska are often busy fishing and hunting, especially in the August primary, so by eliminating the additional step of applying for an absentee ballot each year will be an important enhancement to our voting system.

The ANCSA Regional Association believes every Alaskan resident who seeks to participate in the political process should be afforded an equal opportunity to cast a vote, and House Bill 1 helps make voting more equitable. The ANCSA Regional Association is supportive of H.B. 1.

Sincerely,  
ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION



Kim Reitmeier  
Executive Director

cc: ANCSA Regional Association Board of Directors



April 13, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck  
State Capitol Room 204  
Juneau AK, 99801

Re: Support for House Bill 1, An Act Relating to Absentee Voting, Voting and Voter Registration; Relating to Early Voting Locations and Which Persons May Vote Absentee Ballots; and Providing for an Effective Date.

Dear Representative Tuck:

On behalf of Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT), we are writing to express our strong support for House Bill 1, Electronic Registration and Voting. ACAT is a statewide environmental health and justice organization established in 1997. Our mission is to ensure justice by advocating for environmental and community health. We believe that everyone has the right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food. Driven by a core belief in environmental justice, ACAT empowers communities to eliminate exposure to toxics through collaborative research, shared science, education, organizing, and advocacy.

ACAT is part of a cohort of organizations supported by the Groundswell Fund's Integrated Voter Engagement (IVE) program. This funding gives us the opportunity to increase voter engagement in long-term, sustainable ways for historically underrepresented populations. Our work focuses especially on reaching people of color, young people, and women to encourage them to be involved in the political process. We do this by registering voters, using door and phone canvassing to educate people on policy issues, and reminding people to vote.

HB1 is a great step in making sure that voting is accessible for more people. Increasing access to online voter registration will make the process more accurate since voters will be entering their own information. Online registration also makes it easier for rural

Alaskans to register since it eliminates sending paperwork to offices at the Division of Elections.

Permanent absentee voting gives voters more time to research the issues and candidates since they will be able to vote by mail. As voters will not need to apply each year for this option it will be easier for people to remember to vote in the first place. Voting from home will also be beneficial to people who need assistance and additional time with language translation.

The bottom line is that our democracy works best when everyone is involved. As a state, Alaska should be doing everything it can to increase access to and participation in voting. The strength of our state lies in the vast diversity of people who live here. HB1 will amplify the voices of all Alaskans and make our voting process more equitable. We strongly urge the passage of HB1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pamela K. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Pamela Miller  
Executive Director

Director's Office  
240 Main Street Suite 400  
P.O. Box 110017  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0017  
☎ 907-465-4611 ☎ 907-465-3203  
elections@alaska.gov



Elections Offices ☎  
Absentee-Petition 907-270-2700  
Anchorage 907-522-8683  
Fairbanks 907-451-2835  
Juneau 907-465-3021  
Nome 907-443-5285  
Mat-Su 907-373-8952

STATE OF ALASKA  
Division of Elections  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

April 21, 2017

The Honorable Matt Claman, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 118  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Claman:

At the April 14<sup>th</sup> and the April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 House Judiciary Committee hearings on HB 1, there were a few points or questions that the Division wanted to clarify and respond to. We understand that the bill has moved out of this committee but felt it was important to follow up for the record.

**Clarifications on watchers:**

Representative Eastman had questions in regard to minor parties having the right to have a poll watcher present at a precinct.

In order to be a poll watcher in a precinct to observe, a candidate must appear on that precinct's ballot whether it a statewide, state senate or state house district race. Representative Eastman discussed the scenario of the rights of a poll watcher to observe for a candidate who is part of a political group; specifically mentioning the Veteran's Party. Since the Veteran's Party, at this time, is not a political party as required under AS 15.80.008 and 15.80.010 (27), the candidate would need to file for office as a no-party candidate under the provisions of AS 15.25.140 through AS 15.25.185. In this case, AS 15.10.170 (a) allows a candidate not representing a political party to have a poll watcher present.

***AS 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers. "...Each candidate not representing a political party may appoint one or more watchers for each precinct or counting center in the candidate's respective district or the state for any election..." "...The election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to present written proof showing appointment by the precinct party committee, the party district committee, the organization or organized group, or the candidate the watcher represents that is signed by the chairperson of the precinct party committee, the party district committee, the state party chairperson, the organization or organized group, or the candidate representing no party."***

During this conversation, it was mentioned that the Division allows anyone to be a poll watcher and that we do not turn anyone away regardless of statute or policy. We would like to clarify that the division requires all poll watchers to be appointed following statute AS 15.10.170.

**Clarification on counting of ballots:**

Committee members had questions relating to how ballots are counted or would be counted in the case of a voter moving after the 30-day voter registration deadline.

Currently, when a voter provides the division with a new residence address after the 30-day voter registration deadline, and their new address places the voter in a new district designation, the voter is not eligible to vote in either district. Since they are no longer a resident of their former district they are not eligible to vote for the candidates of this district. They also are not eligible to vote in their new district because they have not met the 30-day voter registration deadline as defined in AS 15.20.010. This is also true for questioned voting as set out in 15.20.211.

***AS 15.20.010 Moving from house district just before election.*** A person who meets all voter qualifications except the requirement in AS 15.05.010(3) is qualified to vote by absentee ballot in the house district in which the person formerly resided if the person lived in that house district for at least 30 days immediately before changing residence, except that the person may vote only for

- (1) statewide ballot measures and questions;*
- (2) candidates for federal or statewide offices;*
- (3) candidates for the state senate if the voter's former residence and present residence are in the same senate district; and*
- (4) candidates for judicial retention if the voter's former residence and present residence are in the same judicial district.*

***AS 15.20.211. Counting cross-district and certain write-in votes.*** (a) If a qualified voter of the state votes a ballot for a house district other than the house district in which the voter is registered, that person may vote only for

- (1) statewide ballot measures and questions;*
- (2) candidates for federal or statewide offices;*
- (3) candidates for the state senate if the voter's former residence and present residence are in the same senate district; and*
- (4) candidates for judicial retention if the voter's former residence and present residence are in the same judicial district.*

Representative LeDoux also discussed the scenario of a voter who may have requested a by-mail ballot and, upon receiving their by-mail ballot, later moves to a different district.

For clarification, when a voter completes an absentee ballot application, they are providing the division with their most current residence address used for voter registration. Prior to sending the ballot, the division updates the voter's address and the voter is issued the ballot of that address. When a voter

submits an application after the 30-day registration deadline, the division still updates their residence address, but as described above, the voter's ballot is subject to the provisions of AS 15.20.010.

**Clarification on absentee and questioned process:**

Chair Claman, you had some questions relating to the changing of terminology and or processes surrounding absentee and questioned voting.

Chapter 20 of Alaska Statutes Article 1 is titled "Absentee Voting". Under this title, there are four distinct methods of absentee voting offered to voters as follows:

- a. **AS 15.20.061. Absentee voting in person** allows a person to vote beginning 15 days prior to Election Day. Voters will complete an envelope containing voter registration information and the absentee official checks identification and signs as the authorized official. After the voter votes their ballot, it is placed inside the envelope. During the review process, the ballot it is checked against the official Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS) by a bi-partisan review board to determine the voter's eligibility to vote in the election.
- b. **AS 15. 20.064. Early voting** allows a person to vote beginning 15 days prior to Election Day at a voting location that has real-time access to VREMS. At the time of voting, the voter's eligibility is checked by the absentee official by verifying that the voter was registered 30-days prior to Election Day, that their residence address has not changed and, in a primary election, the voter political affiliation for ballot choice. Upon determining that a voter is eligible to vote in this manner, the voter simply signs the voter certificate, votes their ballot and it is placed in the ballot box. There is no further review of this ballot. Currently, the division has seven locations that allow for this method of voting. It is important to note that at these locations, when a voter's eligibility is questioned, that the absentee official will instruct the voter vote following the provisions of AS 15.20.061.
- c. **AS 15.20.066. Absentee voting by electronic transmission** allows a voter to vote a ballot by electronic transmission. Voters must first apply to receive a ballot under the provisions listed in AS 15.20.081.
- d. **AS 15.20.072. Special needs voting** allows a voter to have a personal representative pick up a ballot on their behalf at an absentee voting location or at a precinct.
- e. **AS 15.20.081. Absentee voting in general; applying for ballot by mail or electronic transmission** allows a voter to vote a ballot by mail. Voters must first apply to receive a ballot under this provision.

It is our understanding that Representative Tuck's goal is to change the provisions of AS 15.20.061 and AS 15.20.064 to be called simply Early Voting without effecting current processes.

In regards to the terminology of questioned voting, this method is only available on Election Day at the polls and is not an absentee voting method as per AS 15.15.198.

**Clarification of current registration changes through absentee:**

Representative Tuck made a comment that a voter can change their party registration using an in person absentee ballot within 10 days.

Currently, the division follows the provisions of AS 15.25.060 (b) that requires a voter to be registered with the political affiliation 30-days prior to Election Day. Even if a voter changes their affiliation after the 30-day registration deadline, their ballot choice is based upon their affiliation at the 30-day registration deadline.

**What information is mandatory on voter registration forms?**

Information required to register an applicant can be found in AS 15.07.060. Each applicant who requests registration or reregistration must provide: name; sex; ADL, State ID or Last 4 of SSN if issued; Alaska residence address; previous registration information if in another jurisdiction; declaration that the applicant is 18 years old or will be within 90 days and is a U.S. Citizen; date and signature; former name, if any; attest to the information provided and certify the applicant understands that falsifying information may subject them to prosecution for a misdemeanor.

**Are voters who cast an absentee or questioned ballots cross checked with other states at the time of review and if I am registered to vote in Texas and in Alaska and I vote in Alaska does my ballot still count?**

When a voter votes under the provisions of AS 15.20.061 (absentee in person), AS 15.20.064 (early vote), AS 15.20.072 (special needs), and AS 15.15.198 (questioned), the voter's eligibility is checked against VREMS to determine if the voter is currently registered. If the voter is currently registered, then the ballot is reviewed and/or verified accordingly and counted. If a person is not registered, based upon current law, the voter's ballot would be rejected for all statewide races and district races and the registration is processed at a later date with the exception of a presidential election. In a presidential, the voter's registration would be processed and the ballot counted for only the presidential race. Currently the attestation states that the person is not registered or has taken the necessary steps to cancel their registration in another state. At this time, there isn't a national database for the division to verify if a person is registered in another jurisdiction and the division would need to contact each individual county and/or state elections department to verify a person who is currently registering status. However, the division utilizes the ERIC program for cross-checking voter registration information with other states who also participate in ERIC.

**How do I cancel my voter registration in Alaska?**

A voter can call, email our office or send us a letter to cancel their registration in Alaska. Routinely, we receive cancellation notices from other states indicating that a voter is now registered in their state and wishes to cancel registration in Alaska. As mentioned above, the division also utilizes ERIC's program.

**Amendment #1**

This amendment would require the division to provide a space for voters to cancel their registration in other jurisdictions on all division voter registration forms. The division is seeking clarification as to how we

The Honorable Matt Claman

April 21, 2017

Page 5 of 5

would handle absentee in person, special needs, questioned ballot and absentee by mail and electronic transmission applications completed in the act of voting. If a voter completes this portion of the application to cancel their registration in another state but, when reviewing the ballot it is determined that the voter is currently a qualified registered voter in Alaska, how does the division process the ballot? In some cases it could be that the voter was registered in Alaska, moved and then returned back to Alaska and is now cancelling their registration in the other state or it could be that the voter simply completes this portion but they cancelled their registration 20 years ago in the other state. Ballot count/no count decisions are based upon the 30-day registration or, as proposed in the new bill, 30-day residency requirement. By implementing the proposed amendment, there is a possibility that adding this line to the forms listed above could have an impact on the voter's eligibility to vote in an election.

If you have further questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Josie Bahnke

Director

cc: House Judiciary Committee Members

Representative Chris Tuck

**AMENDMENT**

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE  
TO: CSHB 1(STA)

BY REPRESENTATIVE CLAMAN

1 Page 2, following line 27:

2 Insert a new bill section to read:

3 **\*\* Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.060(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) **Every registration form must include space for an applicant who is**  
5 **registered in another jurisdiction to specify that jurisdiction and a notice that the**  
6 **director will notify the chief elections officer in that jurisdiction.** If the applicant  
7 has been previously registered to vote in another jurisdiction, the director shall notify  
8 the chief elections officer in that jurisdiction that the applicant has registered to vote in  
9 Alaska and request that that jurisdiction cancel the applicant's voter registration there."

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version:	CSHB 1(STA)
Fiscal Note Number:	1
(H) Publish Date:	3/29/2017

Identifier: HB001-OOG-DOE-2-21-17  
 Title: ELECTION REGISTRATION AND VOTING  
 Sponsor: TUCK  
 Requester: House 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)

	FY2018	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2018 Request	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>	<b>FY 2018</b>					
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services	50.0						
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	50.0						
<b>Total</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**Change in Revenues**

None							
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(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? 01/01/18

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

Not applicable; initial version.
----------------------------------

Prepared By:	Josephine Bahnke, Director	Phone:	(907)465-2644
Division:	Division of Elections	Date:	02/21/2017 11:12 AM
Approved By:	Guy Bell, Administrative Director	Date:	02/21/17
Agency:	Division of Administrative Services, Office of the Governor		

## FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**Analysis**

This bill is designed to increase voter participation by simplifying the voter registration process and by simplifying the absentee by mail and absentee in person processes.

This bill will have an impact on the Division of Elections (DOE) internal processes and computer database programming. Specifically, it will impact DOE's Online Voter Registration System programming, Voter Registration Electronic Management System programming, absentee in person processes, and questioned ballot processes.

In order to implement the requirements of House Bill 1, changes are necessary to the DOE's existing voter registration and election management system to accommodate electronic signatures from voters and to automate the purging of the Permanent Absentee Voting List. The division anticipates that House Bill 1 changes will require the division to contract for additional database development and enhancement of our existing system for signature verification.

# Fiscal Note

State of Alaska  
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 1  
Fiscal Note Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) Publish Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Identifier: HB007CS(STA)-OOG-DOE-04-17-17  
Title: ELECTION REGISTRATION AND VOTING  
Sponsor: TUCK  
Requester: House 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)

	FY2018 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2018 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
<b>Total Operating</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Fund Source (Operating Only)**

None								
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Positions**

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

**Change in Revenues**

None								
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost:** 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*  
*(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)*

**Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost:** 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*  
*(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? 01/01/18

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:**

The previous fiscal note submitted by the division included a fiscal note that would make required changes to the Voter Registration and Elections Management System and alterations to the Online Voter Registration System (OLVR) to accept electronic signatures. The new CS addressed the required change and eliminated the need for additional programming costs associated with HB 1 implementation.

Prepared By: Josephine Bahnke, Director Phone: (907)465-2644  
Division: Division of Elections Date: 04/17/2017 12:35 PM  
Approved By: Guy Bell, Administrative Director Date: 04/17/17  
Agency: Division of Administrative Services, Office of the Governor

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 1

**Analysis**

This bill is designed to increase voter participation by simplifying the voter registration process and by simplifying the absentee by mail and absentee in person processes.

This bill will have an impact on the Division of Elections (DOE) internal processes and computer database programming. Specifically, it will impact DOE's Online Voter Registration System programming, Voter Registration Electronic Management System programming, absentee in person processes, and questioned ballot processes.

In order to implement the requirements of House Bill 1, changes are necessary to the DOE's existing voter registration and election management system to automate the inactivation of the Permanent Absentee Voting List. The division anticipates that House Bill 1 changes will require the division to contract for additional database development and enhancement of our existing system for signature verification. The cost of additional hours for programming will be covered under an existing maintenance agreement with our vendor.