

HB

1

<TARGET><BILL>HB 1</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
1</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA30</COMM></TARGET>



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 of a handful of states which exceeded 50 percent voter turnout in 2014, almost half of Alaskan voters are effectively 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

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

3/29/17

(7)
Date Referred to Committee: January 18, 2017

FURTHER REFERRALS: Judiciary

Date of Committee Action: March 28, 2017

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

HB 1

HOUSE BILL NO. 1

"An Act relating to absentee voting, voting, and voter registration; relating to early voting locations at which persons may vote absentee ballots; and providing for an effective date."

HB 1-ELECTION REGISTRATION AND VOTING

Recommends it be replaced with HCS or CS for HB 1 (STA)
For Senate Bills with new title: Technical Title New Title: HCR _____ Same Title New Title

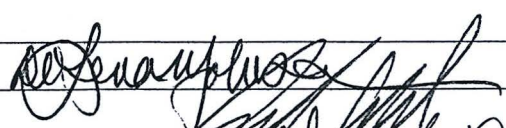
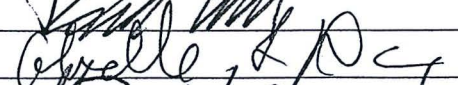
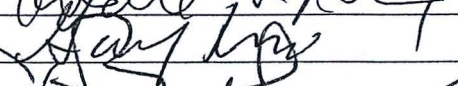

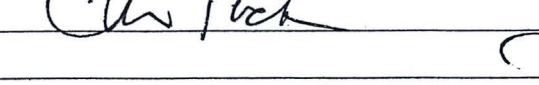
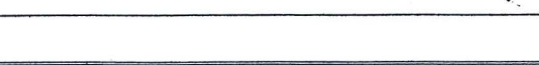
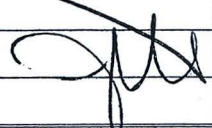
- attach amendments
- add new referral to _____ Committee
- Letter of Intent _____ Committee

- List of Abbrev for Depts.:
- ADM
 - AJS
 - CED
 - COR
 - EED
 - DEC
 - DFG
 - GOV
 - DHS
 - LWF
 - LAW
 - LEG
 - MVA
 - DNR
 - DPS
 - REV
 - DOT
 - UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*FN# is assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
*FN#	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
1	GOV	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
FN#	List by Dept(s):	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

(4) (3)

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
	Johnson			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Wool	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	LeDoux	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
	Knopp			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Birch			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Tuck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Chair: 	Kreiss-Tomkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Chair:					



Representative Chris Tuck

House Majority Leader

Alaska State Legislature

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

MEMORANDUM

February 15, 2017

TO: Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins
Chair, State Affairs Committee

FROM: Rep. Chris Tuck
House Majority Leader 

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 A
- 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

Sectional Analysis House Bill 1 Election Registration and Voting

Section 1. Removes language from AS 15.05.010 that requires a qualified voter to register under AS 15.07 before an election.

Section 2. Permits a person registering or reregistering as a voter to apply using an electronic signature.

Section 3. Allows a qualified voter registering on the day of, or within 30 days of an election, to vote a questioned ballot at that election.

Section 4. Conforms AS 15.07.130(e) to changes made in sec. 5 of the bill.

Section 5. Renames absentee voting stations “early voting stations.” Provides that a location designated as an early voting station will remain an early voting station for subsequent elections unless the location is no longer available for use or the director of the division of elections determines that the location is no longer appropriate. Requires the director to make a determination that a location is no longer appropriate for use as an early voting station available to the public in writing.

Section 6-8. Conform AS 15.20.050, AS 15.20.061(a), and AS 15.20.072(b) to changes made in sec. 5 of the bill.

Section 9. Requires an absentee ballot application to include an option for a voter to choose to receive absentee ballots by mail for future regularly scheduled state elections. Provides conditions under which the director may require a voter to reapply to receive absentee ballots by mail.

Section 10. Defines “electronic signature” for AS 15.

Section 11. Conforms AS 29.20.380(c) to changes made in sec. 5 of the bill.

Section 12. Provides authority to the director of the division of elections in uncodified law to adopt or amend regulations as necessary to implement the changes made by the Act.

Section 13. Provides an effective date for the bill’s provisions.

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

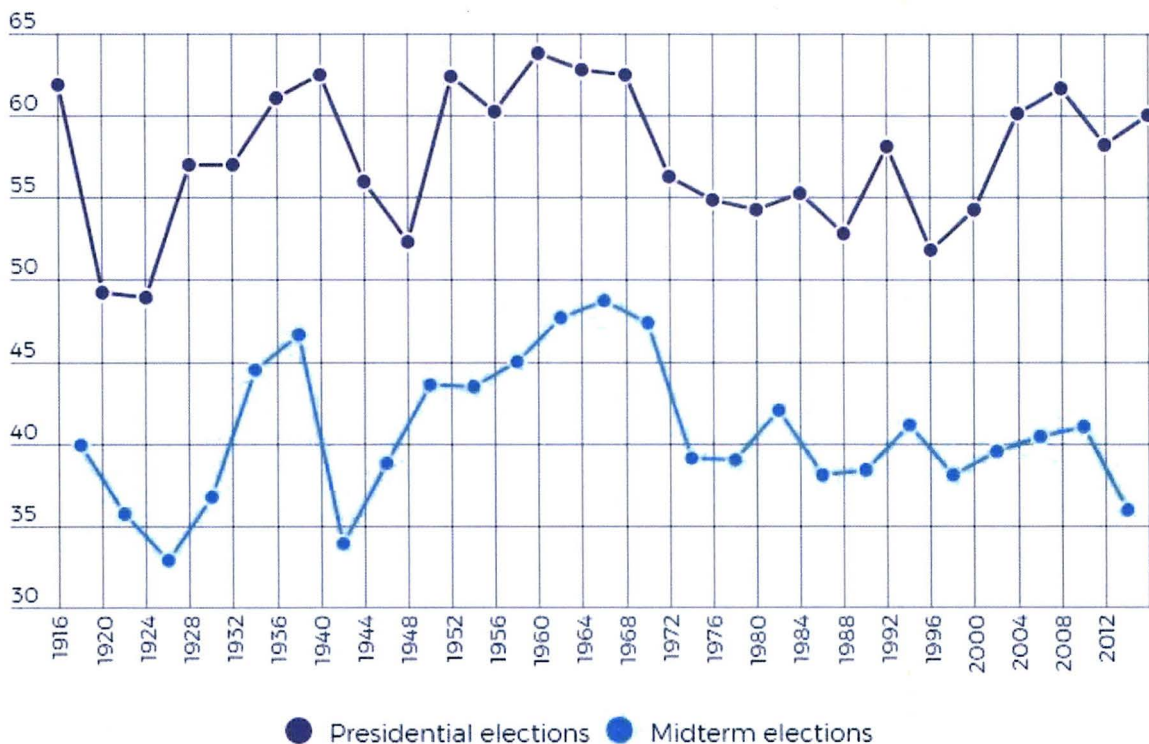
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Voting Information and Statistics

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.¹

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/>)

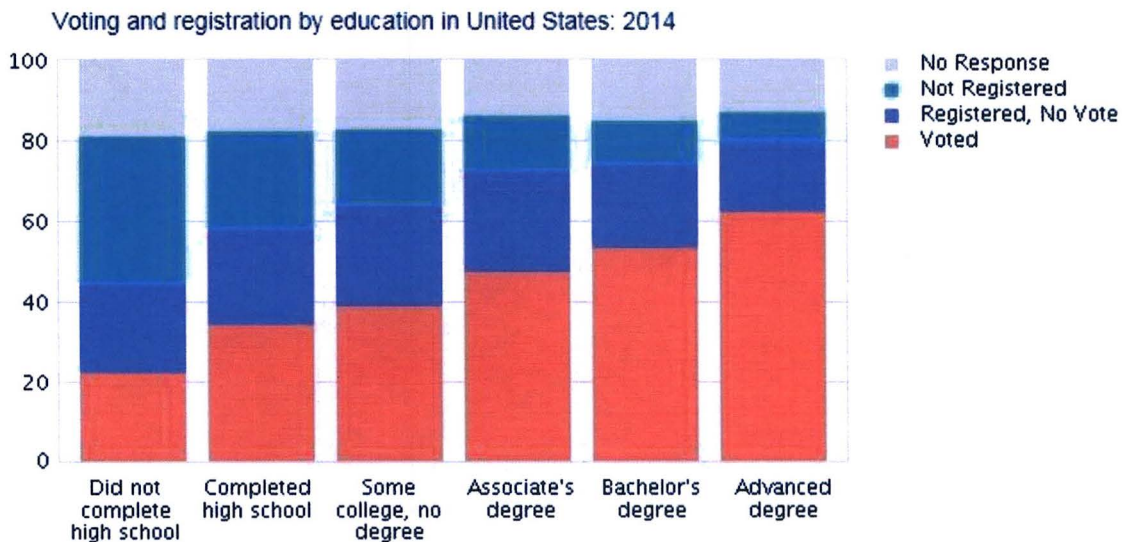
¹ FairVote http://www.fairvote.org/voter_turnout#voter_turnout_101 and United States Elections Project <http://www.electproject.org/>

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.² - 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.³
- 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.⁴

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

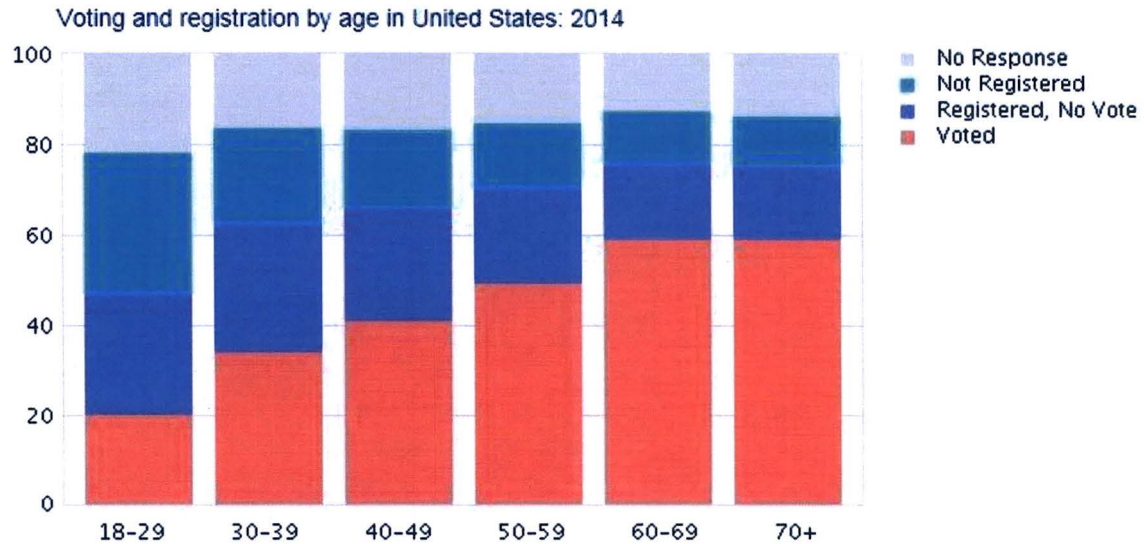
² The percentage of adults who have at least a bachelor's degree and poverty rates came from the U.S Census Bureau's 2014 American Community Survey. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/states-with-the-highest-and-lowest-voter-turnout_us_5813a3c5e4b096e87069653a

³ 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

⁴ 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

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
Total who said yes to any of the activities listed above	66%	39%

Contributing Factors to High Voter Turnout

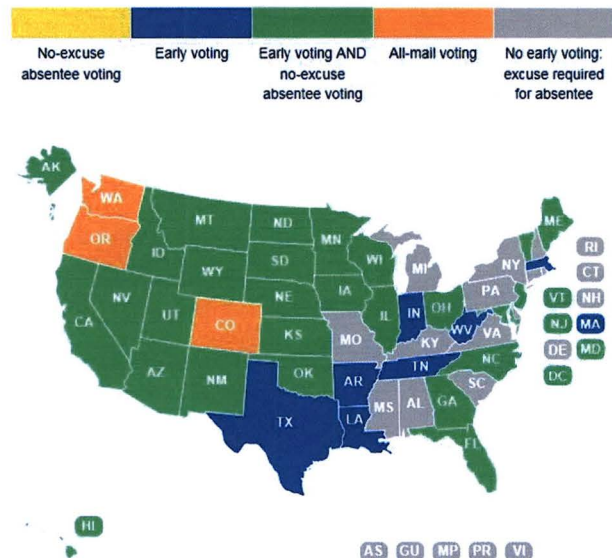
Wisconsin, Maine and Minnesota, who have higher than average voter turnout, attributes their success to allowing new voters to register and vote on Election Day. Same-day registration is the biggest factor in generating high voter turnout as it generates a possible voter increase of 10 percent.⁵

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.⁶

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.



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

⁶ 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:

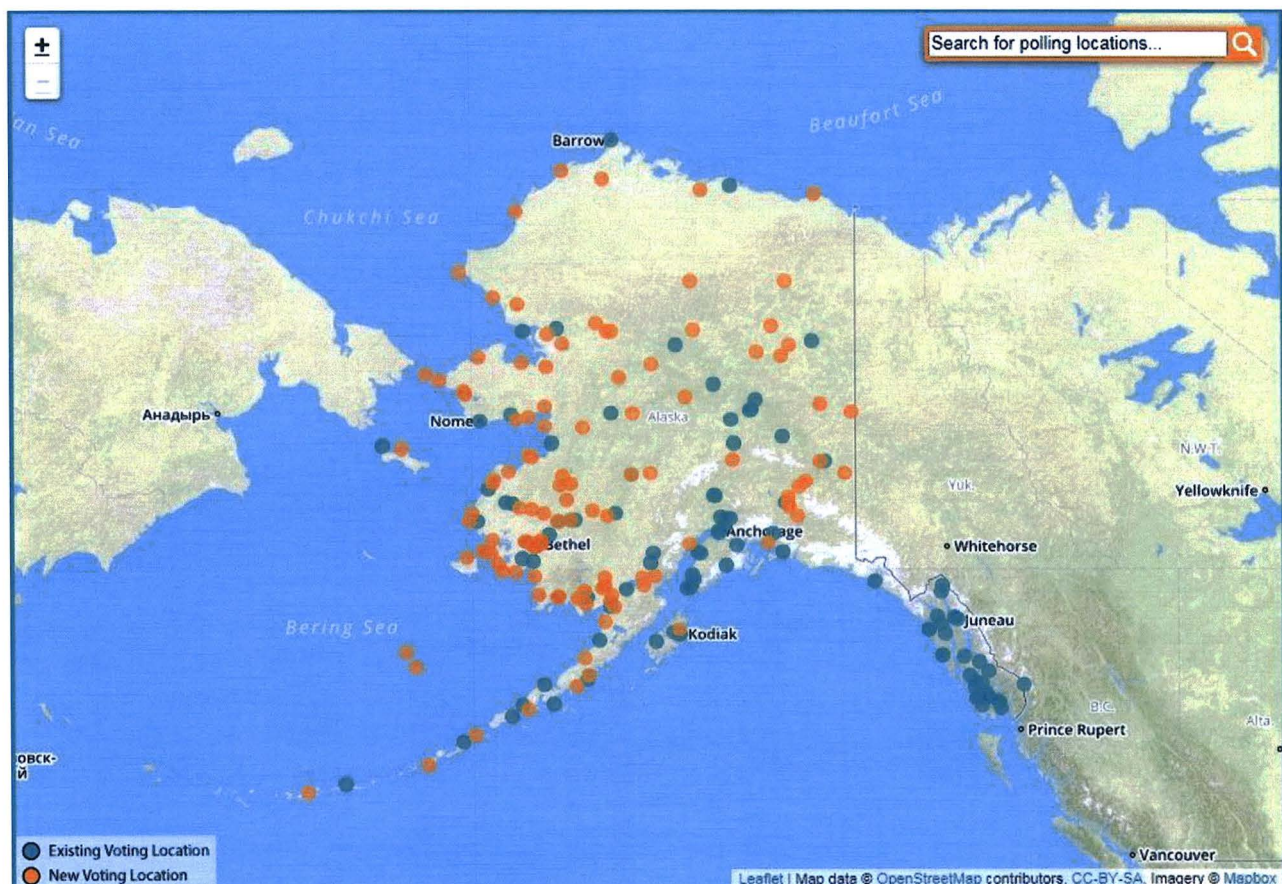
1. Reduced stress on the voting system on Election Day
2. Shorter lines on Election Day
3. Improved poll worker performance
4. Early identification and correction of registration errors and voting system glitches
5. Greater access to voting and increased voter satisfaction

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.⁷
- 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.⁸
- 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.⁹
- 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 2015.¹⁰

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.¹¹

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

⁷ National Conference of State Legislatures, *The Canvass: States and Election Reform*. Issue 75. January 2017

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

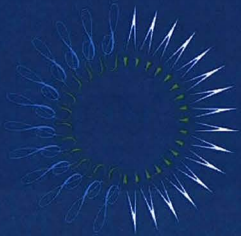
⁹ PEW Charitable Trusts. Electronic Registration Information Center. <http://www.pewtrusts.org/en/projects/election-initiatives/about/upgrading-voter-registration/eric>

¹⁰ National Conference of State Legislatures, *The Canvass: States and Election Reform*. Issue 75. January 2017

¹¹ 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

¹² National Conference of State Legislatures. *The Canvass, State and Election Reform*. December 2016.



THE
PEW
CHARITABLE TRUSTS

Bringing Elections into the 21st Century:
Data, Technology & the Future of Registration

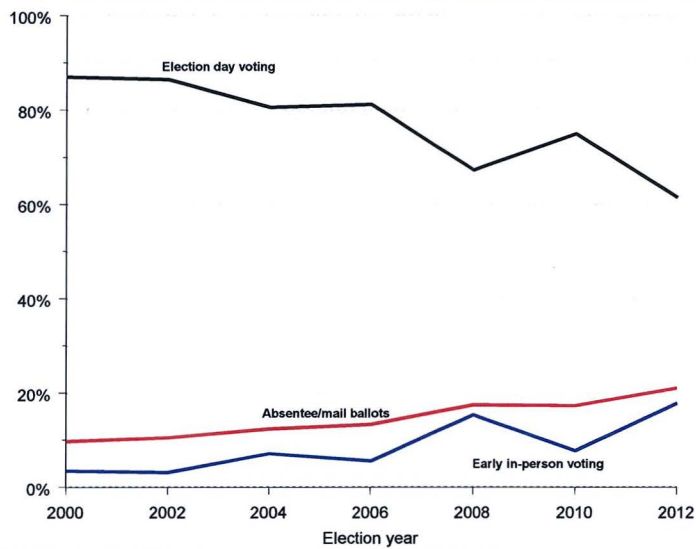
Zachary Markovits
Manager, Election Initiatives

Pew Election Initiatives



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

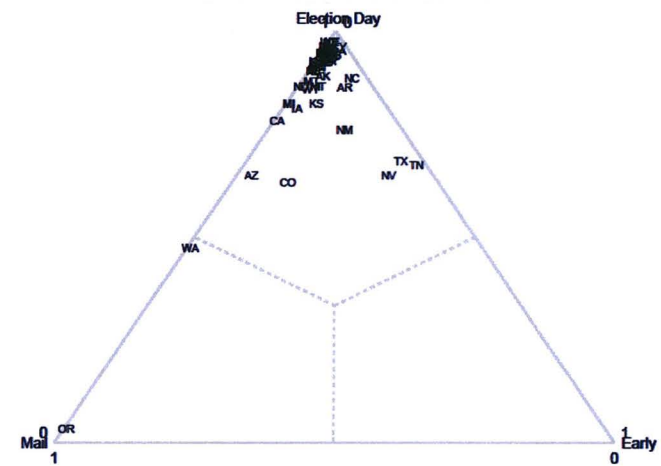
How we vote has changed



How we vote has changed



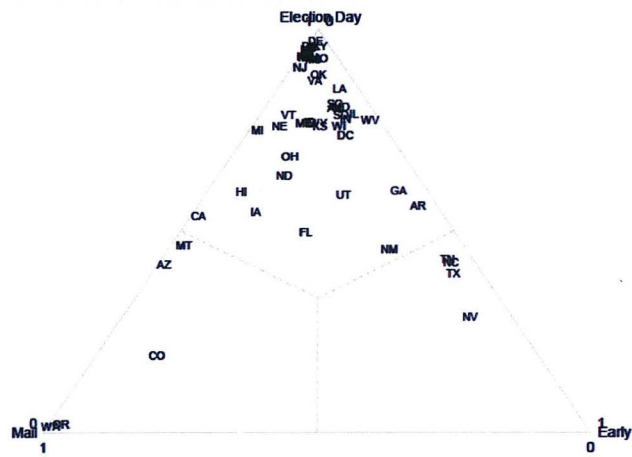
2000 Presidential Election



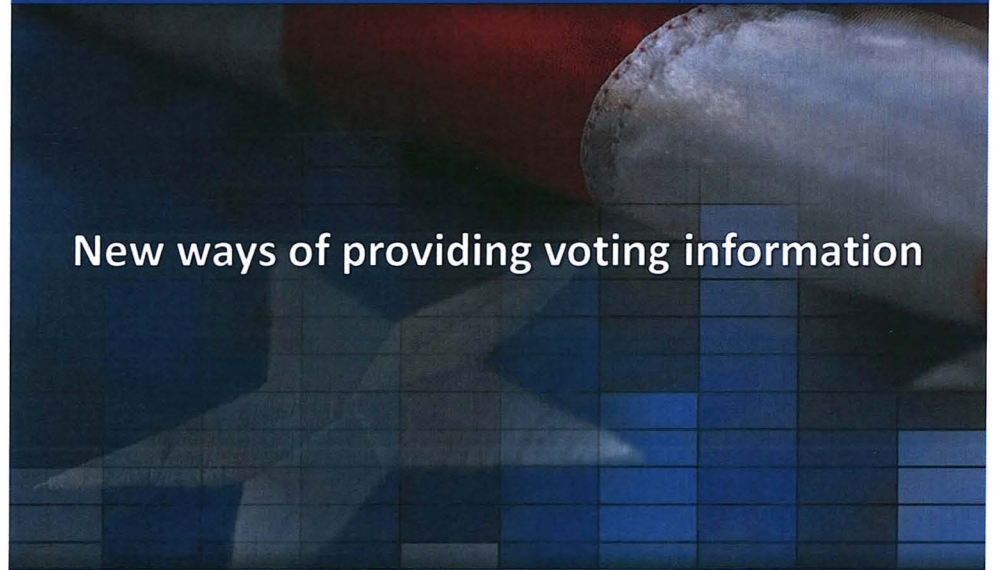
How we vote has changed



2012 Presidential Election



New ways of providing voting information



The Voting Information Project



The Voting Information Project: Election Day 2012



Google | Voter Information

Polling Place Lookup
Type the address where you're registered to vote

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

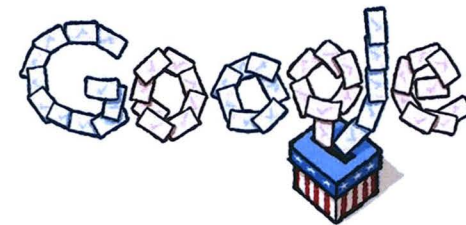
VIP tools were embedded on over 600 websites on Election Day in 2012, including CNN, The Washington Post, Fox News, Facebook, and various campaigns and organizations

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

Candidates

President	State Assembly
Barack Obama	Democrat
Joe Biden	Democrat
Mitt Romney	Republican
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)	Pro



Google Search I'm Feeling Lucky

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

Mobile Polling Place Locator



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

Cell Phone Activities

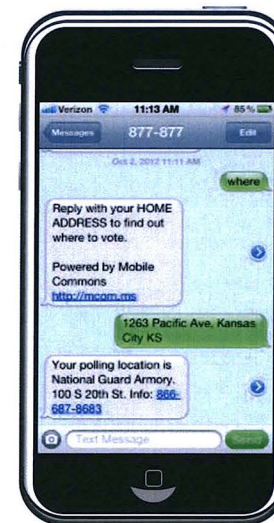
The % of cell phone owners who use their cell phone to...


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





Upgrading our Voter Registration System



The Problem with Registration

- Inaccurate voter registration records:

24 million

- Votes lost in 2012 due to registration problems:

1.2 million

The Problem with Registration



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 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



- 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”



- 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



Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

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

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

Fund Source (Operating Only)

1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	50.0						
Total	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

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

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 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.

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX

TO: CSHB 1(), Draft Version "D"

1 Page 1, line 1, following "**registration**";:

2 Insert "**relating to poll watchers**";

3

4 Page 4, following line 17:

5 Insert new bill sections to read:

6 "* **Sec. 9.** AS 15.10.170 is amended to read:

7 **Sec. 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers.** (a) **In a general**
8 **election, special election, or special runoff election under AS 15.40.141, a** [THE]
9 precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party
10 district committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party
11 **chair** [CHAIRPERSON] where neither a precinct nor a party district committee
12 exists, may appoint one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers in each precinct and
13 counting center. **A** [FOR ANY ELECTION. EACH] candidate not representing a
14 political party may appoint one or more watchers for each precinct or counting center
15 in the candidate's respective district or the state [FOR ANY ELECTION]. Any
16 organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes **a ballot proposition** [AN
17 INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM,] or recall may have one or more [PERSONS AS]
18 watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the
19 director. A state party **chair** [CHAIRPERSON], a precinct party committee, a party
20 district committee, or a candidate not representing a political party or organization or
21 organized group may not have more than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct
22 or counting center. [A WATCHER MUST BE A UNITED STATES CITIZEN. THE
23 WATCHER MAY BE PRESENT AT A POSITION INSIDE THE PLACE OF

1 VOTING OR COUNTING THAT AFFORDS A FULL VIEW OF ALL ACTION OF
2 THE ELECTION OFFICIALS TAKEN FROM THE TIME THE POLLS ARE
3 OPENED UNTIL THE BALLOTS ARE FINALLY COUNTED AND THE
4 RESULTS CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA
5 PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD. THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA
6 PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD MAY REQUIRE EACH WATCHER TO
7 PRESENT WRITTEN PROOF SHOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE PRECINCT
8 PARTY COMMITTEE, THE PARTY DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THE
9 ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZED GROUP, OR THE CANDIDATE THE
10 WATCHER REPRESENTS THAT IS SIGNED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
11 PRECINCT PARTY COMMITTEE, THE PARTY DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THE
12 STATE PARTY CHAIRPERSON, THE ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZED
13 GROUP, OR THE CANDIDATE REPRESENTING NO PARTY.]

14 (b) In [ADDITION TO THE WATCHERS APPOINTED UNDER (a) OF
15 THIS SECTION, IN] a primary election, [SPECIAL ELECTION UNDER
16 AS 15.40.140, OR SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION UNDER AS 15.40.141,] each
17 candidate may appoint one **or more persons as watchers for** [WATCHER IN] each
18 precinct and counting center **in the candidate's respective district. Any**
19 **organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes a ballot proposition or**
20 **recall may have one or more watchers at the polls and counting centers after first**
21 **obtaining authorization from the director.**

22 * **Sec. 10.** AS 15.10.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (c) A watcher appointed under this section may be present at a position inside
24 the place of voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election
25 officials taken from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted
26 and the results certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The
27 election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to
28 present written proof showing appointment by the respective precinct party committee,
29 party district committee, organization or organized group, or candidate the watcher
30 represents that is signed by the respective chair of the precinct party committee, party
31 district committee, state party chair, organization or organized group, or candidate. A

- 1 watcher must be a United States citizen."
- 2
- 3 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 1()

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

BY

**Offered:
Referred:**

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES TUCK, Drummond

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to absentee voting, voting, early voting, special needs voting, and voter**
2 **registration; relating to poll watchers; relating to absentee ballots, questioned ballots,**
3 **and questioned ballot procedures; relating to which primary election ballot a voter may**
4 **use; relating to early voting locations at which persons may vote absentee ballots;**
5 **relating to qualifications to vote at a municipal election; and providing for an effective**
6 **date."**

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

8 *** Section 1.** AS 15.05.010 is amended to read:

9 **Sec. 15.05.010. Voter qualification.** A person may vote at any election who

- 10 (1) is a citizen of the United States;
- 11 (2) is 18 years of age or older;
- 12 (3) has been a resident of the state and of the house district in which
- 13 the person seeks to vote for at least 30 days just before the election; and

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(4) has registered [BEFORE THE ELECTION] as required under AS 15.07 and is not registered to vote in another jurisdiction.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 15.07.060(a) is amended to read:

(a) Each applicant who requests registration or reregistration shall supply the following information:

- (1) the applicant's name and sex;
- (2) if issued, the applicant's State of Alaska driver's license number or State of Alaska identification card number, or the last four digits of the applicant's social security number;
- (3) the applicant's date of birth;
- (4) the applicant's Alaska residence address;
- (5) a statement of whether the applicant has previously been registered to vote in another jurisdiction, and, if so, the jurisdiction and the address of the previous registration;
- (6) a declaration that the applicant will be 18 years of age or older within 90 days after the date of registration;
- (7) a declaration that the applicant is a citizen of the United States;
- (8) the date of application;
- (9) the applicant's signature, electronic signature under (g) of this section, or mark;
- (10) any former name under which the applicant was registered to vote in the state;
- (11) an attestation that the information provided by the applicant in (1) - (10) of this subsection is true; and
- (12) a certification that the applicant understands that a false statement on the application may make the applicant subject to prosecution for a misdemeanor under this title or AS 11.

* **Sec. 3.** AS 15.07.060 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(g) In accordance with AS 09.80.150(b), the director of the division shall determine the form of an electronic signature that may be used to register or reregister under (a) of this section and the process used to obtain the electronic signature.

1 * **Sec. 4.** AS 15.07.070(d) is amended to read:

2 (d) Qualified voters may register in person before a registration official or
3 through a voter registration agency at any time throughout the year. **A qualified voter**
4 **who registers** [, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON REGISTERING] within 30 days
5 preceding an election **or on the day of an election shall vote an absentee or**
6 **questioned ballot** [IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE] at that election. Upon receipt and
7 approval of the registration forms, the director or the election supervisor shall forward
8 to the voter an acknowledgment in the form of a registration card, and the voter's name
9 shall immediately be placed on the master register. Names of persons registering 30 or
10 more days before an election shall be placed on the official registration list for that
11 election.

12 * **Sec. 5.** AS 15.07.070(h) is amended to read:

13 (h) The director shall design the form of the voter's certificate appearing on
14 the envelope that is used for voting an absentee in-person, **special needs**, or
15 questioned ballot so that **a voter's choice to register as nonpartisan, as undeclared,**
16 **or as affiliated with a political party or political group and** all information required
17 for registration by AS 15.07.060(a) may be obtained from a voter who votes an
18 absentee in-person, **special needs**, or questioned ballot. If the voter voting an absentee
19 in-person, **special needs**, or questioned ballot has completed all information on the
20 voter registration portion of the absentee in-person, **special needs**, or questioned ballot
21 voter's certificate, the director shall place the name of the voter on the official
22 registration list.

23 * **Sec. 6.** AS 15.070.70 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

24 (i) In this section, "absentee or questioned ballot" includes a special needs
25 ballot voted under AS 15.20.072.

26 * **Sec. 7.** AS 15.07.090(b) is amended to read:

27 (b) A voter shall reregister if the voter's registration is cancelled as provided in
28 AS 15.07.130. **A person who has reregistered under this subsection shall vote an**
29 **absentee or questioned ballot until** [THE REREGISTRATION IS EFFECTIVE
30 FOR] the next election that occurs at least 30 days after the date of reregistration.

31 * **Sec. 8.** AS 15.07.090(c) is amended to read:

1 (c) The director shall transfer the registration of a voter from one precinct to
2 another within a house district when requested by the voter. **If a [THE] request is not**
3 **[SHALL BE] made 30 or more days before the election day, a person who has**
4 **moved to a new precinct shall vote an absentee or questioned ballot.** The director
5 shall transfer the registration of a voter from one house district to another when
6 requested by the voter. The voter must reside in the new house district for at least 30
7 days in order to vote **a ballot for that district.**

8 * **Sec. 9.** AS 15.07.090(d) is amended to read:

9 (d) A person who claims to be a registered voter, but for whom no evidence of
10 registration in the precinct can be found, shall **vote an absentee or questioned ballot**
11 **[BE GRANTED THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THAT OF A**
12 **QUESTIONED VOTER AND THE BALLOT SHALL BE TREATED IN THE**
13 **SAME MANNER. THE BALLOT SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO BE A**
14 **"QUESTIONED BALLOT" AND SHALL BE SO DESIGNATED. THE DIRECTOR**
15 **OR THE DIRECTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER**
16 **THE VOTER IS REGISTERED IN THE HOUSE DISTRICT BEFORE COUNTING**
17 **THE BALLOT. A VOTER WHO HAS FAILED TO OBTAIN A TRANSFER AS**
18 **PROVIDED IN (c) OF THIS SECTION SHALL VOTE A "QUESTIONED**
19 **BALLOT" IN THE PRECINCT IN WHICH THE VOTER RESIDES].**

20 * **Sec. 10.** AS 15.07.090 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 (e) In this section, "absentee or questioned ballot" includes a special needs
22 ballot voted under AS 15.20.072.

23 * **Sec. 11.** AS 15.07.130(e) is amended to read:

24 (e) For purposes of (b) and (d) of this section, a voter "appears to vote" if

25 (1) the voter is present at a polling place or at an **early** [ABSENTEE]
26 voting station **designated under AS 15.20.045(b)** at a time when the polling place or
27 **early** [ABSENTEE] voting station is operating, for the purpose of casting a vote;

28 (2) the voter applies to the division to obtain an absentee ballot; or

29 (3) in an election conducted by mail under AS 15.20.800, a voter who
30 has not received a ballot by mail makes a timely request to the division for a ballot.

31 * **Sec. 12.** AS 15.10.170 is amended to read:

1 **Sec. 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers.** (a) **In a general**
2 **election, special election, or special runoff election under AS 15.40.141, a** [THE]
3 precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party
4 district committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party
5 **chair** [CHAIRPERSON] where neither a precinct nor a party district committee
6 exists, may appoint one or more [PERSONS AS] watchers in each precinct and
7 counting center. **A** [FOR ANY ELECTION. EACH] candidate not representing a
8 political party may appoint one or more watchers for each precinct or counting center
9 in the candidate's respective district or the state [FOR ANY ELECTION]. Any
10 organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes **a ballot proposition** [AN
11 INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM,] or recall may have one or more [PERSONS AS]
12 watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the
13 director. A state party **chair** [CHAIRPERSON], a precinct party committee, a party
14 district committee, or a candidate not representing a political party or organization or
15 organized group may not have more than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct
16 or counting center. [A WATCHER MUST BE A UNITED STATES CITIZEN. THE
17 WATCHER MAY BE PRESENT AT A POSITION INSIDE THE PLACE OF
18 VOTING OR COUNTING THAT AFFORDS A FULL VIEW OF ALL ACTION OF
19 THE ELECTION OFFICIALS TAKEN FROM THE TIME THE POLLS ARE
20 OPENED UNTIL THE BALLOTS ARE FINALLY COUNTED AND THE
21 RESULTS CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA
22 PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD. THE ELECTION BOARD OR THE DATA
23 PROCESSING REVIEW BOARD MAY REQUIRE EACH WATCHER TO
24 PRESENT WRITTEN PROOF SHOWING APPOINTMENT BY THE PRECINCT
25 PARTY COMMITTEE, THE PARTY DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THE
26 ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZED GROUP, OR THE CANDIDATE THE
27 WATCHER REPRESENTS THAT IS SIGNED BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
28 PRECINCT PARTY COMMITTEE, THE PARTY DISTRICT COMMITTEE, THE
29 STATE PARTY CHAIRPERSON, THE ORGANIZATION OR ORGANIZED
30 GROUP, OR THE CANDIDATE REPRESENTING NO PARTY.]

31 (b) In [ADDITION TO THE WATCHERS APPOINTED UNDER (a) OF

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THIS SECTION, IN] a primary election, [SPECIAL ELECTION UNDER AS 15.40.140, OR SPECIAL RUNOFF ELECTION UNDER AS 15.40.141,] each candidate may appoint one or more persons as watchers for [WATCHER IN] each precinct and counting center in the candidate's respective district. Any organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes a ballot proposition or recall may have one or more watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director.

* Sec. 13. AS 15.10.170 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

(c) A watcher appointed under this section may be present at a position inside the place of voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election officials taken from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted and the results certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to present written proof showing appointment by the respective precinct party committee, party district committee, organization or organized group, or candidate the watcher represents that is signed by the respective chair of the precinct party committee, party district committee, state party chair, organization or organized group, or candidate. A watcher must be a United States citizen.

* Sec. 14. AS 15.15.210 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.15.210. Questioning of voters of suspect qualification; questioned ballot procedures. Every election official shall question, and every watcher and any other person qualified to vote in the precinct may question, a person attempting to vote if the questioner has good reason to suspect that the questioned person is not qualified under AS 15.05. All questions regarding a person's qualifications to vote shall be made in writing setting out the reason the person has been questioned. A questioned person shall complete the declaration required under (b) of this section [, BEFORE VOTING, SUBSCRIBE TO A DECLARATION IN A FORM PROVIDED BY THE DIRECTOR ATTESTING TO THE FACT THAT IN EACH PARTICULAR THE PERSON MEETS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A VOTER, IS NOT DISQUALIFIED, AND HAS NOT VOTED AT THE SAME ELECTION, AND CERTIFYING THAT THE PERSON UNDERSTANDS THAT A

1 FALSE STATEMENT ON THE DECLARATION MAY SUBJECT THE PERSON
2 TO PROSECUTION FOR A MISDEMEANOR UNDER THIS TITLE OR AS 11.
3 AFTER THE QUESTIONED PERSON HAS EXECUTED THE DECLARATION,
4 THE PERSON MAY VOTE]. If the questioned person refuses to execute the
5 declaration, the person may not vote.

6 * **Sec. 15.** AS 15.15.210 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 (b) Each person voting a questioned ballot shall complete a declaration in a
8 form provided by the director attesting to the fact that the person is a qualified voter, is
9 not disqualified, and has not voted at the same election and certifying that the person
10 understands that a false statement on the declaration may subject the person to
11 prosecution for a misdemeanor under this title or AS 11. For state and local elections,
12 the voter must attest that the voter has been a 30-day resident of the election district in
13 which the voter is seeking to vote or that the voter is otherwise qualified to vote under
14 AS 15.20.211.

15 * **Sec. 16.** AS 15.15.215(a) is amended to read:

16 (a) A voter who casts a questioned ballot shall vote the ballot in the same
17 manner as prescribed for other voters. The voter shall insert the ballot into a secrecy
18 sleeve and put the secrecy sleeve into an envelope on which the **declaration required**
19 **by AS 15.15.210** [STATEMENT THE VOTER PREVIOUSLY SIGNED] is located.
20 The envelope shall be sealed and deposited in the ballot box. When the ballot box is
21 opened, the envelopes shall be segregated, counted, compared to the voting list, and
22 delivered to the official or body supervising the election. The merits of the question
23 shall be determined by this official or body in accordance with the procedure
24 prescribed for questioned votes in AS 15.20.207.

25 * **Sec. 17.** AS 15.20.030 is amended to read:

26 **Sec. 15.20.030. Preparation of ballots, envelopes, and other material.** The
27 director shall provide ballots for use as absentee ballots in all districts. The director
28 shall provide a secrecy sleeve in which the voter shall initially place the marked ballot,
29 and shall provide an envelope with the prescribed voter's certificate on it, in which the
30 secrecy sleeve with ballot enclosed shall be placed. The director shall prescribe the
31 form of and prepare the voter's certificate, envelopes, and other material used in

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absentee voting. The voter's certificate shall include a declaration, for use when required, that the voter is a qualified voter in all respects, a blank for the voter's signature, a certification that the affiant properly executed the marking of the ballot and gave the voter's identity, blanks for the attesting official or witness, and a place for recording the date the envelope was sealed and witnessed. **For state and local elections, the voter's certificate declaration must include an attestation that the voter has been a 30-day resident of the election district in which the voter is seeking to vote or is otherwise qualified to vote under AS 15.20.211.** The envelope with the voter's certificate must include a notice that false statements made by the voter or by the attesting official or witness on the certificate are punishable by law.

* **Sec. 18.** AS 15.20.045 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.20.045. Designation of absentee voting officials and early voting stations for voting absentee ballots. (a) The director or election supervisor may designate persons to act as absentee voting officials under AS 15.20.010 - 15.20.220 in areas where election supervisors do not have offices. Magistrates may, with the approval of the administrative director of the Alaska Court System, be designated under this section. At least 15 days before the election the director shall supply each absentee voting official with appropriate ballots.

(b) The director may designate by regulation adopted under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act) locations at which **early** [ABSENTEE] voting stations will be operated **for persons who vote absentee ballots** on or after the 15th day before an election up to and including the date of the election. The director shall supply **these** [ABSENTEE] voting stations with **absentee** ballots for all house districts in the state and shall designate absentee voting officials to serve at **the** [ABSENTEE] voting stations. **A designation as an early voting station under this subsection remains in effect unless**

(1) the location is no longer available for use as an early voting station; or

(2) the director determines that the location is no longer appropriate for use as an early voting station and makes that determination available to the public in writing.

1 (c) In a municipality in which the division will not be operating an early
2 [ABSENTEE] voting station under this section, the director may designate the
3 municipal clerk as an absentee voting official for the limited purpose of distributing
4 absentee ballots to qualified voters under AS 15.20.061(a)(1) and qualified voters'
5 representatives under AS 15.20.072. At least 15 days before the election, the director
6 shall supply municipal clerks designated under this subsection with absentee ballots.

7 * **Sec. 19.** AS 15.20.050 is amended to read:

8 **Sec. 15.20.050. Requirement of full public notice.** The director shall give full
9 public notice of the dates and manner of voting absentee and may select any means of
10 communication permitted to be used in giving notice of the date and time of the
11 general election. The director shall give notice under this section of the location of
12 early [ABSENTEE] voting stations designated under AS 15.20.045(b) at least 45
13 days before each election.

14 * **Sec. 20.** AS 15.20.061(a) is amended to read:

15 (a) A qualified voter may apply in person for an absentee ballot to the
16 following election officials at the times specified:

17 (1) to an absentee voting official on or after the 15th day before an
18 election up to and including the date of the election;

19 (2) to an election supervisor on or after the 15th day before an election
20 up to and including the date of the election;

21 (3) to an absentee voting official at an early [ABSENTEE] voting
22 station designated under AS 15.20.045(b) on or after the 15th day before an election
23 up to and including the date of the election;

24 (4) to an absentee voting official in the precinct in which no volunteers
25 can be located to serve on the election board on or after the 15th day before an election
26 up to and including election day.

27 * **Sec. 21.** AS 15.20.064 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (e) If a voter's eligibility to vote cannot be verified by the election supervisor
29 or other election official under (b) of this section, the voter shall vote an absentee
30 ballot in the manner provided in AS 15.20.061.

31

1 * **Sec. 22.** AS 15.20.072(b) is amended to read:

2 (b) The voter may, through a representative, request a special needs ballot
3 from the following election officials at the times specified:

4 (1) from an absentee voting official on or after the 15th day before an
5 election, up to and including election day;

6 (2) from an election supervisor on or after the 15th day before an
7 election up to and including election day;

8 (3) from an absentee voting official at an **early** [ABSENTEE] voting
9 station designated under AS 15.20.045(b) on or after the 15th day before an election
10 up to and including the date of the election; or

11 (4) from a member of the precinct election board on election day.

12 * **Sec. 23.** AS 15.20.081(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) An application requesting delivery of an absentee ballot to the applicant by
14 mail must be received by the division of elections not less than 10 days before the
15 election for which the absentee ballot is sought. An application for an absentee ballot
16 for a state election from a qualified voter requesting delivery of an absentee ballot to
17 the applicant by electronic transmission must be received by the division of elections
18 not later than 5:00 p.m. Alaska time on the day before the election for which the
19 absentee ballot is sought. An absentee ballot application submitted by mail under this
20 section must permit the person to register to vote under AS 15.07.070, **to declare an**
21 **affiliation under AS 15.07.075, if any,** and to request an absentee ballot for each state
22 election held within that calendar year for which the voter is eligible to vote. An
23 absentee ballot application submitted by electronic transmission under this section
24 **shall** [MAY NOT] include a provision that permits a person to register to vote under
25 AS 15.07.070.

26 * **Sec. 24.** AS 15.20.081 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

27 (m) An absentee ballot application must include an option for a qualified voter
28 to choose to receive absentee ballots by mail for future regularly scheduled state
29 elections. The division may not require a voter who chooses this option to reapply for
30 an absentee ballot by mail unless

31 (1) the voter has not voted an absentee ballot for a period of four years;

1 or

2 (2) mail addressed to the voter from the division has been returned to
3 the division as undeliverable.

4 * **Sec. 25.** AS 15.25.060(b) is amended to read:

5 (b) A voter may vote only one primary election ballot. A voter may vote a
6 political party ballot only if the voter is registered as affiliated with that party, is
7 allowed to participate in the party primary under the party's bylaws, or is registered as
8 nonpartisan or undeclared rather than as affiliated with a particular political party and
9 the party's bylaws do not restrict participation by nonpartisan or undeclared voters in
10 the party's primary. For the purpose of determining which primary election ballot a
11 voter may use, a voter's party affiliation is considered to be the affiliation registered
12 with the director as of the 30th day before the primary election. If a voter changes
13 party affiliation within the 30 days before the primary election, the **voter** [VOTER'S
14 PREVIOUS PARTY AFFILIATION] shall **vote an absentee in-person, special**
15 **needs, or questioned ballot at the primary election with the voter's new party**
16 **affiliation indicated on the voter's certificate that appears on the envelope used**
17 **for voting the ballot under AS 15.07.070(h). Nothing under this subsection**
18 **restricts the right of a political party to limit who may participate in its primary**
19 **election** [BE USED FOR THE DETERMINATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION].

20 * **Sec. 26.** AS 15.80.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

21 (46) "electronic signature" has the meaning given in AS 09.80.190.

22 * **Sec. 27.** AS 29.20.380(c) is amended to read:

23 (c) The municipal clerk may act as an absentee voting official under
24 AS 15.20.045(c) for the limited purpose of distributing absentee ballots to qualified
25 voters or qualified voters' representatives under AS 15.20.072 in a municipality in
26 which the division of elections will not be operating an **early** [ABSENTEE] voting
27 station **under AS 15.20.045(b)**.

28 * **Sec. 28.** AS 29.26.050 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

29 (d) Except as a municipality may require for elections held only in specific
30 local election districts or service areas under (b) of this section, a person who has lived
31 within the municipality for at least 30 days, but who has not registered to vote in state

1 elections at a residence address within the municipality at least 30 days before a
2 municipal election, shall vote an absentee, special needs, or questioned ballot in that
3 election.

4 * **Sec. 29.** AS 29.26.050(a)(3) is repealed.

5 * **Sec. 30.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
6 read:

7 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS: REGULATIONS. The director of elections may
8 adopt or amend regulations as necessary to implement the changes made by this Act. The
9 regulations take effect under AS 44.62 (Administrative Procedure Act), but not before the
10 effective date of the law implemented by the regulations.

11 * **Sec. 31.** This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.



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 cursive.

David A. Blacketer
Chair, Alaska Commission on Aging

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Denise Daniello in cursive.

Denise Daniello
ACoA Executive Director



ANCSA REGIONAL ASSOCIATION
Bringing Together Regional Corporation Presidents and CEOs

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

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Corp.

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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

February 28, 2017

Representative Chris Tuck
State Capitol Room 204
Juneau AK, 99801
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
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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