



LAWS OF ALASKA

1975

Source

HB 384 am

Chapter No.

87

AN ACT

Relating to evaluations of judges before retention elections.

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

* Section 1. AS 22.05.100 is amended to read:

Sec. 22.05.100. APPROVAL OR REJECTION. Each supreme court justice is subject to approval or rejection as provided in the Alaska Election Code (AS 15.05 - 15.60). The judicial council shall conduct an evaluation of each justice before his retention election and shall provide to the public information about that justice and may provide a recommendation regarding his retention or rejection. Such information and any recommendation shall be made public at least 30 days before the retention election. The judicial council shall also provide such information and any recommendation to the office of the lieutenant governor in time for publication in the election pamphlet under AS 15.57.025. If a majority of those voting on the question rejects his candidacy, he shall not be appointed to fill any vacancy in the supreme or superior courts of the state for a period of four years thereafter.

* Sec. 2. AS 22.10.150 is amended to read:

Sec. 22.10.150. APPROVAL OR REJECTION. Each superior court judge is subject to approval or rejection as provided in the Alaska Election Code (AS 15.05 - 15.60). The judicial council shall conduct an evaluation of each judge before his retention election and shall provide to the public information about the judge and may provide a recommendation regarding his retention or rejection. Such information and any recommendation shall be made public at least 30 days before the election. The judicial council shall also provide such information and any recommendation

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to the office of the lieutenant governor in time for publication in the election pamphlet under AS 15.57.025. If a majority of those voting on the question rejects his candidacy, he shall not for a period of four years thereafter be appointed to fill any vacancy in the supreme or superior courts of the state.

* Sec. 3. AS 22.15 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 22.15.195. APPROVAL OR REJECTION. Each district court judge is subject to approval or rejection as provided in the Alaska Election Code (AS 15.05 - 15.60). The judicial council shall conduct an evaluation of each judge before his retention election and shall provide to the public information about the judge and may provide a recommendation regarding his retention or rejection. Such information and the recommendation shall be made public at least 30 days before the election. The judicial council shall also provide such information and any recommendation to the office of the lieutenant governor in time for publication in the election pamphlet under AS 15.57.025. If a majority of those voting on the question rejects his candidacy, he shall not for a period of four years thereafter be appointed to fill any vacancy in the supreme, superior or district courts of the state.

* Sec. 4. AS 15.57.010 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.57.010. CONTENTS OF PAMPHLET. The lieutenant governor shall mail to all voters of the state before each state general election a candidate pamphlet containing photographs and campaign statements of eligible nominees who desire to participate in the pamphlet, and information and any recommendations regarding the retention of judicial officers supplied by the judicial council. The pamphlet shall also contain, for each ballot proposition, (1) a neutral summary of the proposition prepared by the Legislative Affairs Agency, and (2) a statement by persons or organizations supporting the proposition, and (3) a statement by persons or organizations opposing the proposition.

* Sec. 5. AS 15.57 is amended by adding a new section to read:

Sec. 15.57.025. INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON JUDICIAL OFFICERS. No later than 60 days before the applicable state election, the judicial council shall file with the lieutenant governor a statement including information about each supreme court justice, superior court judge, and district court judge who will be subject to a retention election, following the evaluation of each such justice or judge conducted by the judicial council according to law. Each such statement may not exceed 300 words.

* Sec. 6. AS 15.57.030 is amended to read:

Sec. 15.57.030. PUBLICATION. The statements and photographs of nominees and of judicial officers subject to retention elections, as well as statements and recommendations of the judicial council, as set out in secs. 10, 20 and 25 of this chapter, shall be published by the lieutenant governor as a candidate pamphlet.

* Sec. 7. AS 15.57.040(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

(5) no charge for statements and recommendations submitted by the judicial council concerning judicial retention elections.