

# STATE OF ALASKA DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

## WRITE-IN INFORMATION FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT CANDIDATES IN THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

### GENERAL INFORMATION

To be recognized as a write-in candidate for the 2020 General Election, write-in candidates must file with the Division of Elections a Letter of Intent form. ***Write-in votes will not be counted unless the Letter of Intent has been filed.*** [AS 15.25.105]

For the November 3, 2020 General Election, the Write-in Candidate's ***Letter of Intent must be filed no later than October 29, 2020.*** [AS 15.25.105 (c)]

A write-in vote is the writing in of the candidate's name with the oval filled in next to the name. A blank space is provided for each race on the General Election ballot for this purpose. To be a valid write-in vote, the voter must write in the name as it appears on the Write-in Candidate's Letter of Intent or write in the last name of the candidate. *Either way, the voter must mark the oval next to the candidate's name for the vote to be counted.* [6 AAC 25.070 (c)]

### QUALIFICATIONS FOR PRESIDENT / VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Following are the qualifications for the office of President and Vice President of the United States:

35 years of age;  
a natural born citizen;  
and a 14-year resident of the United States.

***In a presidential race, the President and Vice President run as a team, and one vote is a vote for the team.*** Space is provided for the voter to write in the names of choices for both offices.

The Division of Elections uses an Optical Scan and Touch Screen ballot tabulation system. *Pre-printed stickers with candidate's names may not be used on the ballot.* [6 AAC 25.070 (a)]

The Director of the Division of Elections prepares all official ballots to facilitate fairness, simplicity, and clarity in the voting procedure, to reflect most accurately the intent of the voter, and to expedite the administration of elections. With respect to write-in candidates, Alaska law requires a provision to be made for voting for write-in candidates within each section of the official ballot of the General Election. [AS 15.15.030(5)]

The candidate must check with the Federal Election Commission for financial reporting requirements.

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**HOW WRITE-IN VOTES ARE COUNTED**

Write-in votes are reported as a group in each race, combining votes for all write-ins.

The votes will be counted for each individual write-in candidate if the candidate has filed a Letter of Intent with the Division of Elections as required, **AND**

the total of all votes cast for all write-in candidates for the particular office is:

- the highest number of votes received by any candidate for the office; or
- the total number of write-in votes in a race is the second highest, and the difference between the number of write-in votes and the highest votes received by a candidate is less than .5%

*The Director of the Division of Elections will determine the time and place to count write-in votes if the above requirements have been met. [AS15.15.365 (c)]*

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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