
State of Alaska

**HAVA State Plan
2005 Updated**

As required by Public Law 107-252,
Help America Vote Act 2002, Section 253 (b)

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“When it comes to election reform and advanced election technology, Alaska is one of the forerunners in this country. We have a few changes to make to our election laws, our voter registration and database, election equipment and accessibility, but I expect that Alaska will be able to make a clean transition into compliance with the federal act.”

Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman, State of Alaska

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ALASKA STATE PLAN INTRODUCTION

The Lieutenant Governor of Alaska is responsible for the overall direction of the Division of Elections. The Lieutenant Governor appoints a director and under the Director of Elections, the Division is responsible for planning, implementing and conducting all statewide and federal elections as well as all voter registration activities and maintenance of Alaska's voter registration database.

The Division is divided into four geographically-based election regions managed by Election Supervisors. The Election Supervisors are responsible for voter registration and election management activities for all elections within their region, as designated by the Director.

Alaska Statute Title 15 and Alaska Administrative Code Title 6 govern the election process in the State of Alaska. Alaska falls under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which requires U.S. Department of Justice preclearance for any substantive change in the electoral process that directly affects the voter.

The Division of Elections maintains a statewide electronic voter registration database, implemented in 1985, referred to as the Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS). Each election office has real-time access to VREMS for viewing and updating voter information. The Division processes all voter registration applications in VREMS and assigns each applicant a unique voter registration number. Immediately upon entering information in the system, any state election office can view the information processed. Although Alaska has a statewide voter registration database, the mainframe system is antiquated, costly to maintain, and needs to be replaced.

Alaska has more than 475,000 registered voters. The voting age population is 436,215. Alaska attributes its inflated registration rolls to the fact that Alaska Statute Title 15 allows a person who is temporarily out of state to remain registered in Alaska if that person has the "intent" to return.

Because of Alaska's Permanent Fund Dividend program benefits, many Alaskans maintain their Alaska residency even if they currently live outside the state. Another contributing factor to inflated voter rolls has been the prohibition in the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) from "purging" or "inactivating" a voter registration record due to lack of voting. From 1995 through 1998 the only reason Alaska was allowed to remove voters from the statewide voter list was because of death, felony conviction, or because a voter registered in another state and Alaska was notified. In 1999, Alaska was able to obtain preclearance from the U.S. Department of Justice to annually conduct list maintenance on the statewide voter registration database following NVRA requirements.

Voter registration is available in each state election office and other numerous locations throughout the State of Alaska. The Director of Elections has appointed as voter registration agencies all Division of Motor Vehicles offices, Public Assistance offices, Armed Forces Recruitment offices, Municipal Clerks' offices, and various offices that provide services to persons with disabilities. In addition to the registration agencies, voter registration is available in most libraries throughout the State, village council offices, schools, the University of Alaska, and through individually appointed voter registrars. The Division of Elections has also made voter registration applications available on the Division's website for easy access.

Individuals may register to vote in person, by mail, or by fax machine. Voters must be registered to vote at least 30 days before an election. If a voter's registration application is incomplete, the Division notifies and provides the voter an opportunity to complete the application. The only exception to the registration deadline is during presidential elections. A voter may register and have their vote count for President on Election Day.

Alaska has 40 State House districts and 20 State Senate districts. Within these districts, there are 439 precincts, each with a designated polling place. Following is a breakdown of voter turnout during the past several general elections:

1996 = 59.1%

1998 = 50.1%

2000 = 60.8%

2002 = 50.5%

2004 = 66.6%

Alaska has 151 rural communities with precincts that are isolated from connecting road systems; the only way to access these communities is by airplane or boat. Of the 439 precincts in Alaska, 113 have 100 or fewer registered voters.

In 1998, the Division of Elections replaced all punch-card voting systems used in statewide and federal elections with an optical-scan voting system. Since that time, Alaska has expanded the use of the optical-scan voting system throughout the State. Alaska uses a combination of hand counting and optical-scan ballot tabulators to count ballots throughout the State. There are 151 hand-count precincts and 288 optical-scan precincts. Alaska uses a uniform paper ballot in each precinct regardless of how the ballots are tallied. All absentee, questioned, and special needs ballots voted in Alaska's primary and general elections are counted using the optical-scan ballot tabulators. Currently, there are no precincts in Alaska using direct recording electronic (DRE) voting systems.

In 2003, the Division of Elections updated many sections of the election law to comply with HAVA, namely HB 266, signed into law by the Governor on June 16, 2003. This bill addressed improving the questioned ballots (Alaska's form of provisional voting), the definition of a questioned voter, voter registration, training of election officials, preparation of election

materials, forms, and supplies for polling places, voter identification, absentee voting, and counting ballots. This bill updated several forms to conform with HAVA standards, specifically:

- a) a new voter acknowledgement card;
- b) a revised by-mail ballot return envelope;
- c) a revised by-mail ballot return envelope used by military and overseas voters;
- d) a revised voted ballot envelope used by voters who must submit proof of identification when voting by mail;
- e) a revised poster instructing voters how to complete the ballot and providing information regarding questioned voting used during primary and general elections;
- f) a revised poster displaying specific election information, and how to report fraud;
- g) a revised poster which details the types of identification which voters may present when voting in-person;
- h) an informational flier regarding questioned voting used during primary and general elections; and
- i) new voter registration application, questioned and absentee-in person voted ballot envelope.

There are several alternative voting methods available to Alaska voters who are unable to vote at their assigned polling place. For many voters in remote areas of Alaska the only voting method available is by-mail absentee ballot.

Absentee By Mail – any qualified voter in Alaska may apply to receive an absentee ballot by mail. Alaska Statute 15.20.081 was amended to improve accommodation for absent uniformed services or qualified overseas voters by adding a new subsection that reads:

- (i) An absentee ballot application submitted by an absent uniformed services voter or by an absent overseas voter qualifying under AS 15.05.011 is valid through the next two regularly scheduled general elections for federal office after the date the application is submitted. In this subsection, "absent uniformed services voter" has the meaning given in 42 U.S.C. 1973ff-6.

Absentee Voting In Person – Beginning 15 days prior to Election Day, any qualified voter may vote through an absentee voting official. Alaska has numerous absentee voting locations available throughout the State. An absentee voting location may have ballots available to voters for a single, multiple, or all 40 house districts.

Absentee Voting by Fax – Beginning 15 days prior to Election Day, any qualified voter may apply for a faxed ballot. The Division faxes a ballot to the voter and the voter may return the voted ballot either by fax or by mail.

Special Needs Voting – If a voter is unable to vote at his or her assigned polling place due to age, illness, or disability, the voter may assign a personal representative to deliver the ballot and other voting material.

Questioned Voting – Questioned voting is available for any voter who does not have identification or is not personally known by the election official, or whose name does not appear on the precinct register at the polling place where the voter is attempting to vote. Questioned ballots are delivered to a regional election office for verification of eligibility before being counted.

Each ballot cast using one of the alternative voting methods is placed inside a secrecy sleeve and then sealed inside an envelope. The outside of the envelope provides for voter information: name, address, identifier, and signature. A regional office reviews (by a bipartisan review team) the voter's ballot envelope, the data is entered into VREMS, and the envelope is assigned a sequence number. At the time the ballot envelope is reviewed, VREMS will search other voting activity for the same election and will report if the voter has voted more than once.

In addition to conducting all statewide and federal elections, the Division of Elections is also responsible for conducting elections in areas of the State that are not incorporated into municipal

governments. These elections include rural school board, coastal resource area, liquor option, incorporation and consolidation elections. In 2004, the Division conducted a by-mail election for Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute as well. Although the Division is not responsible for conducting local municipal elections such as borough assembly or city council, it provides voter registration lists and precinct registers for municipal elections. The Division also assists municipalities by providing for the use of the Division's polling place equipment and, in some instances, ballot counting equipment.

In 1985, the Division of Elections developed a statewide electronic voter registration database, referred to as the Voter Registration and Election Management System (VREMS). Alaska has also replaced all punch-card voting systems, but there are several Help America Vote Act (HAVA) requirements that still need to be met. Specifically, Alaska needs to upgrade its voter registration database, implement the use of Direct Record Electronic (DRE) touch screen voting system, meet new statutory requirements, and expand training efforts. Statutory changes required to comply with HAVA passed the Legislature unanimously and were signed into law by the Governor on June 16, 2003.

The Alaska State Plan is organized as specified in HAVA, Section 254, providing a description of current election procedures used in Alaska and outlining how Alaska will meet the new requirements mandated by HAVA.

Section 1. Title III Requirements and Other Activities

How the State of Alaska will use the requirements payment to meet the requirements of Title III, and, if applicable under section 251 (a)(2), to carry out other activities to improve the administration of elections.

1. A Section 301(a), Voting Systems Standards Requirements

The State of Alaska transitioned from a punch-card voting system to an optical-scan voting system in 1998. Currently the State uses two types of voting systems in its 439 established polling locations: 151 precincts use a hand-count paper-ballot system, and 288 precincts use an optical-scan (Accu-Vote OS 2000) paper-ballot system. Since 1998, the State has transitioned an additional 17 communities from hand-count to optical-scan. The State will continue to expand the use of the electronic voting system in hand-count precincts to improve the overall administration of elections. Absentee and questioned ballot counting is also conducted using the optical-scan voting system.

In 2002, the State enacted legislation requiring that the new voting systems purchased allow voters with disabilities to use the systems privately and independently. With the passage of HAVA, the State is required to purchase DRE units for each established polling location. The Division requested and received a capital appropriation for FY04 to purchase 55 Accu-Vote Touch Screen (TS) voting units. The Division used HAVA funds to purchase an additional 45 units, bringing the statewide total to 100 TS units. While intending to use the touch screens in a pilot project in the 2004 elections, the Division made the decision to delay implementation until the units are retrofitted with a voter verifiable paper record.

In May 2004, the Legislature passed legislation (HB 459) requiring a voter verifiable paper trail for electronic voting machines.

Statewide implementation of the Touch Screen (TS) voting system must be in place by 2006. The State will purchase more Accu-Vote TS units, complete with a combination carrying case/booth. The carrying case/booth will provide a stable voting platform and a secure container, which will adequately handle the stress of shipping the TS units through the United States Postal Service to remote polling locations. Transporting the TS units and training election officials to use the new technology in rural Alaska will be a significant expense to the Division. The Division is designing an extensive training program for all election staff. The vendor, as part of the contract, will continue training division staff in the proper use of the new TS units and the units that produce the voter verifiable paper record.

Public outreach strategies and training plans are being developed to familiarize the disabled community with the new voting system. Division employees and election officials will also receive awareness training to recognize the special needs of people with disabilities. Alaskans will be informed of the availability of these systems in each polling location. Additionally, the Division has begun to coordinate with agencies that provide services for the disabled community to ensure that clients and staff are knowledgeable in the use of the TS voting system.

Maintenance

The State has begun acquiring additional storage space for the TS units. Heated and accessible storage space will be required for the four regional offices as well as some of the communities that will have multiple units stored at their locations. In some cases, the Division relocated regional offices to ensure access to the new voting equipment. The Division has requested additional funding to accommodate the additional storage requirements.

The Division is developing plans to address the secure shipment of the TS units to our rural polling places. Election workers in these rural locations will be responsible for setting up and operating the units: training and familiarity is very important. The TS units will be shipped by small bush plane and then may be transported to the polling place on four-wheeler, snow

machine, dog sled or by foot on dirt paths to the polling locations. The Division must ensure there is an adequate power source for the thirteen hours that rural polling places will be in operation on Election Day. Many rural villages depend solely upon diesel generators for their electricity. The Division is considering providing additional back up battery power packs in the TS units which will provide power for approximately four and a half (4.5) hours. The Division is anticipating the cost of the shipping to be considerably more than regular USPS in urban areas.

The State will budget for increased costs associated with shipping election materials to polling locations. Currently the State mails election materials (ballots, supplies, etc.) to 234 of its remote polling locations. In addition to these election materials, each remote polling location must have at least one TS unit. The cost increase related to the shipment of TS units will be extensive, as it will require mailing an additional 28 pounds (the approximate weight of a TS unit) to each polling location. After the election cycle, a majority of the units must return to one of the four regional offices for maintenance and storage. An increase of approximately \$35.00 per unit shipped must be budgeted in an election year.

The Division has begun design of an equipment maintenance program to ensure that the TS units receive required maintenance. This will permit the Division of Elections to conduct routine maintenance inspections and identify potential problems before breakdowns occur and make necessary repairs to the unit(s), or send the unit to the vendor for more extensive maintenance or repair. The maintenance program may require contractual staffing to meet all maintenance requirements.

1. B Section 302, Provisional Voting and Voting Information Requirements

The State currently has a provisional voting process established, known as "Questioned Voting."

State law requires that any voter who votes at a polling location where his or her name does not appear on the precinct register, or if the voter does not have identification and is not personally known by the election official, to vote a questioned ballot.

In 2004, the Division established a toll-free access system to provide voter information in the form of a toll-free telephone number. This system allows the voter to determine if his or her questioned ballot was counted and, if not counted, why the vote or a portion of the vote did not count.

The Division developed two toll free-access systems, as outlined below:

- a. The Division currently uses an interactive toll-free telephone system that allows voters to determine their assigned polling place based on their current voter registration record. Additionally, voters can determine their party affiliation during the Primary Election. During the 2004 General Election, voters accessed this telephone system over 8,000 times in the last two days leading up to the election. At this time, the Division has not expanded the current polling place locator system to include ballot count automation. The Division plans to implement this system in the future with the new voter registration system.
- b. The Division improved its current website to allow more voters to check the status of their absentee ballot application and allow the Division to track the number of “visitors” to the website. In 2006, the Division anticipates that voters will be able to log onto the web to verify their vote count.

The Division currently sends a letter to each voter whose vote was not counted or was only partially counted. The Division will continue this practice in addition to the systems outlined above.

Voting Information

The Division of Election, under current State law, is required to mail an *Official Election Pamphlet (OEP)* to each registered voter's household prior to the General election.

State law requires full public notice of an election (AS 15.15.070). This public notice is achieved through newspaper advertisements and posting notices in communities that do not have general circulation of newspapers. Other methods of informing voters include radio advertisements, public service announcements, direct mailings, and information posted on the Division of Elections website. In addition, there are sample ballots, posters, information flyers and instructions posted in polling locations.

The State is creating new multi-media formats that address voting rights under applicable federal and state laws. We are considering DVD and VHS video formats that will provide information on federal and state laws regarding acts of fraud and misrepresentations as well as what to do should voters allege their rights have been violated as required by HAVA. These videos will also be used to train election workers throughout the state.

The Division has already modified registration, questioned and absentee voting forms as well as other election materials to meet HAVA requirements. The Division submitted the forms to the Department of Justice (DOJ) Civil Rights Division to seek preclearance on election materials. The Division requested funding to meet these requirements in 2004.

1. C Section 303, Computerized Statewide Voter Registration List Requirements and Requirements for Voters Who Register By Mail

Alaska has a statewide voter registration and election management system (VREMS) in use; however, it is not a fully interactive system. VREMS is an antiquated system, maintained in the Natural programming language and is on a mainframe. As technology has advanced, it has become difficult to find programmers knowledgeable in Natural programming.

A new voter registration and election management system is necessary to serve the voters of the State. This system must meet new technology requirements and allow for better management capabilities. As technological advancements have occurred, the Division has begun pursuit of a system that supports real time updates. There are several methods available to replace the current system:

- a. Evaluate systems that are currently in use in other states to determine if these systems meet the needs of Alaska.
- b. Evaluate systems that are being developed or modified to determine if there is a system that meets the needs of Alaska.
- c. Evaluate available database programs to determine if developing a voter registration and election management system would meet Alaska's needs.

The Division has maintained VREMS at its current level and has modified the system to meet the requirements of section 303 of HAVA. The Division is currently modifying VREMS to track those voters who are initial registrants and register by mail, as well as the additional voter identifying information required by HAVA.

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The Division has completed procedures to allow the Division of Elections to match identifying information provided by a first-time, by-mail registrant on his or her registration application to information maintained in the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) database.

Section 2. Alaska's Distribution of Requirements Payment

How the State will distribute and monitor the distribution of the requirements payment to units of local government or other entities in the State for carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), including a description of --

- (A) The criteria to be used to determine the eligibility of such units or entities for receiving the payment; and*
- (B) The methods to be used by the State to monitor the performance of the units or entities to whom the payment is distributed, consistent with the performance goals and measures adopted under paragraph (8).*

(A) The State of Alaska, Division of Elections conducts all Federal elections. Therefore, there will be no distribution of requirement payments to local governments or entities.

The Division serves Alaskans through four regional offices located in Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Nome. The Division of Elections will manage funds necessary for improving the elections' system, voter registration, voter access and education, outreach, and to ensure the regional needs are met and that the State remains in compliance with the Act.

The criteria will be measured in terms of achieving compliance while maximizing improvements to all aspects of the election process, as well as the responsible use of available funds. The Division will use standard financial reporting and accounting practices to track expenditure of authorized funds.

(B) The Division monitors the funds in accordance with the statewide performance measures adopted under section 254 (a)(8). The Division centrally manages the distribution of all funds appropriated to the Election Fund, including but not limited to the requirements payments.

Alaska incorporated priorities and timelines into the budgeting process to ensure it implements mandates and improvements in a wise and timely manner.

The Division of Legislative Audit annually audits the State of Alaska. The Statewide Single Audit is conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and compliance with the Federal Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and the related Circular A-133 issued by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

Section 3. Voter Education, Election Official Education and Training, and Poll Worker Training

How the State of Alaska will provide for programs for voter education, election official education and training, and poll worker training which will assist the State in meeting the requirements of Title III.

Voter Education and Outreach

Voter education and outreach efforts in Alaska vary depending on the type of election and level of changes affecting voters. The Director's Office coordinates all outreach efforts for statewide and federal elections. These include numerous public notices, newspaper and radio advertising, public service announcements, direct mail, other publications (such as brochures), speeches and presentations, and continuous direct contact with the statewide media.

Before the General election, each registered voter in a household in Alaska receives an *Official Election Pamphlet (OEP)*. Alaska is one of only four states that require, by statute, the production of voter pamphlets with candidate-related information for statewide distribution to the public. The Division of Elections produces a specific guide for each of the four election regions. The *OEP* contains information about candidates appearing on the ballot (including photographs), information about the retention of judges (including photographs), information about ballot measures (including statements of support and opposition), sample ballots, polling place information, absentee and alternate voting information, voter assistance information, and election district maps. Each election year, the Division investigates several cost savings measures for the OEP. In 2004, the Division reduced the size of the pamphlet without eliminating pertinent information to the Alaskan voters, and this resulted in the lowest cost for the OEP since 1996. The Division also provided a version translated into Tagalog to comply with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973c.

In addition to printed materials, the Division's website provides a vast array of information on voter registration, election issues, election results and historical information. The Division is prepared to launch the improved website to include more information in an easier format for public navigation. The Division also provides an interactive toll-free telephone system for voters to obtain their polling place location. To meet the requirements of HAVA, this system will expand to allow voters to obtain other types of registration and election information. This toll-free system fielded over 11,000 calls in the last two days leading up to the 2004 General Election.

As new voting systems and election laws are implemented, Alaska increases its outreach efforts. For example, when Alaska instituted an optical-scan voting system in 1998, the Division conducted demonstrations of the new system as an education tool and a multi-faceted outreach plan. Before implementing a new, complex Primary Election system in 2002, Alaska instituted a well-funded, comprehensive outreach plan aimed at educating voters specifically about primary ballot choices.

The Division strives to enhance its educational efforts through positive relationships with the media. Division staff continues to participate in radio and television interviews and responds to questions from the print media regularly, beginning several months before a statewide election.

The Division recognizes the need to enhance its outreach and communications program to continue educating the voting public. In addition to the public notices required by Alaska statute and the use of additional communication tools, Alaska has begun to implement a new outreach plan that includes:

- Interactive statewide database.
- Interactive toll-free access system for voters to obtain voter registration and election information.

- Improved and redesigned website.
- Increased delivery of election information through the Alaska Rural Communication System (ARCS).
- Coordinated voter education and awareness efforts with Alaska Native organizations and community groups, including groups providing services to individuals with disabilities.
- Targeted voter education efforts to address the needs of the disabled community and individuals with alternative language considerations.
- Coordinated public outreach/training with organizations assisting the disabled community on use of the new voting systems.
- Youth voter education program.
- Developed a college student voter education program.
- Improved and increased public notices, public service announcements, and posters used in the polling places.
- Division employees and election officials will receive awareness training to recognize the special needs of people with disabilities.
- Division employees and election officials will receive more thorough election training, closer to Election Day.
- Voter Bill of Rights for Alaskans.
- Community needs based training for our rural precincts and polling places.
- Improve Election Day signage for better understanding.
- Uniform definition of what constitutes a vote passed the legislature in 2003 (HB 266).

Election Official Training

Election officials are critical to achieve an efficient, secure, and reliable election process. In Alaska, the four regional election supervisors are responsible for providing a comprehensive training program to election officials in their respective regions prior to statewide and federal elections. Training needs are determined by the election supervisors and are community-based and targeted towards the following election officials:

- Precinct election boards
- Absentee voting officials
- Accu-Vote coordinators
- Accu-Vote troubleshooters
- Absentee ballot review boards
- Questioned ballot review boards
- Regional Accu-Vote boards

Improving and implementing statewide training resources and procedures is an ongoing process improved upon each election year. Working as a team, the election supervisors develop uniform training materials that are coordinated with election official handbooks and distributed with election day ballots and supplies. All training materials and handbooks are created for the type of ballot counting utilized: hand count or optical scan. The inclusion of TS voting units will require new materials to be developed. Training sessions are generally presented in a paper-based format. At this time, there is little use of technology in training presentations.

Alaska faces many unique challenges when providing election official training, especially for polling place officials. Due to the State's vast size and the large number of precincts not connected by a road system, our training programs are categorized into two groups: urban and rural.

During previous elections, in order to train precinct polling place officials in rural Alaska, Election Supervisors and their assistants spent several months prior to an election traveling in small bush planes, ferries and boats to Alaskan communities to conduct training. Due to limited flights scheduled to these remote communities, chartered flights are often required and the election training official can train only one community per day. With 439 precincts throughout the state, the challenge to provide training is formidable. This requires training election officials so far in advance of the election that training materials may not be finalized. In addition, election officials may not have been appointed or agreed to serve in all precincts, and those who do receive training may not retain the procedures at the time of the election. Leading up to the 2004 General Election, the Division began “hub training” its election workers. The purpose of this training method is for the Division to more effectively train election workers closer to Election Day. Since there are many rural polling places in Alaska, the Division sent the chair from each selected rural precinct to one larger, more “central” community where all the chairs were trained simultaneously. The chairs then returned to their home and trained the election workers at their polling place. The Division was able to train more election workers closer to Election Day using the “hub training” method, and found this to be an effective means of outreach and training.

Urban-based training is generally conducted closer to the Election Day. However, travel is required to some communities and these officials are trained 30 – 45 days before the election. In urban areas, training sessions for precinct election boards are usually conducted with multiple election boards present. In some areas, training is presented using a PowerPoint presentation.

With the many challenges the Division faces to properly train election officials, handbooks for the various types of officials are critical to their ability to conduct their duties correctly. The Division developed the handbooks in such a way that if an election official has not received training, the official would still be able to clearly understand and implement proper procedures on Election Day.

In an effort to ensure all election officials have the training and resources available to conduct successful elections, the Division started to implement a systematic approach to training that includes:

- A new regional and community-needs comprehensive training plan. In 2004, this includes improved training methods and the hiring of regional training coordinators, bringing the rural-based training closer to Election Day.
- Improved training and Election Day materials and handbooks that are more flexible, accommodating updates and changes. This assists with the trainee's retention of information, while taking into consideration the variety of education levels within the training groups.
- Researching and implementing better election officials training options, including DVD and VHS videos, interactive web-based training, and conference style training.
- Recognizing the differences between urban and rural training and coordinating training needs, methods, and approaches with various Alaska Native organizations to obtain input and guidance on delivering training to individuals with diverse cultural backgrounds.

Section 4. Voting System Guidelines and Processes

How the State of Alaska will adopt voting system guidelines and processes which are consistent with the requirements of Section 301.

The Division currently meets most of the voting system requirements required under HAVA as outlined in the attached matrix. The Division has procedures established for conducting recounts on a statewide level, as well as State House and State Senate levels. In 2004, the Division conducted two recounts – one for a State House race and the other for the U.S. Senate race. This was the first time in Alaska history that a statewide recount was conducted with the Accu-Vote Optical Scan equipment, and there were no significant changes to the election results. The Division has a procedure established for system certification, and has begun plans for a new voting system. The Division will maintain current procedures, while creating new procedures, guidelines and processes as necessary. New processes and guidelines may take the form of internal procedures, regulations or changes to State law.

To attain compliance, Alaska must provide DRE units to every polling location and has passed legislation defining what constitutes a vote.

Requirements	Status of Alaska's Current Voting Systems (Meets, partially meets or does not meet)	Planned Action
Section 301. VOTING SYSTEM STANDARDS		
<p>REQUIREMENTS - Each voting system used in an election for federal office shall meet the following requirements:</p> <p>(1) IN GENERAL</p> <p>(A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the voting system (including any lever voting system, optical-scanning voting system, or direct recording electronic system) shall--</p>		
<p>(i) permit the voter to verify (in a private and independent manner) the votes selected by the voter on the ballot before ballot is cast and counted;</p>	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.
<p>(ii) provide the voter with the opportunity (in a private and independent manner) to change the ballot or correct error before the ballot is cast and counted (including the opportunity to correct the error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error); and</p>	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.

Requirements	Status of Alaska's Current Voting Systems (Meets, partially meets or does not meet)	Planned Action
<p>(iii) if the voter selects votes for more than one candidate for a single office - (I) notify the voter that the voter has selected more than one candidate for a single office on the ballot; (II) notify the voter before the ballot is cast and counted of the effect of casting multiple votes for the office; and (III) provide the voter with the opportunity to correct the ballot before the ballot is cast and counted.</p>	<p>Meets requirements.</p>	<p>No action necessary.</p>
<p>(B) A State or jurisdiction that uses a paper ballot voting system, a punch-card voting system, or a central count voting system (including mail-in absentee ballots and mail-in ballots) may meet the requirements of subparagraph (A)(iii) by--</p>		

Requirements	Status of Alaska's Current Voting Systems (Meets, partially meets or does not meet)	Planned Action
(i) establishing a voter education program specific to that voting system that notifies each voter of the effect of casting multiple votes for an office; and	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.
(ii) providing the voter with instructions on how to correct the ballot before it is cast and counted (including instructions on how to correct the error through the issuance of a replacement ballot if the voter was otherwise unable to change the ballot or correct any error.	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.
(C) The voting system shall ensure that any notification required under this paragraph preserves the privacy of the voter and the confidentiality of the ballot.	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.
(2) AUDIT CAPACITY -		
(A) IN GENERAL - The voting system shall produce a record with an audit capacity for such system.	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.

Requirements	Status of Alaska's Current Voting Systems (Meets, partially meets or does not meet)	Planned Action
(B) MANUAL AUDIT CAPACITY -		
(i) The voting system shall produce a permanent paper record with a manual audit capacity for such system.	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.
(ii) The voting system shall provide the voter with an opportunity to change the ballot or correct any error before the permanent paper record is produced.	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.
(iii) The paper record produced under subparagraph (A) shall be available as an official record for any recount conducted with respect to any election in which the system is used.	Meets requirements.	6 AAC 25.200 amended in 2004 by adding subsection (c) to meet the requirements for a recount.
(3) ACCESSIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES – The voting system shall--		
(A) be accessible for individuals with disabilities, including non-visual accessibility for the blind and visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity for access and participation (including privacy and independence) as for other voters;	Does not meet.	The State will meet this requirement upon installation of a TS unit in each polling location by 2006.

Requirements	Status of Alaska's Current Voting Systems (Meets, partially meets or does not meet)	Planned Action
(B) satisfy the requirement of subparagraph (A) through the use of at least one direct recording electronic voting system or other voting system equipped for individuals with disabilities at each polling place; and	Does not meet.	The State has purchased 100 TS units with funding provided under HAVA.
(C) if purchased with funds made available under Title II on or after January 1, 2007, meet the voting system standards for disability access (as outlined in this paragraph).	Not applicable.	
(4) ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE ACCESSIBILITY - The voting system shall provide alternative language accessibility pursuant to the requirements of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 1973aa-1a).	Meets requirements.	No action necessary.

Requirements	Status of Alaska's Current Voting Systems (Meets, partially meets or does not meet)	Planned Action
<p>(5) ERROR RATES - The error rate of the voting system in counting ballots (determined by taking into account only those errors which are attributable to the voting system and not attributable to an act of the voter) shall comply with the error rate standards established under section 3.2.1 of the voting systems standards issued by the Federal Election Commission which are in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.</p>	<p>Meets requirements.</p>	<p>No action necessary.</p>
<p>(6) UNIFORM DEFINITION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES A VOTE - Each State shall adopt uniform and nondiscriminatory standards that define what constitutes a vote and what will be counted as a vote for each category of voting systems used in the State.</p>	<p>Legislation passed in 2003 to meet the requirements of the Act.</p>	<p>The DOJ pre-cleared this law. Meets requirements.</p>

Section 5. Alaska's HAVA Election Fund

How the State has established an election fund described in subsection (b) for purposes of administering the State's activities under this part, including information on fund management.

In accordance with State law and in coordination with the Alaska Department of Administration, Division of Finance and the Department of Revenue, Division of Treasury, the Division of Elections established an election fund within the State's treasury whose appropriations are accounted for separately within the State accounting system. The General Fund and Other Non-Segregated Investments (GeFONSI) fund contains both federal and general funds. Accounting structures are in place to ensure federal fund receipts and expenditures are tracked separately from the general funds portion relating to the 5% state match required under HAVA. The Election Fund consists of the following amounts:

- a. Amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the State for carrying out the activities for which the requirements payment is made to the State under this part.
- b. The requirements payment made to the State under this part.
- c. Such other amounts as may be appropriated under law.
- d. Interest earned on deposits of the fund.

The Governor's Finance Officer and the Division of Elections' Special Assistant works with the Department of Administration, Division of Finance to ensure compliance with all mandated fiscal controls and policies.

Section 6. Alaska's Budget for Implementing HAVA

The State's proposed budget for activities under this part, based on the State's best estimates of the costs of such activities and the amount of funds to be made available, including specific information on-

- (A) the costs of the activities required to be carried out to meet the requirements of Title III;*
- (B) the portion of the requirements payment which will be used to carry out activities to meet such requirements; and*
- (C) the portion of the requirements payment which will be used to carry out other activities.*

Title I-Early payments:

HAVA authorized \$650 million in one-time payments to states: \$325 million for making improvements to the administration of elections and \$325 million for the replacement of punch card and lever voting machines. States are not required to provide matching funds for Title I monies.

Title I mandated that each eligible state receives a minimum of \$5,000,000. Alaska's portion was determined by the small state minimum and received \$5,000,000 in April 2003 for making improvements to elections. Alaska was not eligible to receive funds under Section 102 since Alaska replaced its punch card voting system before 2000. However, Alaska did receive a one-time reimbursement payment made to states that replaced such equipment prior to 2000. (see "reimbursement payment" below.)

All Title I money has been distributed to the states.

Title II- Requirements payments:

Title II authorizes \$3 billion in additional payments to states over a three year period, annually for meeting the requirements of Title III and for activities to improve the administration of elections if all Title III requirements have been satisfied.

Congress appropriated \$830 million for FY 2003 and just under \$1.5 billion for FY 2004 requirements payments to states. While the FY 2003 funding fell short of the \$1.4 billion authorized in HAVA, FY 2004 funding exceeded the \$1.0 billion authorized. Distribution of these funds began in June 2004. Alaska is in the process of submitting certification paperwork for these payments. Congress has not appropriated money for FY 2005.

Payments under Title II are formula based and require a 5% State match for all funds spent in each fiscal year. However, the State may draw down funds each fiscal year without providing the match if the State's Election Plan accounts for the 5% funds in future use. To determine the 5% State match based on the federal requirements payment, multiply Alaska's requirement's payment portion by .0526 (5 divided by 95). See Table 6.1 for Alaska's requirements payment amounts and State match funds.

Accessibility Grants:

Title II also authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to distribute payments to states to assure access for individuals with disabilities. Alaska has applied for and received \$200,000 in accessibility grants for FY 2003 and FY 2004. These funds will be expended in accordance with the requirements of Title II Section 261.

Reimbursement Payment:

The Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, Public Law 108-7, signed February 20, 2003, provided \$15,000,000 in Federal appropriated funds to the General Services Administration (GSA), for Election Reform Reimbursements. This one-time reimbursement was for states that purchased electronic voting equipment to replace punch card and lever voting machines prior to

2000 making them ineligible to receive funds under Title I Section 102 of HAVA. Alaska qualified for and received a one-time reimbursement of \$1.1 million deposited back into the State's General Fund for electronic voting machines purchased in 1998 to replace all punch card voting equipment.

Table 6.1 outlines the portion of funds available according to GSA Estimates Requirements Payments to States FY03-FY04, Revised 3/31/04.

Table 6.1

Federal Fiscal Year	Federal Funds	Alaska's Payment Portion	5% State Match Requirement
(§ 101) Early Payment	\$650,000.0	\$5,000.0	None
(§ 252, 257) 2003	\$830,000.0	\$4,150.0	\$218.3
(§ 252, 257) 2004	\$1,500,000.0 (\$ rounded up)	\$7,446.8	\$391.7
(§ 252, 257) 2005	\$600,000.0	\$3,000.0	\$158.0
Total	\$3,580,000.0	\$19,596.8	\$768.0

Alaska's budget in Table 6.2 is based on the levels of funding as shown in Table 6.1 and represents the cost of implementing requirements of Title III and "other" activities as specified in Title I of HAVA through calendar year 2006. Costs associated with the maintenance and operations of implementing these requirements are also reflected in the budget. It is important to note that the maintenance and operation costs associated with these requirements will have an impact on the State's budget in future years when federal funding is no longer available.

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HAVA Requirements	Estimated Total Cost	Source of Funding			Implementation Period
		Sec 101	Sec 252 & 257	State 5% Match	
<i>Title III Requirements</i>		Sec 101	Sec 252 & 257	State 5% Match	
(301) Voting System	\$5,677.0		\$5,378.4	\$ 298.6	FY 2003 to FY2006
(302) Provisional Voting and voting information requirements	\$ 650.2		\$ 616.0	\$ 34.2	FY 2003 to FY2004
(303) Computerized statewide voter registration list requirements and requirements for voters who register by mail.	\$7,518.0	\$3,118.1	\$4,168.5	\$ 231.4	FY 2003 to FY2004
<i>"Other" activities</i>					
(254) (3) Voter education, election official education and training, and poll worker training which will assist the State in meeting the requirements of Title III.	\$1,800.0	\$1,051.5	\$ 709.1	\$ 39.4	FY2003 to FY2006
(402) Establish a State-based <i>HAVA</i> administrative complaint procedures to remedy grievances	\$ 110.0	\$ 60.1	\$ 47.3	\$ 2.6	
(704) Improvements to military absentee voting program	\$ 41.6	\$ 20.2	\$ 20.3	\$ 01.1	

(101) Management of State Plan	\$ 500.0	\$ 51.1	\$ 425.3	\$ 23.6	FY2003 to FY2005
Technology planning/improvements	\$1,300.0	\$ 194.8	\$1,047.1	\$ 58.1	FY2003 to FY2006
Polling place accessibility	\$2,000.0	\$ 504.2	\$ 1,417.1	\$ 78.7	FY2003 to FY2006
TOTALS	\$19,596.8	\$5,000.0	\$13,829.1	\$767.7	

Additional Notes for Title III requirements:

(1) *Voting System*-Alaska purchased optical scan units in 1998 to replace its punch card voting system. Alaska has 439 voting precincts. Sixty-six percent of the precincts are equipped with optical scan and 34 percent are hand-count precincts. The estimated \$5.5 million will be used to implement a HAVA-compliant DRE voting system and to purchase additional optical scan units for a portion of Alaska's precincts. In addition, the Division plans to purchase more memory cards for the Accu-Vote Optical Scan voting machines. Installation, training and maintenance costs are included in this figure.

Since Alaska purchased its computerized statewide voting system, replacing punch card voting equipment, prior to November of 2000, Alaska is not eligible to seek reimbursement under Title I, Sec 102 for these expenditures. However, outside of HAVA, PL 108-7 included \$15 million in funds to states who purchased optical scan systems prior to the 2000 election. So far, only five states, which include Alaska, were eligible for compensation from the \$15 million appropriation. Alaska received a \$1.1million reimbursement that was deposited into the State's general fund and is not included in the State's budget for implementing requirements of HAVA.

- (2) *Provisional Voting*- Provisional voting, known as questioned voting in Alaska, has been available to voters in Alaska since the early 1980s. There were minimal changes needed to meet the provisional voting requirements of the bill.

- (3) *Computerized Statewide Voter Registration System*-Currently Alaska has a mainframe based statewide Voter Registration Election Management System (VREMS) that has been in place for over 17 years. This system is no longer cost effective for the State to maintain, due to the Natural programming language it is written in and the complexity of the program. The State will use the estimated \$7.5 million in funds to research and purchase a statewide voter registration system that is conducive to the administration of elections and is cost effective. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for this project will be available in early 2005.

The estimated costs associated with implementing the requirements in HAVA are based on the funding information available at the time that the plan was updated. The budget will be revised appropriately to reflect the most current information available on federal funding and according to changes that may be made in the implementation schedule.

Section 7. Maintenance of Effort

How the State, in using the requirements payment, will maintain the expenditures of the State for activities funded by the payment at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the State for the fiscal year ending prior to November 2000.

In accordance with HAVA section 254 (a)(7), Alaska will maintain the same level of expenditures on similar activities funded by the requirements payment that was spent in the fiscal year ending prior to November 2000. Alaska's expenditures for these activities totaled \$537,500.

The Division of Elections administers all state and federal elections. These elections occur in even calendar years. The Division receives an increment to the annual operating budget in an odd fiscal year beginning July 1 in order to conduct primary and general elections. This increment provides for the expenditures associated with election officials, polling place recruitment, temporary employees, ballot printing and distribution, election supplies, election day support, and other costs associated with conducting an election.

Other expenditures in an even-numbered calendar year are spent in preparation of election activities that occur after July 1. These activities include election official training, voter education, advertising, information technology support, and the purchasing of equipment and supplies. The maintenance of effort for the State's FY00 budget represents a portion of the total operating budget that is appropriated to carry out election administrative activities in an even fiscal year.

Section 8. HAVA Performance Goals and Measures

How the State will adopt performance goals and measures that will be used by the State to determine its success and the success of units of local government in the State in carrying out the plan, including timetables for meeting each of the elements of the plan, descriptions of the criteria the State will use to measure performance and the process used to develop such criteria, and a description of which official is to be held responsible for ensuring that each performance goal is met.

The Division of Elections will establish performance goals in conjunction with the Alaska State Legislature during the deliberation of the annual operating budget. The “Missions and Measures” process undertaken by the Legislature in concurrence with the consideration of the annual operating budget has been established as a respected means for developing performance measures that accurately quantify program success.

The Director of the Division of Elections, as the “Chief State Election Official” under section 253(e), is responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under this Act. Therefore, the Director is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Division meets each performance goal. In addition, the Legislature will be monitoring the Division’s efforts through the annual preparation of the State’s operating budget.

Plan Elements	Official	Time frame
Voting Systems §301	Director of Elections	Working 100 TS units purchased To be implemented by January 1, 2006
Provisional Voting §302	Director of Elections	Completed
Voter Registration §303(a) §303(b)	Director of Elections	§303(a) Implemented §303(b) Implemented

Other Activities		
§101 (b)(1), §251 (b)(2)		
Technical Infrastructure	Election Admin. Supervisor	Working
Free-Access System	Admin Asst. Supervisor HAVA Coordinator	Toll-free phone system operational Over 8,000 calls received on Election Day
Education and Training	Regional Supervisors Election Special Assistant HAVA Coordinator	Ongoing Some training materials updated March 2004
§254(a)(3)		
Budget and Fiscal Controls		Ongoing
§254(a)(2)	Admin. Asst. Supervisor	State monitors HAVA account each month
§254(a)(6)	Elections Special Assistant	
§254(a)(7)	Director	
§254(a)(10)		
Complaint Procedures	Director of Elections in conjunction with Department of Law	Completed 08-29-03 Precleared by DOJ 6 AAC 25.400-490
§254(a)(9)		
§402		

Section 9. State-based Administrative Complaint Procedure

A description of the uniform, nondiscriminatory State-based administrative complaint procedure in effect under section 402.

The State of Alaska, Division of Elections has developed administrative regulations to establish the required complaint procedure. These regulations constitute a new article 6 AAC 25.400 –490 that is now a part of the Division’s administrative regulations set out at Title 6, Chapter 25 of the Alaska Administrative Code.

These regulations satisfy the requirements of HAVA section 402 by providing a uniform and nondiscriminatory complaint procedure. Under these procedures, any person who believes there has been a violation of HAVA Title III may file a complaint. The complaint must in writing, sworn, and notarized. At the complainant’s request, there will be a hearing on the record. If the State finds a violation, it shall provide an appropriate remedy. If there is no violation, the State will dismiss the complaint and publish the results. The Division will make a final determination on a complaint within 90 days. If the Division cannot meet this deadline, the complaint will proceed under alternative dispute resolution procedures.

The Division adopted these administrative regulations on August 29, 2003.

Section 10. Effect of Title I Payments

If the State received any payment under Title I, a description of how such payment will affect the activities proposed to be carried out under the plan, including the amount of funds available for such activities.

Under Section 103, Guaranteed Minimum Payment, Alaska received the minimum payment of \$5 million and established an Election Fund.

Current activities carried out under the plan have improved the administration of elections for federal office and the election process as a whole.

Upon receipt of Title I monies, the Division of Elections is using the funds for one or more of the following:

- **Developing the State plan for requirements payments to be submitted under Part 1 of Subtitle D of Title II.**

While an outside contractor was not hired to produce the State Plan in order to minimize costs, the Division is tracking costs associated with the related process.

- **Educating voters concerning voting procedures, voting rights, and voting technology.**

Modifications to the Division's forms website, free-access systems, and training materials used by voters have been completed to comply with the Act.

- **Training election officials, poll workers, and election volunteers.**

The Division has improved training systems with the goal of training more election officials closer to an election. The challenge continues to be training citizens with diverse physical, social and cultural differences across a vast geographical area in a short time period. In order to bring election board training closer to Election Day, the Division has created a new training assistant position for each region. In some regions of the state, the Division trained election workers one month before the election.

- **Improving, acquiring, leasing, modifying and/or replacing voting systems and technology and methods for casting and counting votes.**

Improvements continue to be made to VREMS, the Division's voter database, in order to comply with Title III while purchase and implementation of the new statewide voter registration and election management system has begun.

- **Improving the accessibility and quantity of polling places, including providing physical access for individuals with disabilities, providing non-visual access for individuals with visual impairments, and providing assistance to Native Americans, Alaska Indigenous Native citizens, and to individuals with limited proficiency in the English language.**

The Division is developing a polling place survey and is working in coordination with the State ADA coordinator. The Division's draft plan, with the assistance of the State Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator, will reassess current polling place locations for increased accessibility. Increased outreach to remote areas of Alaska has required an initial investment of these monies.

- **Establishing free-access telephone systems for voters to report possible voting fraud and voting rights violations, to obtain general election information, and to access detailed automated information on their own voter registration status, specific polling place locations, and other relevant information.**

The Division currently uses an interactive toll-free telephone system for voters to verify their polling location and party affiliation. Improving this current system or creating a new free access system to expand the options available to voters has begun with available funding provided under this Act.

Section 11. Alaska’s HAVA State Plan Management

How the State will conduct ongoing management of the plan, except that the State may not make any material change in the administration of the plan unless the change—

- (A) is developed and published in the Federal Register in accordance with section 255 in the same manner as the State plan;*
- (B) is subject to public notice and comment in accordance with section 256 in the same manner as the State plan; and*
- (C) takes effect only after the expiration of the 30-day period that begins on the date the change is published in the Federal Register in accordance with subparagraph (A).*

The Director of the Division of Elections, as the “Chief State Election Official” under Section 253(e), is responsible for coordination of the State’s responsibilities under this Act. Therefore, the Director is ultimately responsible for the ongoing management of the plan.

The updated HAVA State Plan has become an essential component in the Division’s continuing efforts to improve accessibility and accountability in the election process. Alaska has already implemented many aspects of HAVA, and the Division sees the ongoing management of the State Plan as a continuation of the State’s commitment to election reform. Each element is being managed closely to achieve compliance, maximize improvements to all aspects of the election process, and continued responsible use of available funds. The Division has hired a HAVA Program Coordinator to ensure all requirements of HAVA are met in a timely manner.

The State understands and agrees to comply with HAVA requirements related to ongoing management of the State Plan. More specifically, the State agrees that it may not make any material change in the administration of the State Plan unless the change:

- (A) is developed and published in the Federal Register in accordance with HAVA Section 255 in the same manner as the State Plan;

- (B) is subject to public notice and comment in accordance with HAVA Section 256 in the same manner as the State Plan; and
- (C) takes effect only after the expiration of the 30-day period that begins on the date the change is published in the Federal Register.

Section 12. Changes to State Plan from Previous Fiscal Year

In the case of a State with a State Plan in effect under this subtitle during the previous fiscal year, a description of how the plan reflects changes from the State Plan for the previous fiscal year and of how the State succeeded in carrying out the State Plan for such previous fiscal year.

The State of Alaska's 2004 HAVA Updated State Plan remains consistent, with steady progress towards the goals established in the initial 2003 State Plan. The State of Alaska passed legislation to bring the state into compliance with HAVA requirements; new staff to manage HAVA; updated forms and training materials; and continues to design improved voter outreach programs.

In 2004, the Division established a toll-free access system to provide voter information in the form of a toll-free telephone number. This system allows the voter to determine if his or her questioned ballot was counted and, if not counted, why the vote or a portion of the vote did not count.

The Division also completed procedures to allow the Division of Elections to match identifying information provided by a first-time, by-mail registrant on his or her registration application to information maintained in the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) database.

Leading up to the 2004 General Election, the Division began "hub training" its election workers. The purpose of this training method is for the Division to more effectively train election workers closer to Election Day. Since there are many rural polling places in Alaska, the Division sent the chair from each selected rural precinct to one larger, more "central" community where all the chairs were trained simultaneously. The chairs then returned to their home and trained the election workers at their polling place. The Division was able to train more election workers closer to Election Day using the "hub training" method, and found this to be an effective means of outreach and training.

The Division has procedures established for conducting recounts on a statewide level, as well as State House and State Senate levels. In 2004, the Division conducted two recounts – one for a State House race and the other for the U.S. Senate race. This was the first time in Alaska history that a statewide recount was conducted with the Accu-Vote Optical Scan equipment, and there were no significant changes to the election results.

The Division used HAVA funds to purchase an additional 45 TS units, bringing the statewide total to 100 TS units. While intending to use the touch screens in a pilot project in the 2004 elections, the Division made the decision to delay implementation until the units are retrofitted with a voter verifiable paper record. In May 2004, the Legislature passed legislation (HB 459) requiring a voter verifiable paper trail for electronic voting machines.

The State of Alaska, Division of Elections succeeded in developing administrative regulations to establish the required complaint procedure. These regulations constitute a new article 6 AAC 25.400 –490 that is now a part of the Division’s administrative regulations set out at Title 6, Chapter 25 of the Alaska Administrative Code. These regulations satisfy the requirements of HAVA section 402 by providing a uniform and nondiscriminatory complaint procedure

Section 13. State Plan Development and Committee

A description of the committee that participated in the development of the State Plan in accordance with section 255 and the procedures followed by the committee under such section and section 256.

The draft of Alaska's State Plan was created by the Division of Elections with the legal guidance of the State's Attorney General's Office. The Division continues to seek consultation from the State Attorney General's office in our implementation of HAVA.

No public meetings are planned for this year. The Division will provide the State Plan Committee with a copy of the updated 2004 HAVA State Plan for review and comment. Additionally, the 2004 State Plan will be posted on the State's online public notice system and on the Division of Elections' website.

The State Plan Committee members continue to reflect a cross section of election stakeholders throughout the State, in accordance with Section 255 of the Act.

In 2002, the Lieutenant Governor named the following Alaskans to serve on the State Plan Committee:

Laura Glaiser, Director of the Division of Elections, Chair of the Committee and ultimately responsible for the development and implementation of the State Plan

Pam Crowe, Region I Election Supervisor, Division of Elections

Carol Thompson, Region II Election Supervisor, Division of Elections

Mona Lisa Drexler, Fairbanks North Star Borough Municipal Clerk

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Katy Suiter, Municipal Clerk, City of Ketchikan

Jim Beck, Executive Director, Access Alaska

Lynne Koral, President, Alaska Independent Blind

Joanne Baker, Member, Anchorage League of Women Voters

Major Tim Nelson, Elmendorf Installation Voting Officer

Gene Therriault, State Senator, Alaska State Legislature

Donny Olson, State Senator, Alaska State Legislature

John B. Coghill, House Majority Leader, Alaska State Legislature

Mary Kapsner, State House Representative, Alaska State Legislature

Sarah Felix, Assistant Attorney General, State of Alaska