



## Division of Elections Election Policy Work Group 2017 – 2018 Timeline

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### 2017 Discussions

**May 22 – May 23**

***Discussion***

- Reviewed the 2017 Fiscal & Policy Challenges report prepared by the Division of Elections (DOE)
- Division staff presented information on the fiscal and policy challenges.
- Discussions on all topics as a starting point.
- Suggestion to expand the group in order to share opinions and ideas.
- Survey of rural voters idea suggested
- Established Guiding Principles
- Next logical steps
- Created Action Item List

**June 27**

***Teleconference/Webex***

- Explored funding options for purchasing new voting system. (Lease purchase with OMB approval, legislative approval if budget increase or over \$100,000; Bond financing requiring legislation and voter approval; Master lease line of credit, DOR – State Debt Manager)
- Survey of rural AK voters suggested again

**July 18**

***Discussion***

- Presented Ideas on an Alternative Voting Method
- Voting in Alaska today
- Other States using vote by mail or a hybrid system of both by mail and in person voting. (CO, WA, OR and soon CA)
- Explored potential costs associated with a by mail system.
- Advantages/Disadvantages
- Potential redirection of existing expenditures under a new system.
- Procedural Changes to Consider
- Explore by mail in rural AK
- Request info from Doyon and other Native Corporations on their by mail elections
- Civil Rights topics regarding vote by mail and language assistance

**September**

***Fact Finding Trip to Denver***

- EPWG members and DOE staff traveled to Denver County, CO to tour and learn more about their by-mail and in person voting program.
- Very informative trip and realized Denver County's progression in their voting program.
- Gained perspective on where Alaska is and where we need to be in respect to our voting system, voter education and outreach, and community relationships.

**November****Discussion**

- 15PFVR Automatic Voter Registration Update
- Legislation timeline established for 15PFVR statutory changes
- Cyber Security Update – National & State
- Presented report to the entire EPWG on Colorado trip
- Language Summit outline presented
- Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) Update
- Maintaining Momentum in 2018
- Discussed direction of EPWG
- Goal for EPWG recommendation in spring of 2018
- ISER research on voter perspectives in rural Alaska
- Establish timeline for implementation

**2018 Discussions****January 30****Discussion**

- Improving Election in Alaska / In the Future and Beyond – Report by CEIR
- PFD Automatic Voter Registration Update & Approval of Legislation
- ISER Research Survey Update
- Language Summit Update – March 19-20, 2018 at the AK Native Heritage Center
- Voting System Demonstration

**May 8-9****Discussion & Recommendation for Voting System**

- Federally certified vendors to conduct demonstrations on two types of voting systems: a paper ballot vote by mail system along with vote center opportunities and a paper ballot precinct-based system.
- Share results of ISER survey on voter perspectives in rural Alaska (400 sample size)
- Share results of Bethel Focus Groups
- Overview of MOA Vote by Mail election & Project Update
- Proposed recommendation regarding adoption of a Hybrid/Universal Voting System



## Division of Elections Election Policy Work Group 2017 – 2018 Accomplishments

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### 2017 Accomplishments

- Established Guiding Principles (see attached)
- Explored a Hybrid/Universal Ballot Delivery method that includes by-mail and in person voting. If it doesn't work for rural Alaska, it won't work for Alaska.
- Removed the option for online voters to return their voted ballot through the online process. Voters can still request their ballots online but return via fax or mail.
- New Election Worker training outlines for trainers created.
- Discussions & on-site visit with Municipality of Anchorage on their by-mail election.
- Expanded EWPG members to include USPS administrators, additional municipal clerks and voting advocacy organizations.
- DOE presented to AML and AAMC in November and LIO in December to expand outreach efforts in communities and municipalities.
- Established a pilot "Confined Voter Program" in Juneau and Fairbanks to improve outreach efforts to inmates who are eligible to register to vote and participate in elections.
- Acknowledged the urgency of implementing a new voting system by 2020 due to the aging voting equipment currently used in Alaska.

### 2018 Accomplishments

- Completed ISER Survey to get input from voters in rural Alaska as we prepare to update our voting system.
- Hosted Bethel Focus Groups on April 16-17, 2018 with DOE Yup'ik interpreter to facilitate discussion amongst Elders and Tribal leadership on pros, cons, and concerns around current voting methods and the universal ballot delivery system being considered by the EPWG.
- Introduced legislation for fixes with PFD Automatic Voter Registration process (SB 186 & HB 352).
- Presentations to League of Women Voters, Wasilla Chamber, and Political Parties to expand outreach with groups and community.
- DOE Managers attended "Train the Trainer" course to improve as trainers
- DOE staff supported Municipality of Anchorage in its by mail election program
- New Election Worker training videos in progress, includes Bilingual & Outreach Workers
- Alaska Language Summit held in March 2018
- Secure \$3 M in HAVA funds
- Voting Technology Fair Scheduled for May