

Alaska Election Policy Work Group

Proposed Recommendation Regarding Acquisition of a New Voting System

In recognition of Alaska's need to replace aging statewide voting equipment, modernize and improve the integrity and security of the state's elections, and increase access for all eligible voters, the Alaska Election Policy Work Group recommends that the State of Alaska move forward with replacing Alaska's 20-year old voting system.

The new system would remain a precinct-based system as currently required in statute, allow state and local election officials to conduct the 2020 elections with modern software and equipment, but be adaptable to any future system changes adopted by the State of Alaska.

For a new voting system to be successfully implemented by 2020, the EPWG urges the DOE to begin work on creating a high-level project plan and to conduct an organizational and cost analysis with additional Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds that have been made available in the FY 2019 Capital Budget. These tasks should be completed by December 2018. The Election Policy Work Group expects to lead and participate in an extensive community outreach effort to engage Alaskans on the issue of expanding voter choice and access the ballot.