Counting Write-In Votes - US Senate Race

When separating ballots to count the individual write-in votes, the ballots will be initially sorted first. After the initial sort, if necessary, the director will make a determination on voter intent. Once ballots are sorted and challenges are handled, the ballots will be counted and individual write-in results will be recorded.

Ballots will be delivered by Goldbelt Security. There will be a chain of custody indicating the district and number of boxes being transported from the Division of Elections ballot room to the Alaska Litho Building and from the Alaska Litho Building to the Division of Elections ballot room. There will be a division employee following the ballot transport at all times.

Goldbelt Security will remain at the counting center to ensure ballot security.

One house district will be counted at each table. The voted ballots are in separate, sealed envelopes by precinct. There will be only one precinct opened at a time. When a precinct count is completed, the voted ballots are returned to the precinct envelope and sealed by the counting team. Challenged ballots will be sealed in separate envelopes, identified with the district and precinct number.

Results will be reported by district at the completion of each district count.

Below is an outline of the process:

Initial Ballot Sort

There will be 5 box lids used to sort ballots. Use the box lids to initially sort the ballots as follows:

1. Place ballots where the oval is marked (colored in, X, Star, Check, etc.) next to a candidate's name that is printed on the ballot (those other than the Write-In category).
2. Place ballots where the US Senate Race is left blank (no oval marked) or more than one oval is marked, or a name is written in, but no oval is marked
3. Place ballots where the oval is marked for Write-In category (colored in, X, Star, Check) and the name is written as **LISA MURKOWSKI OR MURKOWSKI <u>and</u> spelled correctly that are NOT challenged**.
4. Place ballots where the oval is marked for Write-In category (colored in, X, Star, Check) and **THE NAME WRITTEN APPEARS TO BE A VARIATION OR MISSPELLING OF MURKOWSKI OR LISA MURKOWSKI**. Also place in this lid any ballot that an observer challenges so that the director can make a determination.

5. Place ballots where the oval is marked for Write-In category and the name written in is **NOT** Murkowski, Lisa Murkowski or a variation thereof.

After initial sort, raise hand for director, or director designee. The director's designees are division staff appointed by the director to validate that the ballots in box lid #2 are truly blank or over voted ballots. All other ballots will be reviewed by the director.

Director Determination

1. Each ballot in box lid #4 will be reviewed to determine voter intent. When reviewing these ballots, they will be sorted into 4 categories as follows:
    a. Determination made as vote for Write-In candidate Lisa Murkowski and **determination is NOT challenged**. (These ballots will be placed in box lid #3 for counting.)
    b. Determination made to count the vote for Write-In candidate Lisa Murkowski and **determination is challenged**. These ballots will be segregated and placed into envelope labeled – **Challenged Counted for Murkowski**. The total number of votes from these ballots will be recorded on the results sheet as votes for Murkowski – Counted Challenged.
    c. Determination made to NOT count the vote for Write-In candidate Lisa Murkowski and determination is challenged. These ballots will be segregated and placed into envelope labeled – **Challenged NOT Counted for Murkowski.** The total number of votes from these ballots will be added to the results sheet as Murkowski – Not Counted Challenged.
    d. Determination made to NOT count the vote for Write-In candidate Lisa Murkowski and determination is not challenged. These ballots are then placed in box lid #5.

Recording Results

1. Hand-count the number of ballots from box lid #3 (votes for Murkowski) and record the total number on the results sheet (certified write-in candidate list) for Lisa Murkowski.
2. Count the number of ballots in the "Challenged – Counted for Murkowski" envelope and record the total number on the results sheet line Lisa Murkowski – Counted Challenged. After counting, return these ballots to the envelope.
3. Count the number of ballots in the "Challenged – Not Counted for Murkowski" envelope and record the total number on the results sheet line for Murkowski – Not Counted Challenged. After counting, return these ballots to the envelope.

4. For the ballots in box lid #5 (write-in vote for candidate other than Murkowski) sort the ballots into the separate names. Count and record the individual results for those candidates appearing on the certified write-in candidate list or on the ballot (record the results next to the name on the results sheet). If the name written in does not appear on the results sheet record the votes on the line Other Write-In.