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STATE OF ALASKA Division of Elections Office of the Lieutenant Governor

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Division of Elections Strengthens Absentee Ballot Review Procedures

The Director of the Division of Elections, Gail Fenumiai, announced today that the division of Elections is strengthening its absentee ballot review procedures. Specifically, the division will not deem its review of absentee ballots complete until absentee voters' names can be checked against the registry of those voting at the polls on Election Day.

This cross-check cannot be done until the division receives the precinct registers used on Election Day and matches names of those who voted absentee against the precinct registers. Accordingly, the division will not be counting absentee-in-person or absentee-by-mail ballots on election night. The division anticipates completing the ballot review in time to count absentee ballots on or before the 10th day following the election.

During the Primary election, the division determined 26 ballots were counted from voters who cast both an absentee/early ballot and voted at the polls on Election Day. Although these duplicate voters did not have an affect on the outcome of any ballot contest, the division is proactively guarding against this occurring in the future.

"We will continue working to ensure the principle of "One Person, One Vote," said Gail Fenumiai, the director of the Alaska Division of Elections. "Even though the added ballot review measure means that citizens won't see the partial absentee count on election night they are used to, voters will have the extra assurance that their vote counts just like everybody else's—Once!" said Fenumiai. Intentionally casting two ballots is against Alaska law and can be charged as a Class C felony.