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STATE OF ALASKA Division of Elections Office of the Lieutenant Governor

News Release for Immediate Release

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Division of Elections Clarifies Absentee Voting Instructions Error

The Division of Elections mailed over 23,000 ballots to voters for the Primary Election. Each time ballots are mailed, the Division includes instructions that inform voters how to return the ballot. There are two different sets of instructions – one being instructions for voters who need to submit a photocopy of their identification.

Some of the ballots with the instructions informing voters to include a photocopy of their identification were inadvertently sent to voters who do not need to supply the photocopy of identification. The photocopy identification requirement applied to just 27 voters; the Division is contacting these voters to inform them that the instructions were, in fact, for them.

All other absentee voters who were sent ballots with the additional requirement were sent a follow-up letter letting them know the extra identification requirements mentioned in the instructions do not apply to them. These voters simply have to: 1) sign the return ballot envelope; 2) provide one identifier, such as their voter number, birth date, Alaska driver's license number or last 4 digits of their Social Security number; and 3) have their signature witnessed by an authorized official or a person over the age of 18.

The extra identification requirements do not apply to voters who have voted in previous elections in Alaska who have an Alaska driver's license or State ID card or to voters who have a voter ID card.

The Division has made great efforts to process all of the absentee-by-mail ballot applications and mail the ballots in plenty of time for voters to receive and return them. Under state law, by-mail ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day.