

# 15PFVR Statement of Costs

## Estimate of Costs to the State of Alaska for the Voter Initiative Allowing Qualified Individuals to Register to Vote when Submitting a Permanent Fund Dividend Application

### Cost Summary

Agency	Cost
Office of the Lieutenant Governor	\$9,000
Office of the Lieutenant Governor – Division of Elections	\$931,300
Department of Revenue – Permanent Dividend Fund Division	\$2,585
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$942,885</b>

### Estimate of costs to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Division of Elections

As required by AS 15.45.090(a)(3), the Alaska Office of the Lieutenant Governor has prepared the following statement of costs to implement the proposed ballot initiative. If approved, the initiative would take effect 90 days following election certification.

#### Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Assuming the initiative is placed on the ballot, the minimum cost to conduct public hearings concerning the initiative in two communities in each of four judicial districts is estimated to be \$9,000.

#### Lt. Governor’s Office – Estimate by Category

Travel	\$ 9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 9,000</b>

Estimated travel expenses include round-trip air transportation, per diem and other associated travel costs for the Lieutenant Governor and staff to travel to seven communities in Alaska: It is assumed one of the hearings would be in Anchorage which would not involve travel costs.

#### Division of Elections

As required by AS 15.45.090(a)(3) and (4), the Division of Elections has prepared the following statement of costs to implement the proposed ballot initiative.

The estimated cost to the Division of Elections associated with certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition, excluding legal costs to the state and the costs to the state of any challenge to the validity of the petition, is estimated to be \$931,300. Recurring annual costs are estimated at approximately \$300,000.

#### Division of Elections – Estimate by Category

Personal Services:	\$130,000
Contractual Services:	\$801,300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$931,300</b>

#### Personal Services

Ten temporary employees to process the voter notification cards and respond to questions. The recurring need to hire temporary workers will be on a year by year assessment. Estimated cost: \$60,000

Certification of the initiative application and review of the initiative petition: \$70,000

#### Contractual Services

The Division of Elections – The Voter Registration and Election Management System will require system configuration changes in order to comply with the requirements of the initiative. The cost estimate takes into consideration the limited timeframe to analyze the portions of the system that would need to be reconfigured if the initiative passes. This would be a one-time expense: \$500,000

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Costs for mailing notices to voters who are eligible but not registered, and those who are registered but have a different mailing address. This includes costs related to printing, postage and return mail service: \$300,000

Printing of voter booklets: \$1,300

### Department of Revenue

#### Permanent Dividend Fund Division

As required by AS 15.45.090(a)(4), the Permanent Fund Dividend Division (PFDD) has prepared the following statement of cost to implement the proposed permanent fund dividend application and the registration of voters ballot initiative. The minimum cost to PFDD to implement this change is estimated to be \$2,585.00.

The ballot initiative would amend AS 15.07.050(a) and register individuals to vote by completing a permanent fund dividend application under AS 43.23.015. The dividend application currently captures all but one of the required data elements outlined in AS 15.07.060(a)(1)-(4) and (7)-(9). The exception being, AS 15.07.060(a)(4), the applicant's Alaska residence address. The dividend application requires both a mailing and physical address, but neither is required to be within the state of Alaska. Minimal application programming will be required to modify the application to include a physical address if it must be within Alaska.

In addition, a statement of notification will be incorporated into the permanent fund dividend application. The notification language will explicitly explain that by completing a permanent fund dividend application the applicant will simultaneously be registered to vote.

Although, the projected costs associated with this ballot initiative are relatively insignificant to PFDD, the impact on the volume of public contact is an unknown variable. An increase in non-permanent fund dividend inquires will directly affect the time PFDD technicians have to meet the program's primary mission.

#### Permanent Dividend Fund Division – Estimate by Category

15 programming hours to modify PFD applications	\$679
15 programming hours to include additional Alaskan address data entry component	\$679
5 programming hours to create Elections file transfer report	\$227
<u>Increase in application printing costs to include additional Alaska address field</u>	<u>\$1000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,585</b>