

Absentee & Questioned Ballot Processing

Thank you for participating in the civic process by coming to observe election processing in person!

Have questions?
Ask the Election Supervisor,
or learn more on
elections.alaska.gov



In Alaska, post-election processing is open to:

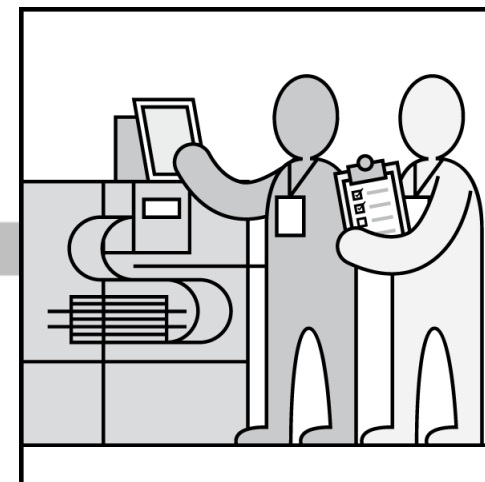
- The precinct party committee where an organized precinct committee exists
 - The district party committee where no organized precinct committee exists
 - The state party chair where no precinct or district committee exists
 - Candidates
 - Organizations or organized groups that sponsor or oppose an initiative, referendum, or recall
- AS 15.10.170



Step 1. Voter Registration

To register to vote, you are required to provide valid identification proving that you are eligible to vote. You must be a U.S. Citizen, a resident of Alaska, and at least 18 years old or will be 18 years old within 90 days of completing an application. We review and verify that information, then put it into our voter registration database.

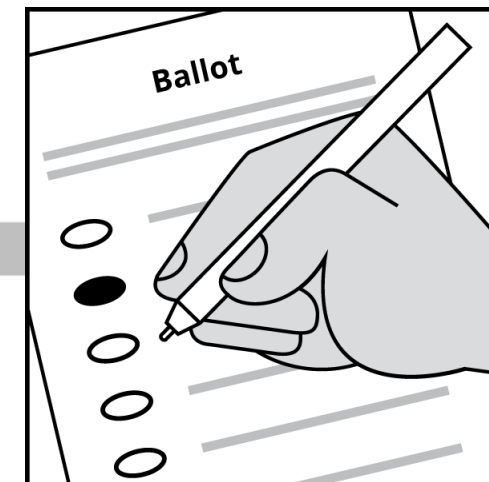
AS 15.05.010



Step 2. Election Equipment Testing

We use election equipment that meets State and Federal standards. We test our election equipment before each election.

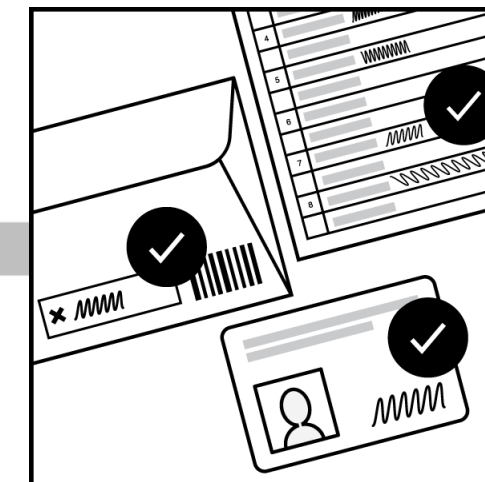
AS 15.20.910, 6 AAC 25.045



Step 3. Absentee Ballot Request and Voting

Alaska is a no excuse absentee voting state. All registered voters, including military and overseas citizens, can vote absentee by mail, fax, online delivery, early, or absentee in-person. To vote by-mail, fax or online delivery, voters must first apply for a ballot package.

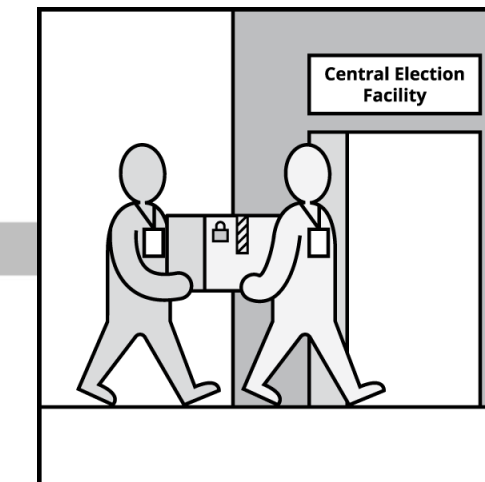
AS 15.20.010, AS 15.20.061, AS 15.20.064, AS 15.20.066, AS 15.20.081



Step 4. Verify voter eligibility

We verify that every in-person voter is eligible to vote before giving them a ballot. We only send mail ballots to registered voters who have requested a ballot. We verify voter eligibility again when we receive absentee ballots.

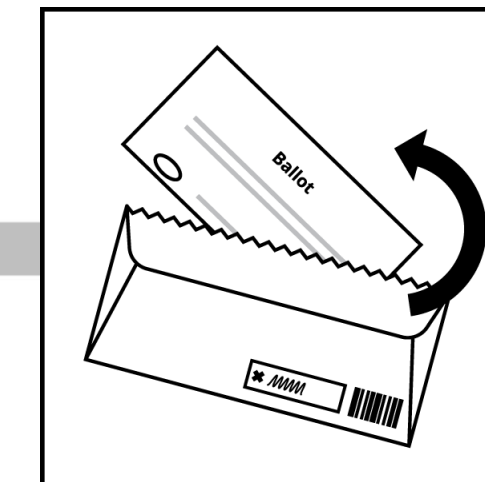
AS 15.05.010



Step 5. Ballot Receipt

In Alaska, we receive all ballots at five regional locations for ballot tabulation:

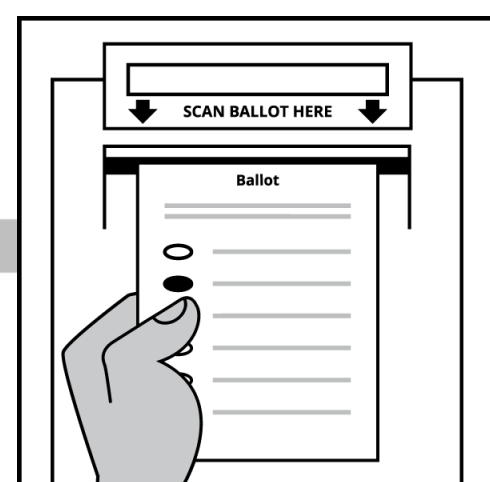
- Juneau
- Anchorage
- Mat-Su
- Fairbanks
- Nome



Step 6. Process ballots

All absentee and questioned ballots are reviewed by bi-partisan review boards who verify voter eligibility and prepare them for scanning and tabulation. If a ballot is damaged or contains machine-unreadable marks, we flag it for manual review. All eligible ballots are counted as indicated by the voter.

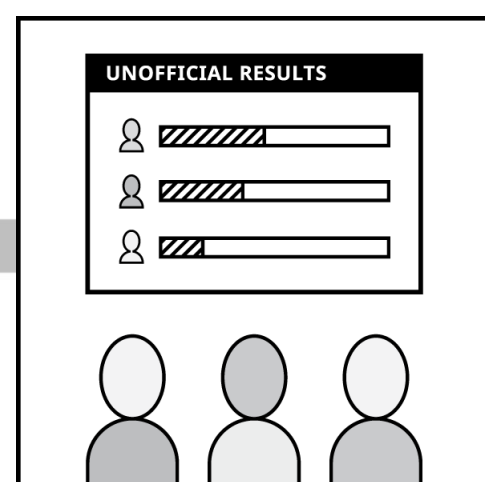
AS 15.05.011, AS 15.15.350, 6 AAC 25.670



Step 7. Ballot Tabulation

We scan and count all the eligible votes to determine the results of each contest in the election. In Alaska, we tabulate in-person ballots at the poll sites where the vote was cast. All absentee and questioned ballots are centrally tabulated at the five regional locations.

AS 15.15.330, AS 15.15.360

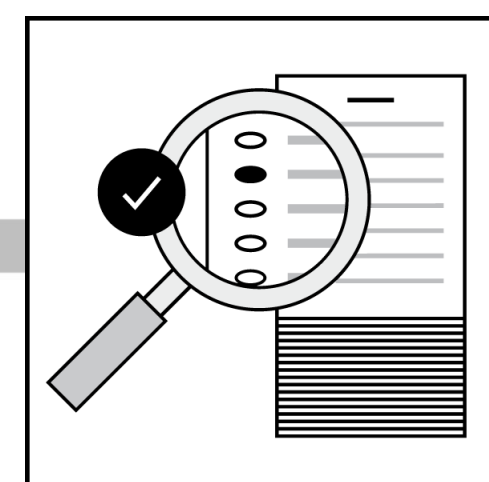


Step 8. Unofficial results

We begin publishing unofficial results after the close of polls on Election Day. Unofficial results are published no earlier than 8:00pm on election day. Results are unofficial until after all ballot return deadlines have passed and after we have counted every eligible ballot we received.

AS 15.20.201, AS 15.20.205

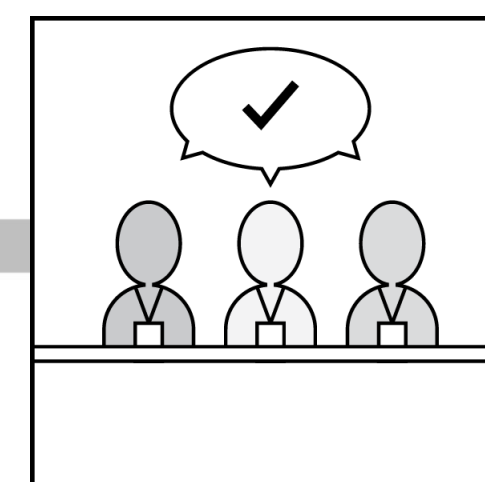
Find unofficial results on ELECTIONS.ALASKA.GOV



Step 9. Audit

Audits are a normal check and balance that is part of every election. We use audits to confirm that election equipment accurately tallied voters' ballots, that the outcome of the election reflects how voters voted, and that election workers followed procedures.

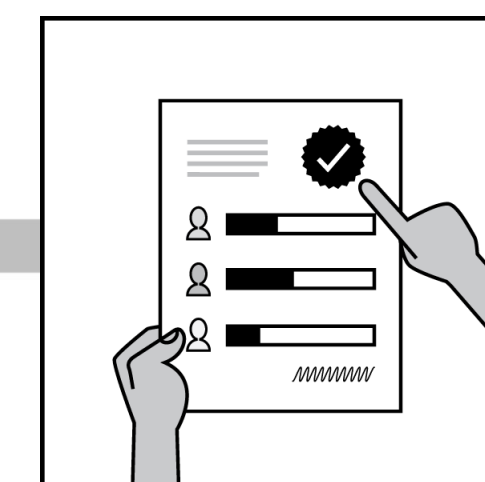
6 AAC 25.203



Step 10. Canvass of Results

After all eligible ballots have been counted, the bi-partisan State Review Board reviews the election, resolves discrepancies, and verifies the outcome of the election.

AS 15.15.440

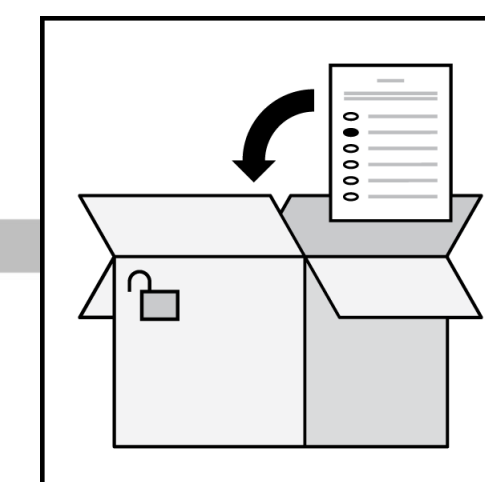


Step 11. Certification of Official Results

After the bi-partisan State Review Board reviews and verifies the outcome of the election, official election results are certified.

AS 15.15.450

Certified election results are published no earlier than 10 days after a primary election or 15 days after a general election.



Step 11. Ballot Storage

For elections that include federal races, we archive election certification paperwork for four years and all paper ballots for 22 months after certification of the election. At the end of the retention period, paperwork and ballots are destroyed according to the state's record retention policy.

AS 15.15.470, 6 AAC 25.230