

STATE OF ALASKA

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NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 11, 2003

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Headline: HAVA State Plan Committee Approves Election Reform Program

A State committee appointed by Lt. Governor Loren Leman to review a draft plan that addresses election reform in Alaska gave the plan its unanimous approval yesterday.

The plan, a requirement of federal law under the new Help America Vote Act (HAVA), now goes out for a 30-day public comment period. The Division of Elections expects to submit a final plan to the Federal Election Commission's Election Assistance Commission by mid-June.

"We're delighted the committee approved ideas for programs that will improve the overall election process and the division's statewide computerized database as well as increasing handicapped accessibility at the polls," said Division Director Laura Glaiser.

The first \$5 million in federal funds that will support the new programs could be received as early as late spring of this year. Changes to Alaska's election laws to bring them into compliance with federal requirements are being introduced this session of the Legislature, Glaiser noted.

The plan is available on the division's web site—www.elections.state.ak.us—as well as at regional elections offices, Legislative Information Offices throughout the state and the Alaska Municipal League.

"We encourage people to download the plan or pick up a copy wherever it's convenient for them because we very much want to know their thoughts and ideas about the recommendations the committee has made," she said

Members of the HAVA Committee include:

- Senate President Gene Therriault

(more)

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- House Majority Leader John B. Coghill
- Senator Donny Olson
- Representative Mary Kapsner
- Rural Affairs Assistant to the Governor Tara Sweeney
- Access Alaska Executive Director Jim Beck
- Alaska Independent Blind President Lynne Koral
- Anchorage League of Women Voters Member JoAnne Baker
- Elmendorf Installation Voting Officer Major Tim Nelson
- Alternative Language Community Member Mario Lim
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Municipal Clerk Mona Lisa Drexler
- City of Ketchikan Municipal Clerk Katy Suiter
- Region I Election Supervisor Pam Crowe
- Region II Acting Election Supervisor Doug Pryor
- Assistant Attorney General Sarah Felix

Glaiser chairs the committee and is responsible for the overall development and implementation of the plan.

Further information about HAVA is available at the Division of Elections Director's Office: (907) 465-4611.