

Division of Elections List Maintenance Process

The Division of Elections conducts list maintenance as prescribed by state and federal law. List maintenance ensures our voter list is as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

The annual list maintenance process is described in AS 15.07.130. List maintenance is also required by the federal National Voter Registration Act (NVRA). The state list maintenance statute was enacted in 1998 and the NVRA was enacted in 1993. Voters cannot be removed from the voter list simply because they have not voted or because they appear to have moved to another state.

The division's annual list maintenance process has two steps:

Step 1

At least once a year, the division reviews the statewide voter registration list and sends notices (by nonforwardable mail) requesting address confirmation or correction to all voters:

- Whose mail from the division has been returned to the division in the last two years;
- Who have not contacted the division in the last two years; and
- Who have not voted or appeared to vote in the last two general elections.

Step 2

If the first notice is returned as undeliverable and the voter has not, within the preceding four calendar years, contacted the division, voted, or appeared to vote in any election, the division sends a second notice (by forwardable mail) to the voter's last known address. This notice states that the voter's registration will be inactivated unless the voter responds to the notice within 45 days.

A voter whose record has been inactivated will be canceled and removed from the voter list after two general elections—four years—if the voter does not contact the division, vote, or appear to vote.

Inactive voters may vote, but they must vote a questioned ballot, as their names do not appear on the precinct register. This means they must complete questioned ballot envelopes and their ballots are reviewed with all other questioned ballots by a bi-partisan questioned ballot review board. Their ballots are then counted to the greatest extent allowed by state law.

Voter Qualifications

State law allows voters to remain residents for voting purposes as long as they intend to return to Alaska and have not voted in another state. Active military personnel and their spouses are exempt from the intent-to-return requirement and they may vote in state and federal elections. Overseas voters may also register and vote even if they do not intend to return, but they may only vote in federal elections.

State law does not allow those convicted of certain felonies to vote. The division periodically seeks information from the Alaska court system to identify those who have been convicted of felonies involving moral turpitude. The division removes these voters from the voter list, and it will reregister them if they have been unconditionally discharged from incarceration, probation, and/or parole.

Electronic Registration Information Center

Alaska is a member of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), an organization of 32 jurisdictions that share and match their voter records. The division uses the ERIC program to send quarterly notices to voters who appear to have moved to other states, requesting that they update or cancel their voter registration in Alaska. Occasionally, the division also receives notification directly from

other states when someone registers there and indicates they were previously registered in Alaska. We also recommend that voters who move from Alaska and do not intend to return immediately contact the division to cancel their registration.

ERIC also helps the division update voters' addresses, identify deceased voters, and merge duplicate records. ERIC compares Alaska's DMV database with the voter list. Prior to every general election, the division sends a move-notification card to any voter who may have a more current residence address with DMV, asking them to update their registration. The division sends this notice prior to the registration deadline for the general election so there is time for the voters to update their registration. The division also diligently flags voter records with undeliverable mailing addresses and updates the voters' addresses.

To identify deceased voters, ERIC compares our voter list with a Social Security Administration database. Every quarter, the division uses this information to remove deceased voters from the voter list. The division also removes deceased voters every month based on information received from the Division of Vital Statistics, city clerks, family members, and obituaries.

Finally, ERIC helps identify potential duplicate voting records. The division also searches for these records every month and then merges duplicates together.