



MEDIA PACKET

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION

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MEDIA BRIEFING

Wednesday, August 14, 2024

1:00PM Alaska Time Zone

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1605813333?pwd=QzZteXZrUnc2WHcrRmFTOS8wdDFPUT09>

Meeting ID: 160 581 3333 Passcode: 803624 Join by SIP 1605813333@sip.zoomgov.com

One tap mobile: +16692545252,,1605813333# US (San Jose) +16692161590,,1605813333# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location: +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose) +1 646 828 7666 US (New York) +1 551 285 1373 US (New Jersey)

Find your local number: <https://www.zoomgov.com/u/aeegHgjr>

Join by H.323: 161.199.138.10 (US West) 161.199.136.10 (US East)

MEDIA GUIDELINES

For all press inquiries, regardless of region, please contact GOV.elec.media@alaska.gov or the Director's Office at 907-465-4611.

Polling Place Photography and Video

Please contact the Director's office first with your request. When you arrive at a polling place, you must let the Election Chair know who you are so they can issue a Division Press Badge. You must only go where the Election Chair specifies. All Poll Workers must agree to be photographed or filmed. You cannot interfere with voting. Do not take any close-up shots of voted ballots or registers. Please only speak to voters outside of the polling place. If you would like to conduct exit polls, we must know ahead of time so we can issue you an Exit Pollster badge.

Regional Office Photography and Video

Please contact the Director's Office first. Regional Offices are incredibly busy during election season. We will coordinate your office visits. You must only go where the Regional Supervisor specifies. Do not take any close-up -legible-shots of voted ballots or registers.

OUR OFFICES

Director's Office

240 Main Street, Suite 400 Juneau, Alaska 99801-0017 | (907)465-4611 | Carol Beecher, Director

Region I Juneau

House Districts 1 – 6

Region II Anchorage

House Districts 9 – 24

Region III Fairbanks

House Districts 31 – 36

Region IV Nome

House Districts 37 - 40

Region V Wasilla

House Districts 7 – 8 and 25 - 30

2024 PRIMARY ELECTION DATES

July 20	Regional Election Offices are open for voter registration from 10am to 4pm.
July 21	Regional Election Offices are open for voter registration from 12am to 4pm.
August 5	Early or absentee in-person, electronic transmission, and special needs voting begins. Locations, dates, and times are on the division's website at AKVoteEarly.alaska.gov .
August 10	Deadline to receive absentee by-mail ballot applications.
August 19	Deadline to receive absentee electronic transmission applications by 5pm.
August 20	Primary Election Day – Polling Places are open from 7am to 8pm. Unofficial results posted on the Division of Elections website after 9pm. Some Early Voting and Absentee In-Person sites will also be open.
August 20	Deadline for absentee ballots returned by mail to be postmarked.
August 20	Deadline for absentee electronic transmission ballots returned by fax by 8pm.
August 27	Seven-day count for absentee, early and questioned ballots. (Note there may be additional counting days between day 7-10.)
August 30	10-day deadline to receive absentee ballots to be considered eligible for the Primary races.
August 30	Ten-day count for absentee, early and questioned ballots.
September 1	Target date for State Review Board to certify election.
September 6	Deadline to request a recount (based on certification date of September 1). A recount must be filed within five days after the completion of the State Review Board.
September 11	Deadline to file an election contest (based on certification date of September 1). An election contest must be filed within 10 days after completion of the State Review Board.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

PRIMARY ELECTION

What is a Nonpartisan Pick One Primary Election?

Voters will vote for only one candidate and the top four vote getters of a race will move on to the November 5, 2024 General Election. All candidates are on the same ballot and all voters get the same ballot regardless of political affiliation. The Primary election does not determine the nominee of any political party or group. The President and Vice President candidates will not appear on the primary ballot. This is Alaska's second election cycle to use this new system.

What races are on the Primary Ballot?

- United States Representative
- State Senate – Districts B, D, F, H, J, L, N, P, R
- State Representative – All 40 House Districts

What happens if there are less than four candidates in a race?

All candidates for that race will move on to the General Election.

Who can run in the Primary Election?

Any registered voter who meets the requirements of AS 15.25.030(a) and seeks to become a candidate in the Primary Election can file a declaration of candidacy. Primary candidates do not need to be a member of a political party or political group.

Can a voter write-in a candidate for the Primary Election?

No.

COUNTING AND RESULTS REPORTING

Will results be reported using the 2023 Final Redistricting Board district boundaries?

Yes.

Will results be available by precinct?

Results will be available by precinct for Election Day voting.

Which ballots will be counted on Election Night?

Election Night results will include ballots voted at polling places on Election Day and ballots voted at Early Voting locations from August 5 through August 20.

How many results updates will there be on Election Night and when?

We anticipate the first set of unofficial results being published between 8:45pm and 9pm. There will be additional results updates that follow but we do not know how many or at what time they will be published. We will notify our media contacts by email each time an update is published and let you know when we are done reporting for the night.

Will the Division provide absentee ballot rejection statistics before, and after Election Day?

Yes. We will email the media when the Ballot Reports are available on our website. The reports will not show statistics for the reasons ballots were rejected.

Will the Division begin reviewing and counting absentee ballots before Election Day?

The Absentee Review Board will begin reviewing ballots for eligibility on or before August 13. Some Absentee By-Mail and Absentee In-Person ballots will be counted on Election Day with subsequent counts taking place up to the 10th day following the election.

Will the Division provide a report showing how many and why ballots were rejected?

Yes. This report will not be available until the State Review Board has certified the elections.

When are absentee ballots required to be returned to be counted?

Absentee ballots for primary elections must be received no later than 10 days after Election Day. This is a statutory deadline.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Is the Division automatically mailing absentee ballots to all voters?

No. A voter must request an absentee ballot to be mailed to them.

Is return postage pre-paid for absentee by-mail ballots?

No. The Division does not provide pre-paid postage for absentee ballots.

Does the Division verify signatures on absentee ballots?

No, but there must be a signature from the voter and a witness.

Can a voter vote in person if they requested an absentee ballot? What should they do with their absentee ballot?

Yes, voters may vote in person at an Early Voting location, an Absentee In-Person location, or at a Polling Place on Election Day. Voters should throw away their unvoted absentee mailed ballot. They do not have to bring the ballot with them to vote in person.

What should voters do if they haven't received their ballot, or they lost it?

Voters can vote at any Early or Absentee In-Person Voting Location or request a ballot be sent by electronic transmission. The deadline to request a replacement ballot by electronic transmission is August 19 5:00pm. Ballots sent via electronic transmission (fax or email) must be returned to the division by fax or mail. When returning by mail, it must be postmarked on or before Election Day, August 20. When returning by fax, ballots must be received by 8:00pm on Election Day, August 20. We do not accept any ballots returned to us via the internet, including email.

Can voters contact the Division if they forgot to get a witness signature or provide other required information on an absentee by-mail ballot? Is there a way to provide that information on an alternate ballot after the fact?

No. State law does not provide for a cure process. Once a ballot is received by the division, no changes can be made by the voter.

What is the difference between Early Voting and Absentee In-Person Voting?

At an Early Voting location, election workers verify the voter's eligibility to vote at the time they appear to vote. There is no further review required. Voters scan their ballot at the Early Voting Location. Voting Tablets are available at Early Voting Locations.

At an Absentee In-Person Voting Location, voters complete an Absentee In-Person Ballot Oath & Affidavit Envelope and seal their voted ballot inside, then place their ballot envelope in a ballot box. The ballot envelopes are sent to the appropriate regional election office for review by the Absentee Review Board to determine voter eligibility prior to opening and counting. The same review process is followed for by-mail ballots. There are no voting tablets available at Absentee In-Person Voting locations.

Will drop boxes be available? Can voters turn in their absentee ballot into a Division Office or in-person voting location?

No. Drop boxes will not be available. Voters can turn in their absentee ballot to one of our offices or any voting location. The voter must do so by 8pm on August 20, Election Day.

LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

What kind of assistance is provided on Election Day?

Bilingual election officials are available to assist voters or a voter may have a person of their choice assist them. That person may not be a candidate, employer, agent of their employer, or agent of union. The person chosen to assist the voter may go into the voting booth to help them cast their ballot. Translators for required languages are also available on standby via telephone on Election Day at 1-866-954-8683 (toll free within the U.S.).

What kind of assistance is provided to voters throughout the year?

The Division's language assistance program provides the same translated election and education materials for languages that are historically written and for languages that are historically unwritten, such as Alaska Native languages. In addition to on-call interpreters available on Primary Election Day, the Division provides oral language assistance with bilingual registrars, outreach workers, bilingual election officials, and translators in communities where there is a need. The Division of Elections also produces audio translations of election information and translated radio and TV announcements. Translated sample ballots, glossaries, voter registration applications, and other educational materials are also available on the Division's website.

In what languages does the Division provide assistance?

In addition to the guidance issued in Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, the 2023 Third Stipulated Order in *Toyukak, et. al. v. Meyer, et. al.*, and other census data, the Division of Elections uses information provided in Section 203 Determinations, census data, and Toyukak Settlement information

to survey tribes and local governments to strategize the delivery of services needed.

- Filipino (Tagalog)
- Northern Iñupiaq
- Yup'ik (6 dialects)
- Aleut
- Nunivak Cup'ig

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Can a person register to vote before they are 18?

A person may register 90 days before turning 18 but must be 18 when they vote.

Can a new U.S. citizen vote?

Yes, if a person becomes a U.S. citizen and registers to vote at least 30 days prior to the election, they may vote.

Can a person who was convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude vote?

If a person's voting rights have been restored and they have been unconditionally discharged, they may register. They must register to vote at least 30 days prior to the election, to participate in the election.

What if a voter's name is not on the register or the register indicates they have already voted?

If a voter's name does not appear on the precinct register, the voter must vote a **questioned ballot**. Before receiving a ballot, the voter must complete a questioned ballot oath and affidavit envelope. They will then be given a ballot and when they are done voting, they must place their voted ballot in a secrecy sleeve which is then sealed inside the completed questioned ballot envelope. All questioned ballots are returned to the Election Supervisor for review and counting by the Questioned Ballot Review Board.

How can a person find out where they can vote?

A voter may find where their polling place using <https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov/> or our interactive map (link on elections.alaska.gov)

Does a voter have to bring identification to vote at a polling place?

Voters MUST be prepared to show one of the following forms of identification:

- Voter Registration Card
- Alaska Driver's License
- Alaska State ID card
- Current and valid photo ID card
- Military ID card
- Birth certificate
- Hunting or fishing license
- Current utility bill, government check, bank statement, paycheck, or other government document that contains voter's name and current address

If a voter does not have identification and is not personally known by an election official the voter must vote a questioned ballot.

Is campaigning allowed near the polls?

Alaska law prohibits political persuasion within 200 feet of any entrance to a polling place during the hours the polls are open. This includes any discussion or display or campaign items for candidates or issues appearing on the ballot at that polling place.

May a person take their completed sample ballots or written list into the voting booth?

Yes. A person may take this information with them to the polls to help them vote.

ELECTION RECOUNT STATUTES

The statutes listed below relate to election recount procedures and can be found at -

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp#15.20.430>

Sec. 15.20.430. Authorization of recount application.

Sec. 15.20.440. Form of application.

Sec. 15.20.450. Requirement of deposit.

Sec. 15.20.460. Determination of date of recount.

Sec. 15.20.470. Requirement of notice.

Sec. 15.20.480. Procedure for recount.

Sec. 15.20.490. Certification of results.

Sec. 15.20.510. Provision for appeal to courts.

Sec. 15.20.520. Provision for appeal to legislature or Congress.

Sec. 15.20.530. Determination of tie votes.

READING ELECTION RESULTS

There will be one set of results for the Primary Election. Reports will be available in PDF, .txt, and .xml format. The .txt and .xml formats may not become available at the same time the pdf's are but will follow shortly after.

On August 20, election night, the Division will release Election Summary Report and a Statement of Votes Cast.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY REPORT

This report shows the total number of votes for each race on the ballot. It will show all statewide races first, followed by state senate and state house district races. The top of the report reflects information about the ballots cast as follows:

Precincts Reported: 401 of 401 (100%)
 Registered Voters: 200,000 of 600,000 (33.33%)
 Ballots Cast: 200,000

U.S. SENATE (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 401 of 401 (100%)

		Total	
Times Cast	150,000/ 600,00	25%	
Candidate		Total	
Heather Olson	35,000	23.33%	
Chick Hicks	15,000	10%	
Naomi Jackson	30,000	20%	
Brent Mustangburger	10,000	6.66%	
Tiffany Strait	60,000	40%	
Total Votes	150,000		
		Total	

US REPRESENTATIVE (Vote for 1)

Precincts Reported: 401 of 401 (100%)

		Total	
Times Cast	130,000/ 600,000	21.6%	
Candidate		Total	
Duke Caboom	29,900	23.02%	
Bob Gunderson	40,000	30.79%	
Buzz Lightyear	30,000	23.09%	
Cal Weathers	20,000	15.40%	
Action Jackson	10,000	7.70%	
Total Votes	129,900		
		Total	

Precincts Reported	Of the number of precincts where the race appears, this is the number that has reported results. Throughout Primary Election night, this number changes as precinct results are reported
Registered Voters	Number of registered voters in the State of Alaska
Ballots Cast	Total number of ballots cast
Times Cast	Number of ballots counted in the individual race
Total Votes	Number of votes counted in the individual race. This number may be lower than "times cast" because some voters may choose not to vote in the race

STATEMENT OF VOTES CAST

This report contains the individual district and precinct results for each race.

Registered Voters	Number of registered voters in the State of Alaska/precinct
Cards Cast	Total number of ballots cast
Voters Cast	Number of voters that cast ballots
% Turnout	Number of cards cast divided by number of registered voters, expressed as a percentage
Times Cast	Number of ballots counted in the individual race
Total Votes	Number of votes counted in the individual race. This number may be lower than “times cast” because some voters choose not to vote in the race

Precinct	Registered Voters	Cards Cast	Voters Cast	% Turnout
Statewide				
State of Alaska				
01-446 Aurora	3,000	400	400	13.33%
01-455 Fairbanks No.1	7,000	1,000	1,000	14.28%
District 1 - Absentee	0	540	540	N/A
District 1 - Question	0	105	105	N/A
District 1 - Early Vote	0	300	300	N/A
State of Alaska - Total	10,000	2,345	2,345	23.45%
Statewide - Total	10,000	2,345	2,345	23.45%

U.S. SENATE

Precinct	Times Cast	Registered Voters	Precinct	Naomi Jackson (NON)	Brent Mustangburger (DEM)	Tiffany Strait (AIP)	Total Votes
Statewide			Statewide				
State of Alaska			State of Alaska				
01-446 Aurora	400	3,000	01-446 Aurora	95	125	180	400
01-455 Fairbanks No.1	1,000	7,000	01-455 Fairbanks No.1	380	200	420	1,000
District 1 - Absentee	540	0	District 1 - Absentee	125	250	165	540
District 1 - Question	105	0	District 1 - Question	18	40	47	105
District 1 - Early Vote	300	0	District 1 - Early Vote	80	75	145	300
State of Alaska - Total	2,345	10,000	State of Alaska - Total	698	690	957	2,345
Statewide - Total	2,345	10,000	Statewide - Total	698	690	957	2,345

STATE OF ALASKA
DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
HOUSE AND SENATE DISTRICT DESIGNATIONS

Based on "May Final 2023 Proclamation Plan" May 15, 2023

SENATE DISTRICT	HOUSE DISTRICT	HOUSE DISTRICT
A	1 Ketchikan/Wrangell/Metlakatla	2 Sitka/Petersburg/Yakutat
B	3 Mendenhall Valley/Haines/Skagway/Gustavus	4 Downtown Juneau/Douglas/Juneau Airport
C	5 Kodiak/Seward/Cordova	6 Kachemak Bay/Ninilchik/Kasilof
D	7 Kenai/Soldotna	8 Northern Kenai Peninsula
E	9 South Anchorage/Turnagain Arm/Whittier	10 Oceanview/Klatt
F	11 Lower Hillside	12 Far North Bicentennial Park
G	13 Campbell	14 Spenard
H	15 Sand Lake/Campbell Lake	16 Anchorage Airport
I	17 Downtown Anchorage	18 Government Hill/JBER/Northeast Anchorage
J	19 Mountainview/Airport Heights	20 U-Med
K	21 South Muldoon	22 North Muldoon
L	23 Eagle River Valley	24 North Eagle River/Chugiak
M	25 Palmer/Butte	26 Goose Bay/Gateway
N	27 Wasilla/Meadow Lakes	28 Tanaina/Lakes
O	29 Eastern Mat-Su/Valdez	30 Houston/Big Lake/Parks Highway
P	31 Downtown Fairbanks	32 East Fairbanks/Fort Wainwright
Q	33 North Pole/Badger	34 Steele Creek/Two Rivers/Eielson/Salcha
R	35 College/Ester/Chena Ridge	36 Copper River Basin/Delta/Tok/Yukon Drainage
S	37 Bristol Bay/Aleutians/Kuspuk	38 Lower Kuskokwim
T	39 Bering Straits/Yukon Delta	40 Arctic

BALLOT COUNTING METHODS & EQUIPMENT

HAND COUNT PRECINCTS

Hand count precincts are typically in areas of the state where precincts have a small number of voters. Voters drop their ballot into a ballot box and after the polls close, the poll workers hand count the ballots and record results on a summary sheet. The results are reported to their assigned regional elections office. The regional elections office then submits the results to the Director's Office. There are 131 hand count precincts in Alaska.

ImageCast PRECINCT SCANNER

Voters insert their completed ballot into the scanner and when polls close, poll workers direct the scanner to tabulate results. A results tape for the precinct is printed and signed by the election official. The results are transmitted to the Director's Office. There are 271 ImageCast precincts in Alaska.

ImageCast VOTING TABLETS

Each precinct in Alaska will have a voting tablet that produces a paper ballot. Voting tablets are intended for use by voters who may be visually impaired, have mobility issues, have difficulty reading, or who require language assistance. Each voting tablet has either a laser printer which prints a ballot that the voter inserts into the precinct scanner or a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) ballot printer. After the polls close, results are transmitted to the Director's Office or called into the regional elections office which submits the results to the Director's Office.

ImageCast CENTRAL COUNT

This equipment is used at the five Regional Offices to count reviewed absentee and questioned ballots, and some early voted ballots.

ELECTION SECURITY

The Division is dedicated to the security and accuracy of our election process and recognizes that any election system is susceptible to fraud if security measures are not in place. Alaska has extensive procedures and multiple layers of security that includes a combination of people, processes, and technologies that help us conduct secure, trustworthy, and accurate elections.

VOTING EQUIPMENT SAFELY STORED ALL YEAR

Ballots, machines, and keys are locked with tamper proof seals and stored behind locked doors, and monitored by cameras and security systems. U.S. Cyber Security & Infrastructure Security Agency officers routinely evaluate these areas so we can make upgrades if needed. Federal and bipartisan experts test, examine, and certify all voting equipment as secure before we purchase it.

LOGIC AND ACCURACY TESTING (LAT)

LAT is a collection of pre-election procedures that ensure that the voting equipment and ballots to be used in an upcoming election can properly display the ballot, collect votes, and tabulate results. LAT is performed by the bi-partisan State Review Board and again by bi-partisan Regional Counting Boards. At no time during the programming or testing of the tabulation equipment, is it connected to the internet or a network.

PAPER BALLOTS & ELECTION DAY SECURITY

Election security experts have consistently deemed paper ballots as one of the most secure forms of voting because they provide a physical paper trail for any questions about the outcome of an election and are used during reviews and audits. Alaska has always been a paper ballot state. All review boards and polling places are staffed with bipartisan voters.

POST ELECTION AUDITS

State law requires the State Review Board (SRB) to conduct a hand count verification of random precincts that utilize precinct scanners. The randomly selected precinct must account for at least 5% of the total votes cast in each of the 40 house districts. If there is a discrepancy of more than 1% in the hand-count verification, a hand-count of all the ballots cast in the district is mandated. This has never happened.

Though not required by law, the division has the SRB also conduct a hand count verification on randomly selected house districts for the early voted ballots, absentee ballots, and questioned ballots with representation from each of the five regional offices. The SRB also uses registers, scanner tapes, scanner memory cards, count reports, absentee and questioned ballot envelopes, uncounted ballots, early voting certificates, VVPAT tapes, hand count precinct summary sheets, and other materials in their audits.

CYBER SECURITY

Alaska has standardized access controls to reduce the likelihood of unauthorized access to data. We also have intrusion detection processes and practices. In the case of a breach, these tools allow the awareness of what was compromised and potentially reduce the scope of a breach.

BALLOT CHAIN OF CUSTODY- URBAN PRECINCTS

Chain of custody documentation must be completed and signed by bipartisan teams of at least two election officials or division employees anytime ballots or voting materials are in their possession. Election officials ensure that all security seals and tamper-evident seals are verified and applied, and material transfer logs are signed prior to transportation. Chain of custody and security logs are maintained according to the division's record retention schedule.

Director's Office sends encrypted ballot images and ballot stub numbers to certified print shop



Regional Election Supervisor receives ballots from printer and verifies stub numbers



Precinct chairperson picks up materials and completes Official Ballot Receiving Checklist



Ballots are issued to verified voters



Marked ballots are secured inside ballot box until polls close



Poll workers complete Ballot Accountability Report numbers

Ballots issued by Regional Elections Supervisor, people who voted, ballots used, unused, and spoiled, and voter signatures

Ballots are transferred to Regional Election Supervisor



Ballots picked up by contracted courier and sent on the next flight to the Director's Office in Juneau



Chain of custody information is verified



Chain of custody maintained



REMOTE PRECINCTS

Ballots used in remote precincts are sent and received via USPS. Materials are sealed in tamper-evident envelopes and locked in containers. We utilize:

- signature receipt confirmation
- package tracking
- signed check-in log for ballots and materials