

# Ballot Measure No. 1

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## Constitutional Convention Question

The Alaska State Constitution states that during any ten-year period, if a constitutional convention has not been held, the lieutenant governor shall place on the ballot for the next general election the question:

### Ballot Language

Ballot Measure No. 1 Constitutional Convention Question
Shall there be a constitutional convention?  <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

### Legislative Affairs Agency Summary

This question relates to a call for a constitutional convention. At the convention the state constitution may be amended or revised, subject to approval by the voters. Under the state constitution, the voters must have the chance to vote on the question of whether there should be a constitutional convention if there has not been a convention during the last ten years. There has not been a convention in the last ten years. This question asks voters to say whether there should be a constitutional convention.

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### STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

Yes! Our beloved state has been captured by massive political corruption. The amendments that might have been proposed for simpler solutions to a convention have been rejected for years by the legislature, while the judiciary has invented new unconstitutional powers for themselves.

1. The Alaska PFD must be constitutionalized.
2. The Judicial Council, which appoints judges and is rigged in favor of lawyers, needs to be discarded.
3. We must reject the violations of the federal constitution that were imposed upon us at statehood. While we must continue to guarantee native lands, Alaska was forced to include in our constitution Article 12, Section 12. This gave the federal government property that has no basis in the U.S. Constitution, which violates Article I, Section 8, clause 17, plus the 10th Amendment. Having the federal government own 65% of our state completely suffocates Alaska's ability to become economically prosperous and self-supporting.
4. Over the years a power grab by the judiciary has actually overthrown our state constitution. They have seized the power of the purse, the governor's line-item veto and the legislature's ability to override it. They invented the "duty" to amend the constitution through case law opinions. The courts have seized the definition of privacy, which is specifically reserved to the legislature in Article 1, Section 22.

Both the executive and legislative branches have had the power to halt this, but it is merely implied.

5. Therefore, the constitution needs to be more strongly worded so that citizens, governors and legislators will understand that the judiciary's power to interpret the constitution must be shared. As it was said in Federalist #78:

"The judiciary has no influence over either the enforcement or the purse; no direction either of the strength or of the wealth of the society. It may truly be said to have neither force nor will, but merely judgment; and must ultimately depend upon the aid of the executive arm even for enforcement of its judgments."

6. In addition, election integrity must be addressed so that machines and computers can never again be used, and that chain-of-custody is protected by citizen poll-watchers.

A constitutional convention is a risk, but Alaskans are risk-takers and we cannot allow contrived fears to rule us. If this ballot measure should pass, we must insist the following: That the delegates not be sitting members of the legislature. They must be Alaskans of at least 5 years or more continuous residency, and they must be chosen by "town hall" type meetings through each precinct and district, not by expensive campaigns and electioneering.

Our current constitution reads that all political power is inherent in the people, government originates from the people, is instituted for the good of the people as a whole, and is founded on their will only.

This may be our last chance to do that.

In the name of liberty for ourselves and our future generations, please vote "Yes".

Bob Bird  
Retired public school teacher, MS degree in History  
45-year Alaskan, Radio talk-show host  
Chairman, Alaskan Independence Party

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## Constitutional Convention Question

### STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

Every 10 years, Alaskans are asked whether we should hold a constitutional convention. Each time, Alaskans have strongly rejected that question. This year Alaskans should join a growing coalition from across the political spectrum in once again voting “No” on a constitutional convention.

A constitutional convention is unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous. Not only would it open up our entire founding document to wholesale rewrite, it would create years of economic and regulatory uncertainty in our state. Opening up Alaska’s entire Constitution could lead to unpredictable changes and open a Pandora’s box of hot-button issues like access to natural resource, taxes, abortion, guns rights, gender and sexual orientation, the Permanent Fund, land and wildlife management and so much more.

Because no state in the nation has held a state constitutional convention in over 36 years, special interests from outside of Alaska would seize this opportunity to make Alaska the testing ground for their political and partisan agendas. Exposing our founding document to years of political infighting, particularly in the face of growing divide in our nation, is the last thing hardworking Alaska families, businesses and communities need.

Alaska’s Constitution has served our state well for over 60 years. Our state’s founders included a separate, well-devised, and transparent amendment process to make targeted changes to our Constitution; a process that has worked well for Alaskans on 40 separate occasions.

However, a convention would open up the entire Constitution for unlimited revision. Even more concerning: convention delegates would be selected via a special election with zero restrictions on campaign contributions. And because sitting legislators in Juneau would be eligible to run, there is little assurance that a convention would result in meaningful changes. A constitutional convention would ultimately lead to a multi-year, costly and contentious process that would distract from the real work of addressing our state’s shared challenges.

Hundreds of individuals representing Alaska’s geographic and political diversity have formed to formally oppose a convention. This coalition represents a broad group of Alaskans who often disagree on issues facing our state: business and labor leaders, resource development champions and conservationists, Republicans and Democrats. But we all agree: a constitutional convention would be unnecessary, expensive, and dangerous for Alaska.

Holding a constitutional convention carries great risk, with little or no potential reward. Alaskans should work to protect our founding document and oppose the constitutional convention this November by voting no on Ballot Measure 1.

John Coghill: Fairbanks, AK

Joelle Hall: Anchorage, AK

William Corbus: Juneau, AK