



Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer
STATE OF ALASKA

March 9, 2020

Jason Grenn
4611 Caravelle Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Re: 19AKBE Alaska's Better Elections Initiative

Mr. Grenn:

I have reviewed your petition for the initiative entitled "An Act Replacing the Political Party Primary with an Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election, and Requiring Additional Campaign Finance Disclosures" and have determined that the petition was properly filed. My notice of proper filing is enclosed. Specifically, the petition was signed by qualified voters from all 40 house districts equal in number to at least 10 percent of those who voted in the preceding general election; with signatures from at least 30 house districts matching or exceeding seven percent of those who voted in the preceding general election in the house district. The Division of Elections verified 36,006 voter signatures, which exceeds the 28,501 signature requirement based on the 2018 general election. A copy of the Petition Statistics Report prepared by the Division of Elections is enclosed.

With the assistance of the attorney general, I have prepared the following ballot title and proposition that meets the requirements of AS 15.45.180:

An Act Replacing the Political Party Primary with an Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election, and Requiring Additional Campaign Finance Disclosures

This act would get rid of the party primary system, and political parties would no longer select their candidates to appear on the general election ballot. Instead, this act would create an open nonpartisan primary where all candidates would appear on one ballot. Candidates could choose to have a political party preference listed next to their name or be listed as "undeclared" or "nonpartisan." The four candidates with the most votes in the primary election would have their names placed on the general election ballot.

This act would establish ranked-choice voting for the general election. Voters would have the option to "rank" candidates in order of choice. Voters would rank their first choice candidate as "1", second choice candidate as "2", and so on. Voters' "1" choice would be counted first. If no candidate received a majority after counting the first-ranked votes, then the candidate with the least amount of "1" votes would be removed from counting. Those ballots that ranked the removed candidate as "1" would then be counted for the voters' "2" ranked candidate. This process would repeat until one candidate received a majority of the remaining votes. If voters still want to choose only one candidate, they can.

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This act would also require additional disclosures for contributions to independent expenditure groups and relating to the sources of contributions. It would also require a disclaimer on paid election communications by independent expenditure groups funded by a majority of out of state money.

Should this initiative become law?

This ballot proposition will appear on the election ballot of the first statewide general, special, or primary election that is held after (1) the petition has been filed; (2) a legislative session has convened and adjourned; and (3) a period of 120 days has expired since the adjournment of the legislative session. Barring an Alaska Supreme Court decision keeping it off the ballot, an unforeseen special election or adjournment of the current legislative session occurring on or before April 19, 2020, this proposition will be scheduled to appear on the general election ballot on the November 3, 2020 general election. If a majority of the votes cast on the initiative proposition favor its adoption, I shall so certify and the proposed law will be enacted. The act becomes effective 90 days after certification.

Please be advised that under AS 15.45.210, this petition will be void if I, with the formal concurrence of the attorney general, determine that an act of the legislature that is substantially the same as the proposed law was enacted after the petition has been filed and before the date of the election. I will advise you in writing of my determination in this matter.

Please be advised that under AS 15.45.240, any person aggrieved by my determination set out in this letter may bring an action in the superior court to have the determination reversed within 30 days of the date on which notice of the determination was given.

If you have questions or comments about the ongoing initiative process, please contact my staff, April Simpson, at (907) 465-4081.

Sincerely,



Kevin Meyer
Lieutenant Governor

Enclosures

cc: Kevin G. Clarkson, Attorney General
Gail Fenumiai, Director of Elections



Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer
STATE OF ALASKA

NOTICE OF PROPER FILING

I, KEVIN MEYER, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA, under the provisions of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Alaska and under the provisions of AS 15.45, hereby provide notice that the initiative petition for "An Act Replacing the Political Party Primary with an Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election, and Requiring Additional Campaign Finance Disclosures" which was received on July 3, 2019, and known as 19AKBE, was properly filed.

I have determined that the initiative sponsors have timely filed the petition and that the petition is signed by qualified voters (1) equal in number to 10 percent of those who voted in the preceding general election; (2) resident in at least three-fourths of the house districts in the state; and (3) who, in each of the house districts, are equal in number to at least seven percent of those who voted in the preceding general election in the house district.

In accordance with AS 15.45.190, the Director of the Division of Elections shall place the ballot title and proposition on the election ballot of the first statewide general, special, or primary election that is held after a period of 120 days has expired since the adjournment of the legislative session. Barring an Alaska Supreme Court decision keeping it off the ballot, any unforeseen special election or adjournment of the current legislative session on or before April 19, 2020, this proposition is scheduled to appear on the general election ballot on the November 3, 2020 general election.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed hereto the Seal of the State of Alaska, at Juneau, Alaska,

This 9th day of March, 2020.


KEVIN MEYER, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

