



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
Office of the Director
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8/6/2026

Dear Chairs Gray and Carrick,

Thank you for hearing from me at your July 22, 2026, hearing and for the questions submitted by Representative Vance, the Joint House Judiciary and State Affairs Committee, and other members of the Legislature. We appreciate this opportunity to clarify the Division of Elections' recent mailing to approximately 3,000 registered voters.

We share the same objective: protecting every eligible citizen's right to vote while ensuring only U.S. citizens register and vote as required by law. The recent mailing was part of the Division's responsibility to maintain accurate voter registration records. It did not cancel any voter's registration, remove anyone from the voter database, require proof of citizenship, or prevent any eligible citizen from voting.

State and federal laws prohibit non-citizens from voting. Under the Alaska Constitution, only U.S. citizens can vote in state and local elections. By law, non-citizens—including non-citizen U.S. nationals—may not vote or register to vote. To register with the Division, voters are not required to provide proof of citizenship but they must state under penalty of perjury that they are U.S. citizens. Voters likewise may register with the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and the Permanent Fund Dividend Division (PFD), each of which similarly requires that voters affirm their citizenship.

At the same time, state and federal laws also require the Division to keep and regularly update an accurate list of qualified, registered voters. To meet that obligation, the Division routinely compares its voter registration database against information from numerous sources—other states, the Electronic Registration Information Center, the United States Postal Service, the Bureau of Vital Records, the Alaska Court System, and other databases— and follows up when inconsistencies appear.

Since 2018, the Division has periodically worked with DMV and PFD to compare voter registration records against information maintained by those agencies and to identify potential inconsistencies regarding voter eligibility. For example, in 2024, the Division asked DMV to review approximately 2,000 voter records associated with registrations completed through DMV. DMV identified about 400 records indicating non-citizen status, and PFD identified nearly 200 additional such records. The Division mailed letters to those voters and updated their voter records if they indicated they were or were not citizens. The rest were able to vote a questioned ballot. The Division

designated those who did not respond or vote as "inactive non-citizens," meaning they must affirm their citizenship before voting or they are ineligible to vote.

Earlier this year, the Division expanded that same process by comparing the entire statewide voter registration list (580,478) with DMV records. That comparison identified 15,227 registered voters who were not designated as citizens in DMV's records. The Division then identified 3,058 voters—approximately one-half of one percent of Alaska's registered voters—whose records were inconsistent: voter registration records indicated U.S. citizenship while DMV records reflected a different status. The Division did not obtain or rely upon information from the U.S. Department of Justice, the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program, or any other federal database in identifying these records.

On June 30, the Division mailed notices to these voters and designated their records as "inactive non-citizen." Just like in 2024, that designation is an administrative flag identifying a record that requires additional verification. It does not cancel a registration or prevent an eligible citizen from voting.

The mailing also did not require recipients to produce documentary proof of citizenship. Citizens may simply contact the Division— by phone, email, or mail—and affirm that they are citizens. Based on that affirmation, together with their prior sworn voter registration, the Division will restore them to active status immediately. Likewise, recipients remain eligible to vote absentee or by questioned ballot, where they again attest under penalty of perjury that they are U.S. citizens.

Since sending these letters, more than 100 people have reported they are not citizens and requested that their voter registration be cancelled. Their removal from the list of active voters both increases the accuracy of the voter list and corrects their registration record. Approximately 685 voters have contacted the Division and stated they are citizens, despite the inconsistency with the DMV's records. The Division has returned these voters to active status, relying on this new information along with their previous, sworn statements on voter registration forms. These voters are now aware that they may wish to update their records with the DMV. Over 350 letters were returned as undeliverable. The remaining 1,900 recipients have not contacted the Division. They remain in "inactive non-citizen" status but can contact the Division by phone, email, or mail, and can vote an absentee or questioned ballot if they attest to their citizenship.

Because questions were raised about the initial mailing, the Division will send a follow-up notice to those who have not responded, explaining in clear terms that citizens remain fully eligible to vote, no documentation is required to affirm citizenship, recipients may vote by questioned ballot or absentee ballot, and election information is enclosed. The Division has also provided additional public information through its website and other communications.

Alaska's questioned-ballot process exists as an important safeguard for voters whose eligibility requires additional verification. A questioned ballot is identical to the ballots all other voters will cast. The only difference is that it is placed in an envelope on which the voter declares, under penalty of perjury, that he or she is a citizen and is otherwise qualified to vote. Election officials then review that declaration before the ballot is counted. Thus, any recipient of the Division's letter who is an eligible U.S. citizen remains fully able to vote, and the Division will accept that sworn declaration of citizenship in determining the voter's eligibility.

The Division does not intend to return all recipients to active status automatically. The current "inactive non-citizen" status accurately identifies records requiring follow-up while preserving every eligible citizen's ability to vote. In addition, many precinct registers have already been printed and mailed for the primary election, making wholesale changes impractical at this stage.

Looking ahead, the Division has paused additional DMV comparisons while it evaluates this initial effort and incorporates lessons learned. Future comparisons should involve fewer records because this was the first review that involved the entire voter list. As always, we will refer instances of suspicious voting or registrations to the Criminal Division at the Department of Law, and we cannot discuss the nature or number of referrals we have made in this or any other year.

The Division remains committed to faithfully administering Alaska's election laws as enacted by the Legislature. That means protecting every eligible citizen's right to vote while maintaining voter registration records that are accurate, reliable, transparent, and consistent with state and federal law. We appreciate the Legislature's oversight and the opportunity to clarify the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Carol Beecher', followed by a long horizontal line.

Carol Beecher
Director, AK Division of Elections