



PRESS RELEASE

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Amanda K. Moser, Deputy Clerk – Elections

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Assembly Ethics and Election Committee Chair Pete Petersen and the Municipal Elections Stakeholders group are excited to invite the citizens of Anchorage to an Open House and demonstration of the new Bell and Howell Envelope Intake and Signature Verification System on September 21, 2017. The Open House is at the MOA Election Center at 619 East Ship Creek Avenue, Entrance C, from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. with a demonstration of the new equipment starting at 5:00 p.m.

“We are thrilled to invite the Anchorage community into the MOA Election Center to see the space and a demonstration of the new system,” Assembly Member Pete Petersen said. “The Vote by Mail transition project is built on a foundation of community involvement and engagement. In that same spirit, the MOA Election Center was designed to maximize community engagement in our open and transparent election processes while ensuring election security. “

The Bell and Howell Envelope Intake and Signature Verification System is a major component of the Municipality’s Vote by Mail implementation, which will go live for the April 3, 2018 Regular Municipal Election. The Bell and Howell System scans and tracks returned ballot envelopes at the Election Center. Workers trained in state-of-the-art handwriting analysis will compare the ballot return envelope signature to the voter signature on file. After the voter information is verified, the returned envelope is accepted, opened in a way that protects the secrecy of the ballot, and the ballot is scanned for counting.

The Municipal Clerk’s Office is reminding voters that, “Vote by Mail is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Vote your ballot, filling in the ovals completely, place it in the security envelope, then place both into the ballot return envelope.
2. Sign the declaration on the back of the ballot return envelope.
3. Return your ballot with a first class stamp through the United States Postal Service or save postage and return it at an accessible vote center or a secure drop box.”

CONTACTS:

Amanda Moser, Deputy Municipal Clerk-Elections

907-343-4314

Email: MoserAK@muni.org

Barbara A. Jones, Municipal Clerk

Phone: 907-343-4312

JonesBAR@muni.org

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