

ANCHORAGE ELECTION COMMISSION Resolution 2022-1

A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ELECTION COMMISSION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ALASKA STATUTES TITLE 15 RELATED TO VOTER REGISTRATION.

 WHEREAS, AMC 28.120.060A.1. directs the Election Commission to "act in an advisory capacity to the assembly and municipal clerk in the conduct of elections"; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2022, the Election Commission met and received information from the State of Alaska, Division of Elections (Division), regarding the voter registration list maintenance process; and,

WHEREAS, Alaska has a robust and successful registration process, however, the Division of Elections agrees, it can take several years to remove a voter from the rolls if voters are not proactive; and,

WHEREAS, there are tools available to the Division that would help with voter registration list maintenance in situations where voters are not proactively cancelling their registration, but amendments to certain Alaska Statutes need to be made; and,

WHEREAS, the Electronic Registration Information Center, or ERIC, whose sole mission is to assist states to improve the accuracy of America's voter rolls and increase access to voter registration for all eligible citizens, of which the State of Alaska is a member, is an example of a tool available with voter registration list maintenance as it compiles information provided by Secretaries of State of member states and shares many reports with member states, to include voters who have moved out of state. States may also request reports of voters who appear to have voted twice within the state in the prior federal election, voted in more than one state in the prior federal election, or who voted on behalf of a deceased voter in the prior federal election; and,

WHEREAS, National Change of Address and its voter registration update add-on is a product of the United States Postal Service and is another tool available to the Division by providing access to a dataset of permanent change of address records and updated voter registration information;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ANCHORAGE ELECTION COMMISSION:

1. Recommends that the Assembly forward these recommended amendments to Alaska State statute as a part of the Assembly's legislative package requesting that the Alaska State Legislature make these amendments.

2. Recommends the following amendments to Alaska Statutes:

a. Amend AS 15.07.130b by shortening the period in which a voter, whose mail is returned as undeliverable and who is not responding to the Divisions efforts to make contact, from four years to two years to remain on the voter registration list; e.g., "If a registered voter has not, within the preceding four two calendar

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years, contacted the division and has neither voted nor appeared to vote in a local, regional school board, primary, special, or general election during the last four two calendar years and a notice sent to the voter under (a) of this section was returned as undeliverable, the voter shall be advised by a notice sent by forwardable mail to the voter's last known address that registration will be inactivated unless the voter responds to the notice no later than 45 days after the date of the notice sent under this section. The director shall maintain on the master register the name of a voter whose registration is inactivated. The director shall cancel a voter's inactive registration in accordance with the procedures set out in 42 U.S.C. 1973gg-6 (sec. 8, National Voter Registration Act of 1993) after the second next general election that occurs after the registration becomes inactive if the voter does not contact the division or vote or appear to vote.

(d) (3) that the voter's registration will be cancelled if the voter does not contact the division during, or vote or appear to vote in an election held during, the period beginning on the date of the notice and ending on the day after the last day of the fourth **second** calendar year that occurs after the date of notice; and"

b. Amend AS 15.07.130 by adding a new section that directs the Director to cancel a voter's registration when notification from the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) or other similar agency indicates a voter has registered to vote in a different state, e.g., "When the Director obtains notification from Electronic Registration Information Center, or other similar agency that assists states with the accuracy of voter rolls, that a voter has registered to vote in a different state, that voter's registration shall promptly be canceled."

c. Amend AS 15.07.120 by adding a new section that directs the Director to cancel a voter's registration when notification from the United States Postal Service that a voter has completed a National Change of Address form and has indicated that the voter wants to change the voter's registration to a new state, e.g., "When the Director obtains notification that a voter has requested to change their voter registration to a new state via the National Change of Address form, or similar United States Postal Service product, that voter's registration shall promptly be canceled."

d. Amend AS 15.07.130 by adding a new section that provides that a voter registering in a new state is *prima facie* evidence that the voter no longer wants to be registered to vote in Alaska, e.g., "A voter registering in a new state is *prima facie* evidence that the voter no longer wants to vote in Alaska and the Director shall promptly cancel that voter's registration."

^{3.} Recommends the policies of the Division of Elections be amended to cooperate and share voter email addresses and phone numbers with municipalities, ideally through VREMS, and shielded from public view. The emails and phone numbers would only be used by a municipality for voting related purposes such as contacting a voter to cure their ballot.

their ballot.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Election Commission this 7th day of October, 2022.

Chair

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk