

Anchorage Municipal Elections: at a Glance

Voter turnout between 2012 and 2016:

20.15% to 35.82%

Number of election workers needed each election:

Approximately 650

Number of voting precincts in Anchorage:

122



Vote By Mail Elections:

- Keep regular voters engaged.
- Encourage new voter participation.
- Capture attempts at fraud using signature verification.
- Use technology to inform voters about the status of their ballot.
- Confer no partisan advantage.
- Centralize and streamline election administration.
- Increase transparency in the election process.
- Protect voters' rights to secret ballot.
- Safeguard ballot accountability.



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Anchorage VOTES



So much to like:

Vote By Mail

The Municipality of Anchorage is exploring a Vote by Mail election system, supplemented by accessible voting centers, to simplify and streamline the election process for Anchorage. The goals of a Vote by Mail option are to increase voter turnout, maximize voter protection, and safeguard community resources.

Why Explore Vote By Mail?

Is Vote By Mail Secure? Yes!

According to elections administrators in Vote by Mail jurisdictions, voting by mail is secure and accountable.

- Vote by mail technology allows voters to track the status of their ballots at identified points throughout the verification process.
- State of the art handwriting analysis provides signature verification, which can compare voter signatures to an official voter signature on file.
- After 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.
- Advances in election technology maintain confidentiality and voting integrity.

When would vote by mail begin in Anchorage?

On December 8, 2015, the Anchorage Assembly passed AR 2015-314(S) directing the Municipal Clerk's Office to explore implementing a Vote by Mail election process beginning with the April 2018 Regular Election.

Vote by Mail elections are extremely popular among voters in Washington, Oregon, and Colorado, states that have implemented vote by mail elections. Dozens of counties nationwide have also adopted Vote by Mail elections. Vote by Mail elections are consistently associated with higher than average voter turnout.

Closer to home, voters in a few precincts on the Kenai Peninsula vote exclusively by mail. Here in Anchorage, growing numbers of voters are already choosing to vote Absentee by Mail. Between 2012 and 2016, Absentee by Mail requests almost tripled, increasing **276.4%**!

In Vote By Mail Elections in Other Jurisdictions:

⚓ State-of-the-art handwriting analysis captures fraud attempts.

⚓ Voters can vote in a comfortable location of their choice, with ample time to study and research the questions on the ballot.

⚓ Voters with disabilities engage more often in the voting process when voting by mail is available.



⚓ Ballot processing is efficient and provides a full audit trail after the election.

⚓ Complementary accessible voting centers provide in-person assistance to voters.

⚓ Ballot secrecy is preserved.