

Section B

U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION



2008 Election Administration & Voting Survey

Statutory Overview

In order to better understand state laws governing federal elections, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, as part of its biennial Election Administration and Voting Survey, is collecting information on state election laws and procedures. These answers will help us to better understand the quantitative data relating to the 2008 general election that we are collecting from all U.S. states and territories.

We understand that responding to this Statutory Overview may require significant staff time on the part of your office. Please be assured that we have attempted to minimize the burden, and we appreciate your cooperation in this very important project.

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DIRECTIONS AND EXAMPLE

Please provide your state's legal citation for the responses to these questions (where applicable).

Please answer each question to the best of your ability. If terms are ambiguous or not relevant, please explain why. If a question is not applicable to your state, please explain why. If a definition or term lacks legal standing but is widely understood in practice, please explain. If election procedures vary at the local level within your state, please explain to the best of your ability.

If state laws are currently enjoined or otherwise blocked from enforcement by a state or federal court, please specify.

Please put your responses between the red, bracketed text lines. This will help us extract your answers into our central database.

Example:

A1. How does your state define the following terms related to votes and ballots? Please provide your state's legal citation defining these terms, where applicable.

- a. Over-vote

[Begin definition (a) below this line.]

If your answer goes here. You may enter the text directly, or cut and paste from another word processing program.

There is no limit to the length of your response.

[End definition (a) above this line.]

SECTION A: GENERAL

A1. How does your state define the following terms related to votes and ballots? Please provide your state's legal citation defining these terms, where applicable.

a. Over-vote

[Begin definition (a) below this line.]

Voting for more than the number of allowed votes per race.

Sec. 15.15.360. Rules for counting ballots.

(a) The election board shall count ballots according to the following rules:

(1) A voter may mark a ballot only by filling in, making "X" marks, diagonal, horizontal, or vertical marks, solid marks, stars, circles, asterisks, checks, or plus signs that are clearly spaced in the oval opposite the name of the candidate, proposition, or question that the voter desires to designate.

(2) A failure to properly mark a ballot as to one or more candidates does not itself invalidate the entire ballot.

(3) If a voter marks fewer names than there are persons to be elected to the office, a vote shall be counted for each candidate properly marked.

(4) If a voter marks more names than there are persons to be elected to the office, the votes for candidates for that office may not be counted.

(5) The mark specified in (1) of this subsection shall be counted only if it is substantially inside the oval provided, or touching the oval so as to indicate clearly that the voter intended the particular oval to be designated.

(6) Improper marks on the ballot may not be counted and do not invalidate marks for candidates properly made.

(7) An erasure or correction invalidates only that section of the ballot in which it appears.

(8) A vote marked for the candidate for President or Vice-President of the United States is considered and counted as a vote for the election of the presidential electors.

(9) Write-in votes are not invalidated by writing in the name of a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot unless the election board determines, on the basis of other evidence, that the ballot was so marked for the purpose of identifying the ballot.

(10) In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must write in the candidate's name in the space provided and fill in the oval opposite the candidate's name in accordance with (1) of this subsection.

(11) A vote for a write-in candidate, other than a write-in vote for governor and lieutenant governor, shall be counted if the oval is filled in for that candidate and if the name, as it appears on the write-in declaration of candidacy, of the candidate or the last name of the candidate is written in the space provided.

(12) If the write-in vote is for governor and lieutenant governor, the vote shall be counted if the oval is filled in and the names, as they appear on the write-in declaration of candidacy, of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor or the last names of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, or the name, as it appears on the write-in declaration of candidacy, of the candidate for governor or the last name of the candidate for governor is written in the space provided.

(b) The rules set out in this section are mandatory and there are no exceptions to them. A ballot may not be counted unless marked in compliance with these rules.

(c) *[Repealed, Sec. 24 ch 113 SLA 2003].*

[End definition (a) above this line.]

b. Under-vote

[Begin definition (b) below this line.]

Voting for less than the number of allowed votes per race.

Sec. 15.15.360. Rules for counting ballots.

(a) The election board shall count ballots according to the following rules:

(1) A voter may mark a ballot only by filling in, making "X" marks, diagonal, horizontal, or vertical marks, solid marks, stars, circles, asterisks, checks, or plus signs that are clearly spaced in the oval opposite the name of the candidate, proposition, or question that the voter desires to designate.

(2) A failure to properly mark a ballot as to one or more candidates does not itself invalidate the entire ballot.

(3) If a voter marks fewer names than there are persons to be elected to the office, a vote shall be counted for each candidate properly marked.

(4) If a voter marks more names than there are persons to be elected to the office, the votes for candidates for that office may not be counted.

(5) The mark specified in (1) of this subsection shall be counted only if it is substantially inside the oval provided, or touching the oval so as to indicate clearly that the voter intended the particular oval to be designated.

(6) Improper marks on the ballot may not be counted and do not invalidate marks for candidates properly made.

(7) An erasure or correction invalidates only that section of the ballot in which it appears.

(8) A vote marked for the candidate for President or Vice-President of the United States is considered and counted as a vote for the election of the presidential electors.

(9) Write-in votes are not invalidated by writing in the name of a candidate whose name is printed on the ballot unless the election board determines, on the basis of other evidence, that the ballot was so marked for the purpose of identifying the ballot.

(10) In order to vote for a write-in candidate, the voter must write in the candidate's name in the space provided and fill in the oval opposite the candidate's name in accordance with (1) of this subsection.

(11) A vote for a write-in candidate, other than a write-in vote for governor and lieutenant governor, shall be counted if the oval is filled in for that candidate and if the name, as it appears on the write-in declaration of candidacy, of the candidate or the last name of the candidate is written in the space provided.

(12) If the write-in vote is for governor and lieutenant governor, the vote shall be counted if the oval is filled in and the names, as they appear on the write-in declaration of candidacy, of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor or the last names of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, or the name, as it appears on the write-in declaration of candidacy, of the candidate for governor or the last name of the candidate for governor is written in the space provided.

(b) The rules set out in this section are mandatory and there are no exceptions to them. A ballot may not be counted unless marked in compliance with these rules.

(c) *[Repealed, Sec. 24 ch 113 SLA 2003].*

[End definition (b) above this line.]

c. Blank ballot

[Begin definition (c) below this line.]

No votes recorded in a race

[End definition (c) above this line.]

d. Void/Spoiled ballot

[Begin definition (d) below this line.]

Ballot that is improperly marked, damaged or otherwise spoiled by the voter.

Sec.15.15.250. Disposition of spoiled ballot.

If a voter improperly marks, damages, or otherwise spoils a ballot, the voter may request and the election board shall provide another ballot, with a maximum of three. The board shall record on the precinct register that there was a spoiled ballot and destroy the spoiled ballot immediately without examining it.

[End definition (d) above this line.]

e. Provisional/Challenged ballot

[Begin definition (e) below this line.]

Method of voting for a voter if: 1.) voter's name does not appear on register; 2.) voter does not have proper identification; 3.) voter's residence address has changed; 4.) voter's qualifications are questioned.

Sec. 15.15.198. Voters not on official registration list.

(a) If a voter's name does not appear on the official registration list in the precinct in which the voter seeks to vote, the election official shall affirmatively advise the voter that the voter may cast a questioned ballot, and the voter shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot. At the time the voter casts a questioned ballot, the voter shall be given written information stating that the voter will be able to ascertain whether the ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason the ballot was not counted.

(b) A person whose registration is inactive under AS 15.07.130(b) and who votes a questioned or absentee ballot shall have the ballot counted if

- (1) the person was registered to vote in the last four calendar years;
- (2) the person signs a statement to that effect; and
- (3) the earlier registration is verified by the director

Sec. 15.15.210. Questioning of voters of suspect qualification.

Every election official shall question, and every watcher and any other person qualified to vote in the precinct may question, a person attempting to vote if the questioner has good reason to suspect that the questioned person is not qualified under AS 15.05. All questions regarding a person's qualifications to vote shall be made in writing setting out the reason the person has been questioned. A questioned person shall, before voting, subscribe to a declaration in a form provided by the director attesting to the fact that in each particular the person meets all the qualifications of a voter, is not disqualified, and has not voted at the same election, and certifying that the person understands that a false

statement on the declaration may subject the person to prosecution for a misdemeanor under this title or AS 11. After the questioned person has executed the declaration, the person may vote. If the questioned person refuses to execute the declaration, the person may not vote.

Sec. 15.15.225. Voter identification at polls.

(a) Before being allowed to vote, each voter shall exhibit to an election official one form of identification, including

(1) an official voter registration card, driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license; or

(2) an original or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document; an item exhibited under this paragraph must show the name and current address of the voter.

(b) An election official may waive the identification requirement if the election official knows the identity of the voter. The identification requirement may not be waived for voters who are first-time voters who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, and did not provide identification as required in AS 15.07.060.

(c) A voter who cannot exhibit a required form of identification shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot.

[End definition (e) above this line.]

f. Absentee

[Begin definition (f) below this line.]

Alternative method for casting a ballot outside of the polling place.

[End definition (f) above this line.]

g. Early voting

[Begin definition (g) below this line.]

Period of voting 15 days prior to the election.

Sec. 15.20.064. Early voting.

(a) For 15 days before an election and on election day, a qualified voter who meets the requirements set out in this section may vote in locations designated by the director.

(b) The election supervisor or other election official shall issue a ballot to the voter upon

- (1) exhibition of proof of identification as required in AS 15.15.225;
 - (2) verification that the voter's residence address appearing on the official registration list is current; and
 - (3) the voter's signing the early voting register.
- (c) After the voter has marked the ballot, the voter shall place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve and inform the election supervisor or other election official. The voter shall deposit the ballot in the ballot box in the presence of the election supervisor or other election official unless the voter requests the election supervisor or other election official to deposit the ballot on the voter's behalf. The tabulation of early voting ballots may not begin before 8:00 p.m. prevailing time on election day.
- (d) The director shall designate locations for early voting by June 1 of an election year.

[End definition (g) above this line.]

h. Active Voter

[Begin definition (h) below this line.]

A qualified voter who meets the statutory qualifications set out in AS 15.05.010. A voter who has not been targeted for list maintenance under AS 15.07.130.

[End definition (h) above this line.]

i. Inactive Voter

[Begin definition (i) below this line.]

Voter that does not meet the qualifications of an active voter

[End definition (i) above this line.]

j. Other terms (please specify) _____

[Identify each TERM and definition separately and begin below this line.]

[End TERM(s) and definition(s) above this line.]

A2. Please provide the legal citation for any **significant** changes to election laws or procedures that have been enacted or adopted since the previous Federal election. By “significant,” we do not mean routine or technical changes (such as changes to election district boundaries or polling place changes). However, we would like to learn about any new identification requirements for voters or registrants; changes in eligibility for voting

or registering; adoption of alternative voting methods; and other changes that you believe represent a significant change in the way your state runs its elections.

[Begin response to above question (A2) below this line.]

None

[End response to above question (A2) above this line.]

SECTION B: VOTER REGISTRATION

B1. Is your state's voter registration database system best described as a bottom-up, a top-down, or a hybrid? (Note: A bottom-up system generally uploads information retained at the local level and compiled at regular intervals to form the statewide voter registration list. A top-down system is hosted on a single, central platform/mainframe and is generally maintained by the state with information supplied by local jurisdictions. A hybrid is some combination of both systems described above.)

[Begin response to above question (B1) below this line.]

Alaska has a statewide mainframe based, real time database. The six State elections offices have direct access to the database through the State's mainframe. All voter registration data entered into the system is done through the State Division of Elections.

[End response to above question (B1) above this line.]

If your state has a bottom-up or hybrid system, how often do local jurisdictions transmit registration information to the state list?

[Begin response to above clarification question to B1 below this line.]

N/A – the State of Alaska is responsible for maintaining the master voter registration list for the state. Local jurisdictions do not process voter registration applications.

[End response to above clarification question to B1 above this line.]

B2. Please describe the process used in your state to move voters from the active list to the inactive list, and from the inactive list to the active list. Is a different process used for UOCAVA voters?

[Begin response to above question (B2) below this line.]

The process is the same for all voters. AS 15.07.130 is the statute that outlines the list maintenance process for the State of Alaska.

Sec. 15.07.130. Voter registration list maintenance.

(a) Periodically, at times of the director's choosing, but no less frequently than in January of each calendar year, the director shall examine the master register maintained under [AS 15.07.120](#) and shall send, by nonforwardable mail to the voter's registration mailing address, a notice requesting address confirmation or correction to each voter

(1) whose mail from the division has been returned to the division in the two years immediately preceding the examination of the register;

(2) who has not contacted the division in the two years immediately preceding the examination of the register; or

(3) who has not voted or appeared to vote in the two general elections immediately preceding the examination of the register.

(b) If a registered voter has not, within the preceding four calendar 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 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 general election that occurs after the registration becomes inactive if the voter does not contact the division or vote or appear to vote.

(c) The director shall obtain from the bureau of vital statistics a certified list of all residents over 18 years of age who have died or who have been presumptively declared dead. Promptly after receipt of each list, but, in any event, at least once each month, the director shall cancel the registration of all deceased voters.

(d) The notice sent under (b) of this section must include a postage prepaid and pre-addressed return card on which the voter may state the voter's current address. The notice must indicate

(1) that the voter should return the card not later than 45 days after the date of the notice if the voter did not change residence;

(2) that failure to return the card by the 45-day deadline could result in removal of the voter's name from the official registration list for a subsequent election;

(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 calendar year that occurs after the date of notice; and

(4) how the voter can continue to be eligible to vote if the voter has changed residence.

(e) For purposes of (b) and (d) of this section, a voter "appears to vote" if

(1) the voter is present at a polling place or at an absentee voting station at a time when the polling place or absentee voting station is operating, for the purpose of casting a vote;

(2) the voter applies to the division to obtain an absentee ballot; or

(3) in an election conducted by mail under [AS 15.20.800](#), a voter who has not received a ballot by mail makes a timely request to the division for a ballot.

(f) For the purpose of this section, a voter "contacts" the division if the voter notifies the division of a change of address, responds to a notice sent under this section, signs a petition for a ballot measure, requests a new voter registration card, or otherwise communicates with the division other than to vote or register to vote.

If a voter is inactivated under the list maintenance process, the voter may still vote and have his/her ballot count for up to four years. See statute reference below.

Sec. 15.15.198. Voters not on official registration list.

(a) If a voter's name does not appear on the official registration list in the precinct in which the voter seeks to vote, the election official shall affirmatively advise the voter that the voter may cast a questioned ballot, and the voter shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot. At the time the voter casts a questioned ballot, the voter shall be given written information stating that the voter will be able to ascertain whether the ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason the ballot was not counted.

(b) A person whose registration is inactive under AS 15.07.130(b) and who votes a questioned or absentee ballot shall have the ballot counted if

- (1) the person was registered to vote in the last four calendar years;**
- (2) the person signs a statement to that effect; and**
- (3) the earlier registration is verified by the director.**

[End response to above question (B2) above this line.]

B3. Please describe your state's process for removing voters from the voter registration rolls (not merely moving them from active to inactive). Please include information regarding notices and confirmations. Are these procedures the same for UOCAVA voters?

[Begin response to above question (B3) below this line.]

The procedures are the same for all voters.

AS 15.07.130(b)

(b) If a registered voter has not, within the preceding four calendar 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 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 general election that occurs after the registration becomes inactive if the voter does not contact the division or vote or appear to vote.

[End response to above question (B3) above this line.]

B4. Can your state's voter registration database (or equivalent) share information electronically with your state's drivers license agency (for example, to match records or trace changes in address)? Can your voter registration database be similarly linked with databases in any other state or federal agencies? Please describe these links, including any use of database matching to verify voter registration applications.

[Begin response to above question (B4) below this line.]

Alaska's voter registration database is not linked to any other state or federal database. The division of elections has the ability to query the state's driver's license database.

[End response to above question (B4) above this line.]

B5. Please describe how your state uses National Change of Address (NCOA). What has been your state's experience with using NCOA?

[Begin response to above question (B5) below this line.]

The division does not use the NCOA.

[End response to above question (B5) above this line.]

B6. Please describe your state's voting eligibility requirements as they relate to individuals with a felony conviction. (For example, are convicted felons allowed to vote while in prison or while on parole or probation? Are voting rights automatically restored or does the individual have to apply for a pardon, certificate of eligibility or other similar certificate? Does an individual whose voting rights have been restored have to produce documentation of his/her status when registering to vote?)

[Begin response to above question (B6) below this line.]

AS 15.07.135 states that the registrations of persons convicted of felonies involving mortal turpitude shall be canceled.

Restoration of their rights occurs when they re-register showing proof they have been unconditionally discharged from custody.

Sec. 15.07.135. Cancellation of registration of convicted persons.

(a) The director shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the names of persons convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude. Promptly after receipt of evidence satisfactory to the director that a person has been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, the director shall cancel the registration of the person.

(b) Upon presenting proof that a person whose registration was canceled under (a) of this section has been unconditionally discharged from custody, the person may register. The director shall make reasonable efforts to verify the unconditional discharge of persons applying for registration under this subsection.

[End response to above question (B6) above this line.]

B7. Does your state currently use the Internet in any way to facilitate voter registration? If yes, please describe how your state allows voters to use the Internet in the registration process (e.g., entire registration completed online; completed online but then must be printed, signed, and mailed by voter, etc.).

[Begin response to above question (B7) below this line.]

Voters are able to access the state's voter registration and absentee by mail application. The form must be printed, completed, signed and mailed by the voter.

[End response to above question (B7) above this line.]

SECTION C: ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

C1. Please describe how all votes cast at a place other than the voter's precinct of registration are tabulated (for example, please include descriptions of such votes as absentee ballots, mail-in ballots, votes cast at vote centers, provisional ballots, early voting locations, etc.).

a. Are the votes counted centrally or at the precincts?

[Begin response to above question (a) below this line.]

All absentee, early, and questioned (provisional) ballots are counted in the Division of Elections regional offices.

[End response to above question (a) above this line.]

b. If centrally tabulated, are the votes redirected to the appropriate precinct for reporting in the canvass?

[Begin response to above question (b) below this line.]

No. All absentee, early and questioned (provisional) ballots are reported at the district level, not precinct level.

[End response to above question (b) above this line.]

c. Are the absentee, mail, etc., votes reported separately for each precinct, or are they added to the in-precinct results and reported as just a single number?

[Begin response to above question (c) below this line.]

All absentee, early and questioned (provisional) ballots are reported at the district level. They are not included in the precinct results.

[End response to above question (c) above this line.]

d. How are UOCAVA ballots counted and reported?

[Begin response to above question (d) below this line.]

In the same manner as all other absentee ballots.

[End response to above question (d) above this line.]

C2. Does your state require a reason for voting absentee, or does your state allow no-excuse absentee voting? (If a reason is required, please provide the legal citation.)

[Begin response to above question (C2) below this line.]

Sec. 15.20.010. Persons who may vote absentee.

At any election, a qualified voter may vote an absentee ballot for any reason.

[End response to above question (C2) above this line.]

C3. Does your state provide for in-person early voting? If so, how is early voting defined? When early voting is used, are the ballots counted at the precinct or at a central location? How are these votes reported?

[Begin response to above question (C3) below this line.]

Yes. Early voting and absentee in person voting begin 15 days prior to each election. Early voted ballots are counted at the regional election offices and reported by district in the early voting category. Absentee in person ballots are counted at the regional election offices and reported by district in the absentee voting category.

Sec. 15.20.061. Absentee voting in person.

(a) A qualified voter may apply in person for an absentee ballot to the following election officials at the times specified:

(1) to an absentee voting official on or after the 15th day before an election up to and including the date of the election;

(2) to an election supervisor on or after the 15th day before an election up to and including the date of the election;

(3) to an absentee voting official at an absentee voting station designated under [AS 15.20.045](#) (b) on or after the 15th day before an election up to and including the date of the election;

(4) to an absentee voting official in the precinct in which no volunteers can be located to serve on the election board on or after the 15th day before an election up to and including election day.

(b) On receipt of an application in person for an absentee ballot and exhibition of proof of identification as required in AS 15.15.225, the absentee voting official or election supervisor shall issue the ballot to the applicant.

(c) On receipt of an absentee ballot in person, the voter shall proceed to mark the ballot in secret, to place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve, to place the secrecy sleeve in the envelope provided, and to sign the voter's certificate on the envelope in the presence of the election official who shall sign as attesting official and date that signature. The election official shall then accept the ballot.

(d) The election official may not accept a marked ballot that has been exhibited by an absentee voter with intent to influence other voters. If the absentee voter spoils a ballot, the voter may request and the election official shall provide another ballot up to a maximum of three. Exhibited or spoiled ballots shall be destroyed. The numbers of all ballots destroyed shall be noted on the ballot statement.

(e) Each election official shall keep a record of the names and signatures of voters who cast absentee ballots before the election official and the dates on which the ballots were cast.

Sec. 15.20.064. Early voting.

(a) For 15 days before an election and on election day, a qualified voter who meets the requirements set out in this section may vote in locations designated by the director.

(b) The election supervisor or other election official shall issue a ballot to the voter upon

(1) exhibition of proof of identification as required in AS 15.15.225;

(2) verification that the voter's residence address appearing on the official registration list is current; and

(3) the voter's signing the early voting register.

(c) After the voter has marked the ballot, the voter shall place the ballot in the secrecy sleeve and inform the election supervisor or other election official. The voter shall deposit the ballot in the ballot box in the presence of the election supervisor or other election official unless the voter requests the election supervisor or other election official to deposit the ballot on the voter's behalf. The tabulation of early voting ballots may not begin before 8:00 p.m. prevailing time on election day.

(d) The director shall designate locations for early voting by June 1 of an election year.

[End response to above question (C3) above this line.]

C4. Do any jurisdictions in your state use a vote-by-mail system to replace (and not merely supplement) at-the-precinct voting in any elections?

[Begin response to above question (C4) below this line.]

N/A. The State of Alaska is responsible for conducting all state and federal elections. AS 15.20.800 does not allow the Division of Elections to conduct the primary or general elections by mail.

[End response to above question (C4) above this line.]

C5. Please list each of the situations that require a provisional ballot in your state. Please provide the relevant legal citation for each situation.

[Begin response to above question (C5) below this line.]

In Alaska, provisional ballots are known as questioned ballots.

Voters are required to vote a questioned ballot under the following situations:

1. Voter's name does not appear on register. AS 15.15.198

Sec. 15.15.198. Voters not on official registration list.

(a) If a voter's name does not appear on the official registration list in the precinct in which the voter seeks to vote, the election official shall affirmatively advise the voter that the voter may cast a questioned ballot, and the voter shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot. At the time the voter casts a questioned ballot, the voter shall be given written information stating that the voter will be able to ascertain whether the ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason the ballot was not counted.

(b) A person whose registration is inactive under AS 15.07.130(b) and who votes a questioned or absentee ballot shall have the ballot counted if

- (1) the person was registered to vote in the last four calendar years;
- (2) the person signs a statement to that effect; and
- (3) the earlier registration is verified by the director.

2. Voter does not have proper identification. AS 15.15.210

Sec. 15.15.210. Questioning of voters of suspect qualification.

Every election official shall question, and every watcher and any other person qualified to vote in the precinct may question, a person attempting to vote if the questioner has good reason to suspect that the questioned person is not qualified under AS 15.05. All questions regarding a person's qualifications to vote shall be made in writing setting out the reason the person has been questioned. A questioned person shall, before voting, subscribe to a declaration in a form provided by the director attesting to the fact that in each particular the person meets all the qualifications of a voter, is not disqualified, and has not voted at the same election, and certifying that the person understands that a false statement on the declaration may subject the person to prosecution for a misdemeanor under this title or AS 11. After the questioned person has executed the declaration, the person may vote. If the questioned person refuses to execute the declaration, the person may not vote.

3. Voter's residence address has changed. AS 15.07.090

Sec. 15.07.090. Voting after change of name; reregistration; amendment or transfer of registration.

(a) A voter whose name is changed by marriage or court order may vote under the previous name, but a voter who desires to use a new name shall vote a questioned ballot.

(b) A voter shall reregister if the voter's registration is cancelled as provided in [AS 15.07.130](#). The reregistration is effective for the next election that occurs at least 30 days after the date of reregistration.

(c) The director shall transfer the registration of a voter from one precinct to another within a house district when requested by the voter. The request shall be made 30 or more days before the election day. The director shall transfer the registration of a voter from one house district to another when requested by the voter. The voter must reside in the new house district for at least 30 days in order to vote.

(d) A person who claims to be a registered voter, but for whom no evidence of registration in the precinct can be found, shall be granted the right to vote in the same manner as that of a questioned voter and the ballot shall be treated in the same manner. The ballot shall be considered to be a "questioned ballot" and shall be so designated. The director or the director's representative shall determine whether the voter is registered in the house district before counting the ballot. A voter who has failed to obtain a transfer as provided in (c) of this section shall vote a "questioned ballot" in the precinct in which the voter resides.

4. Voter's qualifications are questioned. AS 15.15.225

Sec. 15.15.225. Voter identification at polls.

(a) Before being allowed to vote, each voter shall exhibit to an election official one form of identification, including

(1) an official voter registration card, driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license; or

(2) an original or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document; an item exhibited under this paragraph must show the name and current address of the voter.

(b) An election official may waive the identification requirement if the election official knows the identity of the voter. The identification requirement may not be waived for voters who are first-time voters who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, and did not provide identification as required in AS 15.07.060.

(c) A voter who cannot exhibit a required form of identification shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot.

[End response to above question (C5) above this line.]

C6. Does your state count provisional ballots of voters who are registered in different precincts, or are those ballots automatically rejected? Please describe the process used by local election officials in determining whether to count a provisional ballot.

[Begin response to above question (C6) below this line.]

All questioned ballots are reviewed by a bi-partisan board to determine the eligibility of the voter to have cast the ballot. Alaska does count questioned ballots if the voter is registered anywhere in the state.

Sec. 15.20.207. Procedure for district questioned ballot review.

(a) The district questioned ballot counting board shall examine each questioned ballot envelope and shall determine whether the questioned voter is qualified to vote at the election and whether the questioned ballot has been properly cast.

(b) A questioned ballot may not be counted if the voter

(1) has failed to properly execute the certificate;

(2) is a first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under [AS 15.07.050](#), has not provided the identification required by AS 15.15.225(a), was not eligible for waiver of the identification requirement under [AS 15.15.225](#) (b), and has not provided the identifiers required in [AS 15.07.060](#) (a)(2) and (3) that can be verified through state agency records described in [AS 15.07.055](#) (e); or

(3) is a voter other than one described in (2) of this subsection, did not provide identification described in [AS 15.15.225](#) (a), was not personally known by the election official, and has not provided the identifiers required in [AS 15.07.060](#) (a)(2) and (3).

(c) Any person present at the district questioned ballot review may challenge the name of a questioned voter when read from the voter's certificate on the envelope if the person has good reason to suspect that the questioned voter is not qualified to vote, is disqualified, or has voted at the same election. The person making the challenge shall specify the basis of the challenge in writing. The district questioned ballot counting board by majority vote may refuse to accept and count the questioned ballot of a person properly challenged under grounds listed in (b) of this section.

(d) The election supervisor shall place all rejected questioned ballots in a separate envelope with statements of challenge. The envelope shall be labeled "rejected questioned ballots" and shall be forwarded to the director with the election certificates and other returns.

(e) If a questioned ballot is not rejected, the envelope shall be opened and the secrecy sleeve containing the questioned ballot shall be placed in a container and mixed with other secrecy sleeves containing questioned ballots.

(f) The secrecy sleeves shall be drawn from the container, the questioned ballots shall be removed from the secrecy sleeves, and the questioned ballots counted at the times specified in [AS 15.20.205](#) and according to the rules for determining properly marked ballots in AS 15.15.360.

(g) Upon completion of the questioned ballot review, the election supervisor shall prepare an election certificate for execution by the district questioned ballot counting board, and shall forward the original certificate and returns to the director as soon as the count is completed but no later than the 16th day following the election.

(h) The director shall prepare and mail to each questioned voter whose questioned ballot was rejected under this section a summary of the reason that the challenge to the questioned ballot was upheld and the questioned ballot was rejected.

(i) The director shall mail the materials described in (h) of this section to the voter not later than

(1) 10 days after completion of the review of ballots by the state review board for a primary election;

(2) 60 days after certification of the results of a general or special election.

(j) In addition to mailing the materials under (i)(1) of this section, for a questioned voter whose questioned primary election ballot was rejected, not later than the deadline set out in (i)(1) of this section, the director shall

(1) determine whether, from the information obtained under AS 15.07.070(h), the voter's name may be entered on the voter registration list;

(2) if the voter is eligible, register the voter in accordance with the information submitted by the voter under [AS 15.07.070](#)(h); and

(3) confirm or deny the registration by written notice mailed to the voter.

(k) The director shall make available through a free access system to each voter voting a questioned ballot a system to check to see whether the voter's ballot was counted and, if not counted, the reason why the ballot was not counted. The director shall make this information available through the free access system not less than 10 days after certification of the results of a primary election and not less than 30 days after the certification of the results of a general or special election.

[End response to above question (C6) above this line.]

C7. Please describe your state's laws regarding post-election audits, if any.

[Begin response to above question (C7) below this line.]

The election results are reviewed by a bi-partisan State Ballot Counting Review Board. The board reviews the precinct, absentee and questioned ballot results.

AS 15.15.420, 15.15.430, 15.15.440 and 15.15.450

Sec.15.15.420. Duty to review the ballot counting.

The director shall review the counting of the ballots with the assistance of and in the presence of the appointed representatives from the political parties.

Sec. 15.15.430. Scope of the review of ballot counting.

(a) The review of ballot counting by the director shall include only

(1) a review of the precinct registers, tallies, and ballots cast;

(2) a review of absentee and questioned ballots as prescribed by law; and

(3) unless the ballot for the election district contains nothing but uncontested offices, a hand count of ballots from one randomly selected precinct in each election district that accounts for at least five percent of the ballots cast in that district.

(b) If, following the ballot review set out in (a) of this section, the director finds there is a discrepancy of more than one percent between the results of the hand count under (a)(3) of this section and the count certified by the election board, the director shall conduct a hand count of the ballots from that district.

(c) If the director finds an unexplained discrepancy in the ballot count in any precinct, the director may count the ballots from that precinct.

(d) The director shall certify in writing to the state ballot counting review board and publish on the division's Internet website any changes resulting from a count performed under (b) or (c) of this section.

Sec. 15.15.440. State ballot counting review.

The state ballot counting review shall begin as soon as practicable after the election is completed and no later than 16 days after an election and shall be continued until completed. The director may designate the hours each day during which the state ballot counting review board is to conduct its ballot counting review. The director shall close the review when the director is satisfied that no missing precinct certificate of election would, if received, change the result of the election. If no election certificate has been received from a precinct, the director may secure from the election supervisors and may count a certified copy of the duplicate election certificate of the precinct. If no election materials have been received, but election results have been received by telephone, telegram, or radio, the director shall count the election results so received. If the director

has reason to believe that a missing precinct certificate, if received, would affect the result of the election, the director shall await the receipt of the certificate until the close of business on the 15th day after the date of election. A certificate not actually delivered to the director by the close of business on the 15th day after the election may not be counted at the state ballot counting review.

Sec. 15.15.450. Certification of state ballot counting review.

Upon completion of the state ballot counting review the director shall certify the person receiving the largest number of votes for the office for which that person was a candidate as elected to that office and shall certify the approval of a justice or judge not rejected by a majority of the voters voting on the question. The director shall issue to the elected candidates and approved justices and judges a certificate of their election or approval. The director shall also certify the results of a proposition and other question except that the lieutenant governor shall certify the results of an initiative, referendum, or constitutional amendment.

[End response to above question (C7) above this line.]

C8. Please describe any state requirements for poll worker training.

[Begin response to above question (C8) below this line.]

Election worker training is mandatory.

Sec. 15.10.107. Staff training.

The director shall, before each primary election in even-numbered years, provide for a comprehensive training program for election officials, both the full-time members of the staff of the division of elections and those who are appointed as members of election boards under [AS 15.10.120](#) - 15.10.140 and other temporary election employees. The director shall prepare and, not later than March 1, file with the lieutenant governor a plan that describes the comprehensive training program for election officials to be provided to those officials during that calendar year.

[End response to above question (C8) above this line.]

SECTION D: ELECTION DAY ACTIVITIES

D1. Please describe your state's process for capturing "over-vote" and "under-vote" counts.

[Begin response to above question (D1) below this line.]

The State's ballot tabulation system keeps track of the number of over-vote and under-vote counts. Reports printed from the system can include these numbers.

[End response to above question (D1) above this line.]

D2. What identification does your state require from voters in the following situations:

- a. registering to vote;

[Begin response to above question (a) below this line.]

Sec. 15.07.060 (c) outlines the identification requirements for registering to vote as follows:

(c) Each applicant who requests registration in person before a registration official shall exhibit one form of identification to the official, including a driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license. A registration official who knows the identity of the applicant may waive the identification requirement.

(d) If the applicant requests reregistration, the applicant shall supply under oath any former name under which the applicant was registered to vote in the state.

(e) For an applicant requesting initial registration by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under [AS 15.07.050](#), the director shall verify the information provided in compliance with (a)(2) and (3) of this section through state agency records described in [AS 15.07.055](#) (e). If the applicant cannot comply with the requirement of (a)(2) of this section because the applicant has not been issued any of the listed numbers, the applicant may instead submit a copy of one of the following forms of identification: a driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license.

(f) If an applicant who requests registration cannot comply with the requirement of (a)(2) of this section because the applicant has not been issued any of the listed numbers, the division shall assign the applicant a unique identifying number.

6 AAC 25.027. Registration of Voters.

(a) An applicant who requests registration or reregistration in person before a registration official must provide proof of identification. Proof of identification includes the applicant's

- (1) driver's license;
- (2) state identification card;
- (3) passport;
- (4) military identification card;
- (5) hunting or fishing license;
- (6) birth certificate; or
- (7) current and valid photo identification, other than those otherwise specified in this subsection.

(b) Proof of identification required under (a) of this section may be waived if the applicant applying for registration or reregistration in person is personally known by the registration official. An applicant is personally known by the registration official if the registration official is able to identify and address the applicant by first and last name.

(c) An individual may request registration or reregistration on behalf of a voter if the voter has executed a general power of attorney in accordance with [AS 13.26.332](#) or a special power of attorney in accordance with 6 AAC [25.683](#) authorizing that individual to register the voter. In addition to the completed registration application and applicable identification and proof of residency documentation for the voter, that individual must provide, for each registration or reregistration,

- (1) identification as listed in (a) of this section, and
- (2) a copy of the power of attorney authorizing the individual to register the voter on that voter's behalf.

(d) An applicant or an individual acting on behalf of an applicant with a power of attorney who requests registration or reregistration by mail from outside this state must provide identification or other documentation that supports the applicant's claim to Alaska residency. If a form of identification required under (a) of this section is provided for proof of residency, the identification must include an Alaska residence address. Other forms of documentation include

- (1) a military leave and earnings statement that identifies Alaska as the applicant's state of legal residence;
- (2) proof of employment in this state that indicates a date on which the applicant was employed; or

(3) proof of an Alaska student loan and college tuition showing Alaska as the state of residence.

(e) A person's voting qualifications or residency are not dependent on those of the person's spouse, parent, or legal guardian. Each applicant for registration or reregistration must be personally qualified under [AS 15.05.010](#) and 15.05.011, and must have personally established residency in the State of Alaska by physical presence in the state and present intention to establish a permanent dwelling in Alaska as provided in [AS 15.05.020](#).

(f) An applicant initially registering or reregistering to vote by mail or by electronic transmission must have the applicant's identity verified following the identification requirements specified in [AS 15.07.060](#) (a)(2) - (3) and (e). If the applicant's identity cannot be verified with the application, an acknowledgement card will be sent to the applicant informing the applicant that the applicant is registered to vote. However, the first time the applicant votes, the applicant shall provide proof of identity as specified in [AS 15.15.225](#), or the applicant may submit a copy of one of the forms of identification specified in [AS 15.07.060](#) (e) to receive a voter's identification card.

(g) In addition to the information specified in [AS 15.07.195](#) (a), a telephone number and an electronic mail address provided by the applicant when registering to vote are considered confidential and will not be released to the general public.

(h) The documentation provided under (c) of this section will be microfilmed or otherwise retained by the division as part of the voter's record.

Authority: [AS 15.05.010](#), [AS 15.05.011](#), [AS 15.05.020](#), [AS 15.07.030](#), [AS 15.07.050](#), [AS 15.07.060](#), [AS 15.07.070](#), [AS 15.07.195](#), [AS 15.15.225](#)

[End response to above question (a) above this line.]

b. casting an in-person ballot;

[Begin response to above question (b) below this line.]

Sec. 15.15.225. Voter identification at polls.

(a) Before being allowed to vote, each voter shall exhibit to an election official one form of identification, including

(1) an official voter registration card, driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license; or

(2) an original or a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document; an item exhibited under this paragraph must show the name and current address of the voter.

(b) An election official may waive the identification requirement if the election official knows the identity of the voter. The identification requirement may not be waived for voters who are first-time voters who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050, and did not provide identification as required in AS 15.07.060.

(c) A voter who cannot exhibit a required form of identification shall be allowed to vote a questioned ballot.

[End response to above question (b) above this line.]

c. casting a mail-in or absentee vote;

[Begin response to above question (c) below this line.]

Absentee in-person and early voters must provide identification as outlined above in AS 15.15.225.

Voters voting absentee by-mail or fax shall provide at least one form of identification such as the voter registration number, social security number or last four digits of the social security number, date of birth, Alaska driver's license or State ID number. AS 15.20.081 and 6 AAC 25.510.

In addition, under AS 15.20.081(f):

If the voter is a first-time voter who initially registered by mail or by facsimile or other electronic transmission approved by the director under AS 15.07.050 and has not met the identification requirements set out in AS 15.07.060, the voter must provide one of the following forms of proof of identification:

- 1) a copy of a driver's license, state identification card, current and valid photo identification, birth certificate, passport, or hunting or fishing license; or
- 2) a copy of a current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck, government check, or other government document; an item provided under this paragraph must show the name and current address of the voter.

[End response to above question (c) above this line.]

d. casting a ballot under UOCAVA;

[Begin response to above question (d) below this line.]

The same identification as casting a mail-in ballot

[End response to above question (d) above this line.]

e. any other stage in registration or voting process in which identification is required (please specify).

[Begin response to above question (e) below this line.]

None

[End response to above question (e) above this line.]

D3. Please describe your state's laws regarding access to the polling place for election observers. Election observers are people allowed inside the polling place who are not poll workers, election officials or voters. If decisions on access to observers are left to local jurisdictions, please explain.

[Begin response to above question (D3) below this line.]

Sec. 15.10.170. Appointment and privileges of watchers.

The precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party district committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party chairperson where neither a precinct nor a party district committee exists, may appoint one or more persons as watchers in each precinct and counting center for any election. Each candidate not representing a political party may appoint one or more watchers for each precinct or counting center in the candidate's respective district or the state for any election. Any organization or organized group that sponsors or opposes an initiative, referendum or recall may have one or more persons as watchers at the polls and counting centers after first obtaining authorization from the director. A state party chairperson, a precinct party committee, a party district committee, or a candidate not representing a political party or organization or organized group may not have more than one watcher on duty at a time in any precinct or counting center. The watcher may be present at a position inside the place of voting or counting that affords a full view of all action of the election officials taken from the time the polls are opened until the ballots are finally counted and the results certified by the election board or the data processing review board. The election board or the data processing review board may require each watcher to present written proof showing appointment by the precinct party committee, the party district committee, the organization or organized group, or the candidate the watcher represents that is signed by the chairperson of the precinct party committee, the party district committee, the state party chairperson, the organization or organized group, or the candidate representing no party.

[End response to above question (D3) above this line.]

SECTION E: OTHER

E1. Under HAVA, Section 402, states are required to have in place administrative complaint procedures to remedy grievances. Has your state revised its administrative complaint procedures since they were first implemented? If so, how?

[Begin response to above question (E1) below this line.]

No

[End response to above question (E1) above this line.]

E2. Please add any additional comments or information about your state's election administration processes that would help to inform the EAC's interpretation of your data.

[Begin response to above question (E2) below this line.]

In Alaska, all state and federal elections are conducted at the state level by the State of Alaska, Division of Elections. There are four election regions in the state. The Director of Elections supervises the voter registration and election administration activities throughout the state.

[End response to above question (E2) above this line.]

* The information collection associated with the Election Administration and Voting Survey is required for the EAC to meet its statutory requirements under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 15301), the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-1 et seq.), and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voters Act (UOCAVA) (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1). Respondent's obligation to reply to this information collection is mandatory as required under NVRA (42 U.S.C. 1973gg-1 et seq.) and UOCAVA (42 U.S.C. 1973ff-1). This part of the information collection is being requested to help the EAC to better understand state laws governing federal elections. Respondents include the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories. This information will be made publicly available on the EAC website (www.eac.gov). According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is OMB Control No. 3265-0006 (expires 3/31/09). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 59 hours per state response. This estimate includes the time for reviewing the instructions, gathering information, and completing the form. Comments regarding this burden estimate should be sent the U.S. Election Assistance Commission – 2008 Election Administration and Voting Survey, 1225 New York Avenue, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005.