

The State of Alaska Division of Elections
Election Official Training - Television Broadcast

KTOO 360TV

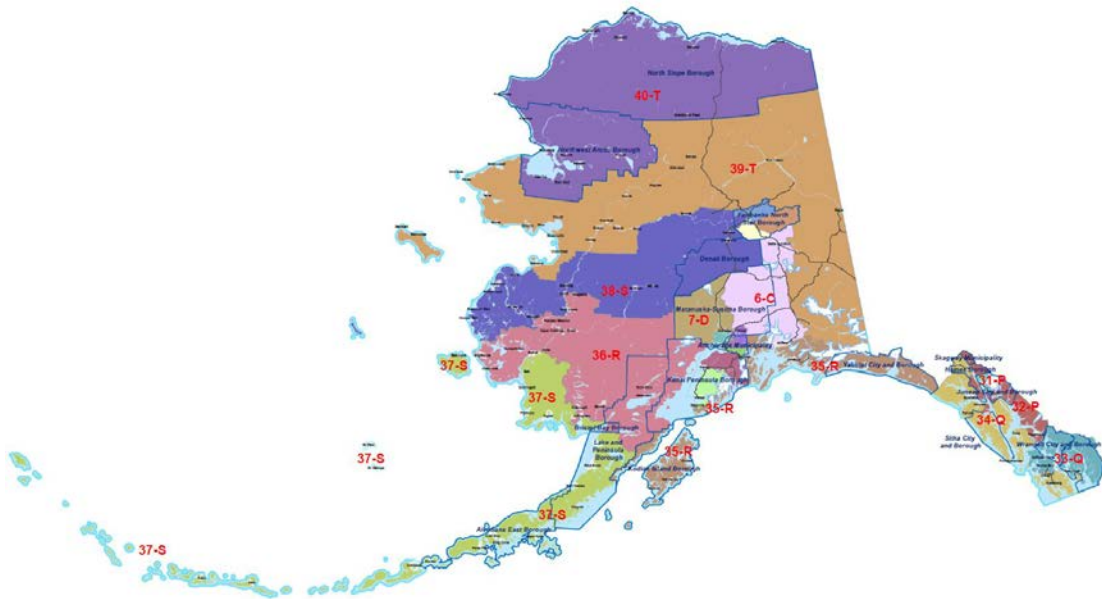
Overview

The State of Alaska has 441 precincts statewide. Of those 441 precincts, 223 of these precincts are in remote areas and are only accessible by boat or plane. All state and federal elections are overseen and administered by one central entity - the State of Alaska Division of Elections. During election years, election officials normally receive their training by flying to a hub in their area or a trainer will fly to the precinct village.

With the onset of COVID-19 we realized the impact this pandemic would have on training our election officials across Alaska. This required staff to regroup and strategize alternative ideas on how to conduct election official training across Alaska, while acknowledging the challenges of distance, diversity, and the implementation of a new voting system statewide under the new COVID-19 restrictions.

Background

Alaska, the largest state in the United States, is bigger than Texas, California, and Montana combined. It is 663,268 sq. mi of mountains, glaciers, arctic tundra, rivers, lakes, forests, and volcanoes. There are approximately 2,670 named islands. Of those, the Aleutian Islands extend so far away from the mainland that they are actually part of the Eastern Hemisphere; making AK both the Easternmost and Westernmost state in the United States.



There are only 1,387 miles of interstate highway, affectionately called: "the road system" and most cities/towns/villages do not have access to the road. The state's capital, Juneau, where the Division of Elections headquarters/director office is located, is only accessible via ship and air. Places that cannot be reached by major airlines, rivers, and sea, can be reached only by foot, sled dog, snow machines, and small airplanes.

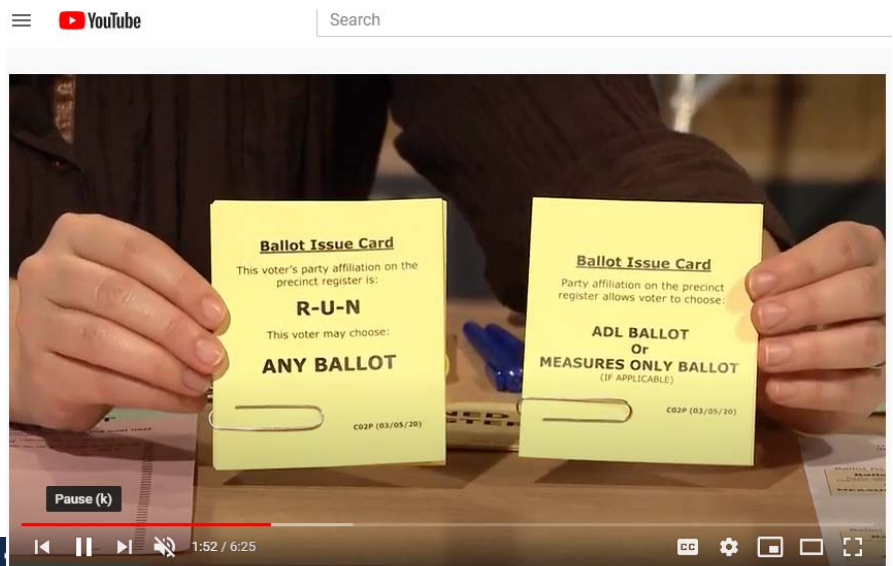
In previous years, the division utilized live stream, in person, and pre-recorded training options. However, there are areas where not all training options are available due to unreliable bandwidth or not having access to the internet at all.

A Unique Challenge

COVID-19 brought travel, especially travel by plane and water, to a halt all over the country. With half of our precincts only reachable by plane and boat and in-person engagement highly discouraged, sending a trainer to those areas was out of the question; and so was reaching some areas via internet. In-person training in urban areas was also no longer a viable option. We needed to expand beyond previous training options in order to have trained election officials in all precincts.

Challenge Accepted

One idea presented to the group was to utilize our independent, local public media organization, KTOO, to film our training live and then broadcast it at designated times throughout the election cycle.

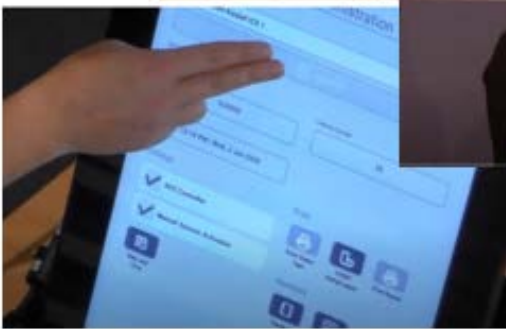


AK Election Official Training 2020 | 04 Polling Place Setup

This was perfect; we could reach almost every community in Alaska, rural or urban, and send a schedule out to all our workers informing them of the broadcast dates/times for airing their training.

Our team immediately went to work developing and filming the training while preparing the broadcast schedule. We were able to create three different training videos; tailored to fit the equipment used at specific precincts.

Training Resources		
Hand-Count Precinct Training	Precinct Scanner with Voting Tablet and HP Printer	Precinct Scanner with Voting Tablet/VVPAT Printer
<p>TRAINING VIDEO</p> <p>PRINTED MATERIALS</p> <p>Polling Place Procedures</p> <p>Voting Tablet Guide</p>	<p>TRAINING VIDEO</p> <p>PRINTED MATERIALS</p> <p>Polling Place Procedures</p> <p>Precinct Scanner Guide</p> <p>Voting Tablet Guide</p>	<p>TRAINING VIDEO</p> <p>PRINTED MATERIALS</p> <p>Polling Place Procedures</p> <p>Precinct Scanner Guide</p> <p>Voting Tablet Guide</p>
<p>Language Assistance Training</p> <p>TRAINING VIDEO</p>		



The broadcast schedule was able to accommodate all three trainings (Trainings A, B and C) at various times morning, evening, and weekend. Each training rotated so that each session aired at various

TV Broadcast

The training for your precinct will be broadcast on television through the 360 North Channel (public broadcasting) that is available through Dish Network, DirecTV, and most cable providers. This is the station that shows Gavel-to-Gavel and Celebration activities. If you do not know which channel this is in your area, please contact your television provider.

Your full 3-hour training video will air on each of the following dates and times:

Monday 9/21 at 8:00 PM	Saturday 10/3 at 10:00 AM
Tuesday 10/6 at 3:00 PM	Sunday 10/11 at 10:00 AM
Tuesday 10/20 at 3:00 PM	Saturday 10/31 at 10:00 AM

The broadcast will also be available at the times listed above through KTOO's website, which you can access by following the link below and clicking on "Watch Live":

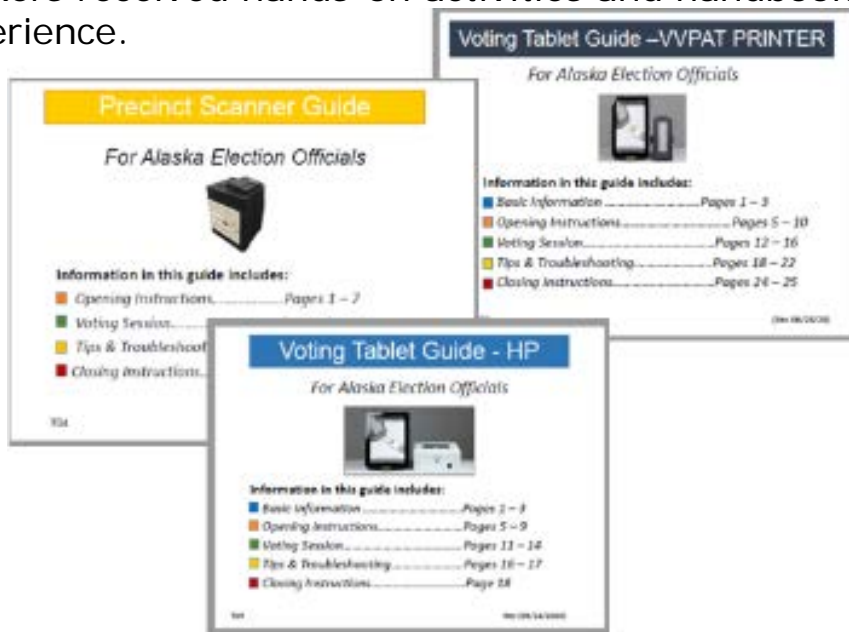
ktoo.org/tv

Note: This station will be broadcasting training for three different equipment types. You are only required to watch **one** of the showings listed above. *If you watch a training that broadcast at a time other than those listed above, it is not for your equipment type and will include information that may not apply to your polling place!*

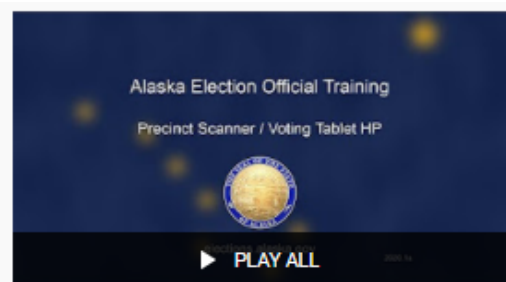


dates/times to meet the needs of our workers.

Prior to training, (whether viewed via television broadcast, internet, DVD or in person) workers received hands-on activities and handbooks to enhance their training experience.

An "ELECTION TRAINING OATH" form. It includes a header with the Alaska State Seal, a section for personal information (Name, Address, City/Town/Village, Precinct), and a section for questions: "Are there any legal restrictions on your ballot?", "What would you like to see at the Ballot Center?", "What would you like to see at the Ballot Station?", and "What do you want to see in the future?". It also contains a signature line and a date field.

Each worker who attended training was also required to sign and return an oath confirming his or her attendance.



AK Election Official Training 2020 | A - Precinct Scanner & HP Voting Tablet

17 videos • 27,842 views • Last updated on Jun 26, 2020

Unlisted



KT00 Media Services



[AK Election Official Training 2020 | A - Precinct Scanner & HP Voting Tablet - YouTube](#)

Providing multiple election official training options was a key component to the overall success of conducting elections in a year full of unprecedented

challenges. Utilizing community resources in unique ways to help carry out our mission is truly rewarding.