

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Alaskans' right to vote is fundamental** and our democracy requires that all ballots that are cast are counted.
- **Alaska's unique geography and demographics require a robust election system** with a goal of enfranchising all Alaskans.
- **Enhancing voter turnout requires identifying and then eliminating obstacles to voter turnout.** This should be a priority for our state legislature.

VOTER TURNOUT IS CRUCIAL TO OUR DEMOCRACY. HERE'S WHAT WE CAN DO TO IMPROVE IT.

Count all ballots. Currently, Alaskans do not have a system to fix problems on their ballot before their vote is counted. During the 2022 all-mail special election primary held following Don Young's death, the state rejected thousands of ballots because of easily fixable and benign errors. The impact of these rejections disproportionately fell on Alaska Natives and Alaskans with limited English proficiency who did not understand the ballot requirements but could have easily fixed them before the election. The legislature should reform our election system to allow a notice and cure opportunity for voters to ensure their ballots are counted.

Improve absentee voting. The legislature should take steps to make absentee voting more effective and accessible statewide to improve voter turnout, especially in rural areas.

Increase access to in-person voting. A shortage of election workers means that there are fewer polling locations throughout the state. In recent years, we have seen the state's failure to open physical polling places in rural Alaska communities. There are other communities where polling places open only after the state has scrambled to find people to adequately staff the site. No voter in any community in Alaska should be unable or uncertain of their ability to go to their local polling site and cast their ballot.

Enhance additional election infrastructure to protect the right to vote. Additional barriers prevent people from engaging in statewide elections, including the lack of available mail service in rural and remote communities and the lack of linguistically accessible ballots and election materials.

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