

SUBJECT: AN INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM ADVISING THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE CLERK'S OFFICE WILL BE IMPLEMENTING EARLY VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER 2019 REGULAR ELECTION.

AGENDA OF: March 5, 2019


ASSEMBLY ACTION:

PRESENTED 03/05/19

W/o objection 3/5/19 

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Introduce and set for public hearing.

APPROVED BY JOHN MOOSEY, BOROUGH MANAGER: 

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator	LRM	
	Borough Attorney	<u>JS</u>	
	Borough Clerk	<u>JRM</u>	<u>2/26/19</u> 

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note: YES ☐ NO ☒

Attachments: Sample Voter Oath (1 p)

Sample Precinct Register (1 p)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

The Mat-Su Borough currently conducts absentee in-person voting starting 15 days prior to the election. These absentee in-person ballots are then canvassed by the Canvass Board, and at times are not finalized or counted until the day before the election certification. Absentee voting numbers continue to rise and with contentious propositions on the ballot the volume has been very high. The year the marijuana proposition was placed on the ballot, the Canvass Board worked some 15-hour days through the week and the weekends. Luckily we were able to finish in time for the deadline to certify the election. With these trends, the Clerk's Office has had to think of new ways to move forward, with integrity of our election process in mind.

The Clerk is working towards starting an early voting process, which MSB code already allows for. The benefits to early voting rather than absentee voting is that those early voting ballots cast are counted the night of the election and will reduce the number of ballots the Canvass Board needs to canvass after the

election. This means that more votes are calculated on election night and the Canvass Board can complete their process sooner.

Differences between early voting and absentee in-person voting:

- Early voting:
 - o is like walking into your polling location on election day. Your identity is verified by an election official, you sign the register, receive and cast a ballot, with the results of the votes announced election night.
 - o early voters will go through the same process as they do at their polling location, but will also sign an oath that they still reside at their registered address and will not vote in any other manner in the election.
 - o if the voter's residence address has changed, they will be required to vote a question ballot.
- Absentee in-person voting:
 - o the voter's identity is verified by an election official, the voter completes an absentee oath an affidavit envelope and the voter receives and casts a ballot. After election day the Canvass Board canvasses all of these and they are looking at: did the voter change their residence address, did they qualify for the ballot they received, were they registered in the Borough, etc.
 - o results of absentee in-person voting are not announced election night, but after the Canvass Board finishes their canvassing and the Review Board comes in to count the ballots.

Prior to 2019, the MSB has not offered early voting, as the precinct registers are printed by the State of Alaska, Division of Elections (DOE). We do not have access to the live voter registration database like the State does during their early voting. In State elections, as people early vote it shows up on their voter registration record and when the precinct registers are printed it states in the signature line "Voted Early." Meaning that voter's will then not be able to go to their precincts and vote again on election day. The MSB has proposed to the DOE that we print our own precinct registers, which the DOE has agreed to.

The MSB already receives a digital record of the voter's within the MSB. We already export the digital information into a database, which we use for absentee in-person voting. We would take this a step further and use it for early voting and then to print out our registers for the precincts. We will have to stop early voting prior to election day, so that the precinct registers can be printed with the "Voted Early" in the voters signature lines and then be provided to the precinct chairs. Once early voting has

ended, absentee in-person voting would occur for the remainder of the voting period.

I expect that early voting will last through the Saturday prior to the election, but we are still working through the process. Please see below for the anticipated times and locations of early voting, by-mail voting, and absentee in-person voting.

- By-mail voting conducted as usual
- Borough Building - Palmer - open Monday through Friday
 - o Early voting - Monday 10/21 - Friday 11/1
 - o Absentee in-person - Monday 11/4 - Tuesday 11/5
- Division of Election - Wasilla - open Monday through Saturday
 - o Early voting - Monday 10/21 - Saturday 11/2
 - o Absentee in-person - Monday 11/1 (closed election day)
- Absentee in-person voting will also occur at the city of Houston, Talkeetna Library, and Trapper Creek Library, during their operating hours - Monday 10/21 - Monday 11/4 (closed election day).

Please see attached examples of the oath that the early voters will sign and an example on how the early voters will appear on the precinct registers.

VOTER NO	IDENTIFIED BY (VC) (OI) (PK)	NAME & SIGNATURE (LAST-FIRST-MIDDLE INITIAL)	A RESIDENCE ADDRESS B MAILING ADDRESS
015	() () () ()	VOTER, ADAM	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
016	() () () ()	VOTED EARLY VOTER, BRIAN	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA
017	() () () ()	VOTER, CHRISTINA	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA
018	() () () ()	VOTER, HANNAH	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
019	() () () ()	VOTER, JOSH	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
020	() () () ()	VOTER, LEANN	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA
021	() () () ()	VOTER, MARNIE	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
022	() () () ()	VOTED EARLY VOTER, MITCHELL	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
023	() () () ()	VOTER, PAUL	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA
024	() () () ()	VOTER, ROGER	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
025	() () () ()	VOTER, SAMANTHA	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
026	() () () ()	VOTER, STEVEN	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK
027	() () () ()	VOTER, THOMAS	RESIDENCE ADDRESS HERE MAILING ADDRESS HERE WASILLA WASILLA AK

OF SIGNATURES: _____

SUBTOTAL: _____

Im 19-048

Voter ID: 12345678

Name: SMITH JANE A

Residence: 1234 STREET DR
PALMER, AK 99645

Mailing: PO BOX 1234
PALMER, AK 99645

DOB: 01/02/1900

SSN or Last 4: 123-45-6789

DL/State ID: 1234567

Precinct: 07-100
LAKES NO. 1

Polling Place: FINGER LAKE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

ASB/SB
District: 3

Ballot Type: BLUE

I certify, under penalty of perjury, that:

- I have verified that at the time I cast my ballot my residence address as it appears on my official voter registration record, as noted above, is *true and accurate*.
- I am a United States Citizen.
- I am at least 18 years old.
- I am a resident of Alaska.
- I am a resident of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
- I am not a convicted felon (unless unconditionally discharged).
- I have not and will not vote in any other manner in this election.
- I am not registered to vote in another state, or I have taken the necessary steps to cancel that registration.

Signature of Voter: _____ **Date:** _____

ELECTION OFFICIAL USE ONLY

By signing as a witness, I attest that to the best of my ability, the applicant is the person he/she claims to be and this certification was made in my presence on the day indicated.

Signature of Election Official

Date

IDENTIFICATION:

☐ Identification Presented

☐ Personally Known

BALLOT ISSUED:

[precinct ballot type entered here]

SITE ID: _____

Im 19-048