

Lieutenant Governor Kevin Meyer STATE OF ALASKA

June 22, 2020

Representative Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins Representative Zack Fields Via Email

Dear Reps. Kreiss-Tomkins and Fields,

Thank you for reaching out to my office and to the Division of Elections with your concerns on the upcoming 2020 election cycle.

Together Gail Fenumiai and I are committed to overseeing fair and honest elections in the State of Alaska.

We relied on the statements from our medical professionals to make the decision of a mailing to voters over 65 to avoid inserting politics into this decision. Voters over the age of 65 fall into a category defined by Dr. Zink and Commissioner Crum as being highly vulnerable to this virus.

Absentee applications are available to anyone in Alaska without excuse. Voters can go online, they can call the Division, even the political parties send out mailers with applications encouraging their members to vote absentee. The State of Alaska has one of the most robust systems to vote absentee in the nation.

Under the traditional voting process, voters in rural areas have better access to voting than even some of the most populous areas of the state. The Division of Elections has 164 absentee in-person voting locations outside the communities of Juneau, Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough, Fairbanks and Nome.

For the majority of these locations, this is in addition to an Election Day polling location. These absentee in-person voting locations are staffed by an official who is local to the community. Voting is available starting 15-days prior to the election. This is an ideal opportunity for voters when and where they are most comfortable. There is no requirement to complete and submit an application prior to voting absentee in-person. The absentee official has all the required forms locally.

Thank you again for your interest in this important issue.

Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer

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