



Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott  
STATE OF ALASKA

August 21, 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL: ElectionIntegrityStaff@ovp.eop.gov

Kris W. Kobach  
Vice Chair  
Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity

Dear Mr. Kobach:

Our focus in Alaska is straightforward: to ensure that every eligible Alaskan has a meaningful opportunity to cast a ballot, have their vote count, and our Division of Elections conducts impartial, secure and accurate elections. Despite Alaska's unique geographic, cultural and logistical challenges, we believe our elections system is well on its way to becoming one of the most accurate and secure in the United States. Alaska is also one of the few states to explicitly protect the individual's right to privacy in our constitution (Article 1, Sec. 22). The privacy protections surrounding our voter and elections information are some of the strongest in the country.

Alaska will continue to employ best practices raised by election security experts such as having an all paper based system, including verifiable paper audit trails; independent testing; post-election audits; and physical security of tabulation equipment and software. The ballot tabulation system used in Alaska to produce and count ballots is fully integrated, federally certified and is thoroughly tested prior to each election.

In 2016, Alaska introduced more robust access control to the state's Voter Registration and Election Management Database. This effort further reduced the likelihood of unauthorized access to voter data. We have also introduced better intrusion detection processes and practices. There is no evidence that cyber intruders tried to delete or alter voter data prior to or after the November 8, 2016 election in Alaska.

Alaska's multi-layered election security model is continuously improving as technology and better practices become known. Alaska has introduced improved tools and practices in encrypted communication which reduces the risk of the loss of voter data during transmission. These added layers provide early warning of attacks in time for election officials to take action. The extensive process includes a number of security features that make it among the safest in the country.

Also, in 2016, Alaska Governor Bill Walker signed a bipartisan bill that allowed the state's Division of Elections to join the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a nonprofit organization whose

mission is to assist states with improving the accuracy of America's voter rolls and increasing voter registration.

ERIC is a sophisticated interstate data exchange that will allow for more timely removal of voters registering in another member state, reduce the number of individuals voting in multiple states, increase voter registration, and ensure accurate voter registration rolls are maintained. Alaska is one of 20 states along with the District of Columbia that is participating in the program.

In 2016 Alaska voters approved a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) Automatic Voter Registration initiative, which is projected to make Alaska's voter rolls one of the most accurate in US history. We will leverage the intensive security and fraud detection resources we have invested in our PFD application system to further protect and strengthen our elections system.

In the June 28 letter, the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity requested certain voter roll data "if publicly available under the laws of" Alaska. In the July 26 letter, the Commission renewed its request and clarified that it has "only requested information that is readily available to the public under the laws of your State, which is information that States regularly provide to political candidates, journalists, and other interested members of the public."

I want to underscore that we will not provide any information about our residents that our state deems confidential. Please be advised that we will stand vigilant in protecting the privacy and independence of all Alaskans and will closely scrutinize all requests from any institution or individual to ensure that Alaskans' right to privacy is never compromised.

Alaska Statute 15.07.127 requires the Director of the Division of Elections to "prepare both a statewide list and a list by precinct of the names and addresses of all persons whose names appear on the master register and their political party affiliation. Subject to the limitations of Alaska Statute 15.07.195, any person may obtain a copy of the list, or a part of the list, or an electronic format containing both residence and mailing addresses of voters, by applying to the director and paying to the state treasury a fee as determined by the director." The fee is \$20. (The cost of the CD is an additional \$1.)

Accordingly, upon the receipt of \$21 (in the form of a check or money order made payable to the State of Alaska), the Division of Elections will provide the Commission a CD that contains the publicly available information that the state regularly provides to the public in response to a request under the Alaska Public Records Act (AS 40.25.100 – 40.25.295).

Please note that the CD will not contain—and the Division of Elections will not disclose—the following information in voter registration records because the information is confidential under AS 15.07.195:

- the voter's age or date of birth; the voter's social security number, or any part of that number;
- the voter's driver's license number;

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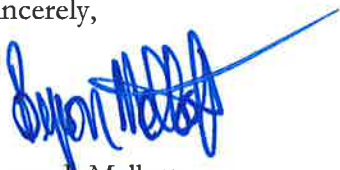
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- the voter's voter identification number;
- the voter's place of birth;
- the voter's signature; and
- the voter's residential address if elected by the voter in writing to be kept confidential.

Alaska's elections have been, and will continue to be, conducted with integrity and transparency. We will be watching with interest the Commission's first public hearing and may submit comments at that time.

If you have any questions, please contact Josie Bahnke, Director, Alaska Division of Elections, at (907) 465-4611 or [josie.bahnke@alaska.gov](mailto:josie.bahnke@alaska.gov).

Sincerely,



Byron I. Mallott  
Lieutenant Governor  
State of Alaska