

# ELECTION FAQS



## HOW TO REGISTER

**Who is eligible to vote in this election?** People who are:

- Qualified to vote in State of Alaska elections; and
- Registered to vote at an address within the Municipality of Anchorage for at least 30 days before Election Day; and
- 18 years of age or older on Election Day.

**How do I register to vote in Alaska?**

- The State of Alaska manages the voter registration files, so if you are registered with the State at a residence address within the Municipality, you are registered with the Municipality. You still must be registered 30 days before a Municipal Election to have your vote count in that election.
- Register online or fill out a paper form to mail at: [voterregistration.alaska.gov](http://voterregistration.alaska.gov). For questions, contact the State Division of Elections at [www.elections.alaska.gov](http://www.elections.alaska.gov) or (907) 522-VOTE (8683).
- You may register when you file for your PFD. *Note: it is the MOA's understanding that PFD voter registrations are not immediately transmitted to the Division of Elections, so if you register to vote for the first time with your PFD and want to vote in the April election of the same year, you must also register at [voterregistration.alaska.gov](http://voterregistration.alaska.gov) or contact the state Division of Elections at [www.elections.alaska.gov](http://www.elections.alaska.gov) or (907) 522-VOTE (8683) with questions.*

**When do I register to vote to participate in an election?**

You must be registered to vote at least 30 days before Election Day at a residence address in the Municipality.

## HOW TO VOTE

**How do I return my ballot?** There are three ways to return your ballot:

- Place your ballot return envelope in a secure drop box.
- Take your ballot return envelope to an Anchorage Vote Center.
- Take your ballot return envelope with first class postage to a U.S. Post Office or use another mailing service.

**How do I know MOA Elections received my ballot return envelopes?**

Voters can sign up with BallotTrax at [www.anchoragevotes.com](http://www.anchoragevotes.com) to get text, email, or voicemail alerts when their ballot package or return ballot envelope reaches various points in the election process. For example, a voter will receive an alert when their ballot package has been mailed, or when their ballot return envelope is received by MOA Elections. Voters may also call the Voter Hotline at 907-243-VOTE(8683) to find out if MOA Elections received their ballot return envelope.

**I will be out of state for college or traveling during the election - how will I get my ballot?**

- Ballot packages will be mailed at least 21 days before Election Day. If you want to receive your ballot package at a temporary address rather than your regular mailing address, complete the *Application to Vote at a Temporary Address* at [www.muni.org/elections](http://www.muni.org/elections) and return the application to MOA Elections no later than 5:00 p.m. AKDT seven days before Election Day.
- You can also vote by email or fax by calling the Voter Hotline at 907-243-VOTE (8683) to request an *Application to Vote by Fax or Email*, which is due no later than 5:00 p.m. AKDT seven days before Election Day, unless staff and resources allow additional processing, until 5:00 p.m. AKDT on day before the Election Day.

## Why did the Municipality of Anchorage change to Vote by Mail elections?

In the mid-2010s, the Anchorage Assembly asked the Municipal Clerk's Office to explore ways to increase the number of citizens voting and address other identified elections challenges, including: aging election equipment, retiring election workers, difficulty in finding suitable space, increasing security concerns, and low public engagement and turnout.

In the three states and dozens of local communities that have changed to Vote at Home/Vote by Mail elections, voter turnout has markedly increased in most of those jurisdictions. In Anchorage, in 2017 (the last non-mayoral election before Vote by Mail was implemented), 49K voters participated in the Regular Municipal Election. In 2020 (the most recent non-mayoral election), the number of participating voters was 71K.

## Are Vote at Home/Vote by Mail elections secure?

Vote at Home/Vote by Mail elections are secure. The Municipal Clerk's Office takes election security seriously and helps to keep elections secure by:

- Not connecting election systems containing confidential voter information to the internet.
- Checking that signatures match those in State of Alaska voter records.
- Emptying secure drop boxes often.
- Training a team of election officials and workers to securely handle voting materials.
- Administering oaths to election officials that affirm to support and defend the Anchorage Municipal Charter, the Alaska Constitution and the U.S. Constitution.
- Securing voting materials, such as ballots, in locations at the Election Center with limited access.

## What happens if someone intercepts my mail and votes my ballot?

Every return ballot envelope must be signed by the voter, and each signature is validated based on official signatures on file with the State of Alaska, e.g. the voter's registration document, prior election ballot envelopes, motor vehicle transactions, PFD application, etc. Election officials who adjudicate signatures are trained by forensic document examiners with techniques used to identify matches and flag mismatches. If two trained election officials agree that the signature doesn't match, the voter is contacted by mail and provided an opportunity to cure the discrepancy. This cure opportunity period extends until the Public Session of Canvass (between 10 and 17 days after Election Day) to allow all valid votes to be counted. Voting more than once in the same election, with the intent that the vote be counted more than once, is voter misconduct in the second degree under Anchorage Municipal Code section 28.200.120A.3., which is a class A misdemeanor.

## What about ranked choice voting?

Ranked choice voting (statewide Ballot Measure 2) was approved by Alaska voters in the November 30, 2020 State of Alaska General Election. Ballot Measure 2 and ranked choice voting **does NOT apply** to the Municipality of Anchorage elections.

## More information and the full FAQ can be found at:

[www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/FrequentlyAskedQuestions](http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Clerk/Elections/Pages/FrequentlyAskedQuestions)

# ELECTION FAQs

Anchorage   
VOTES