

## ORDINANCE 21-03

### AN ORDINANCE OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AMENDING TITLE 4 ELECTIONS TO ADD PROVISIONS FOR INCREASED VOTER ACCESSIBILITY

**WHEREAS**, provisions for early voting will add a convenience to Borough voters to allow voting in person 15 days prior to the election with proof of identification and signing an early voter register, and without having to complete the absentee-in-person form; and

**WHEREAS**, Alaska Statutes authorize youth vote ambassadors who meet the qualifications to serve on an election board or as election officials; and

**WHEREAS**, the changes in this ordinance allow for increased accessibility to Borough voters, and as such, is in the best interest of the Borough; and

**WHEREAS**, spreading out the voter turnout over several days makes social distancing a lot easier, preventing the spread of Covid-19.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH:**

**Section 1.** Chapter 4.08.020 Election Judges and Clerks is hereby amended to read as follows:

(a) Before each borough election, the assembly shall appoint at least three judges for each precinct polling place and auxiliary polling place to constitute the election board for that polling place. For each polling place, the first person appointed by the assembly shall be the chair person for that board unless a different person is specifically designated by the assembly as the chair of that election board. The chair of the election board shall be primarily responsible for administering the election at that precinct polling place. The assembly may appoint two additional persons as election clerks for each precinct polling place. Two judges on each election board may also serve as election clerks. The borough clerk may appoint up to three additional election clerks at any polling place where necessary to facilitate the orderly conduct of the election or to relieve the judges or clerks of undue hardship.

(b) Each judge or clerk must be a qualified voter of the borough and of the precinct for which appointed unless the clerk or assembly is unable to find a voter willing to serve. The clerk may appoint persons aged 16 or older as additional election officials if they substantially meet the requirements to serve in the Youth Vote Ambassador Program under AS 15.10.108. Any person so appointed serves under the supervision of the precinct board chair.

**Section 2.** Chapter 4.32 "Absentee Voting" is hereby retitled "Absentee and Early Voting" and amended to read as follows:

**New wording is underlined and in red**

**4.32.040 Determination of Right by Clerk.**

Before delivering a ballot, the borough clerk must be satisfied that the applicant has a right to an absentee or early voting ballot, pursuant to section 4.32.010.

**4.32.101 Early Voting.**

- A. Early voting before an election official shall not begin prior to fifteen (15) days before a regular or special election. A qualified voter may apply in person for an early voting ballot at the office of the borough clerk or the voter may apply at the city clerk's office or in a location at places and times determined by the borough clerk.
- B. Prior to the election, the clerk or assistant clerk shall mark the precinct register of those voters who voted early or give to the election board in each precinct a list of voters from the precinct who have voter early.
- C. Prior to the election, the clerk or assistant clerk shall mark the precinct registers of those voters who voted early to give to the election board in each precinct a list of voters who have voted early.

**Section 3.** Chapter 4.08.020 Election Judges and Clerks is hereby amended to read as follows:

**4.28.010 Canvass Committee -- Meeting - Postponing Canvass.**

The canvass committee will meet on the first Monday after the election for which they are appointed and canvass all absentee, early and questioned ballots executed in the election. The canvass may be postponed from day to day for cause by the borough clerk or the canvass committee.


**Section 4. Classification.** This ordinance shall be of permanent nature and shall become part of the Aleutians East Borough Code of Ordinances.

**Section 5. Effectiveness.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

INTRODUCED this \_\_\_\_\_ 13th \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ August \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

ADOPTED the 10<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ September \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Alvin D. Osterback

ATTEST:  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Anderson, Clerk

