

Senator Tom Begich  
Senate Democratic Leader  
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson  
Senator Scott Kawasaki



Senator Jesse Kiehl  
Senator Donny Olson  
Senator Bill Wielechowski

ALASKA SENATE DEMOCRATS

June 14, 2022

[www.aksenatedems.com](http://www.aksenatedems.com)

The Honorable Kevin Meyer  
Alaska Lieutenant Governor  
550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1700  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Gail Fenumiai  
Director, Alaska Division of Elections  
P.O. Box 110017  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Lieutenant Governor Meyer and Director Fenumiai,

We just learned a large portion of ballots received by the Division of Elections in the special election primary for U.S. Congress were rejected and not counted. We write seeking an immediate explanation of the reasons for the rejections and how the division plans to ensure such failures in the voting process never happen again.

Considering that this primary was the first-ever conducted where all Alaska voters received—and were expected to use—mail-in ballots, the statistics on rejections are staggering and unacceptable. For instance, the division reports a 9.0% rejection rate in the Mountain View neighborhood of Anchorage, and alarmingly, 15.2% and 17.4% rejection rates respectively in the rural areas of Bering Straits/Yukon Delta and Bethel/Lower Kuskokwim. The 12-17% rejection rates reported for the multiple areas in rural Alaska appear to demonstrate a breakdown of our election system and the democratic process for those citizens whose votes were not counted. The division must strive to implement mail-in ballot procedures that provide Alaskans the reasonable means and a fair opportunity to vote.

The State of Alaska must honor Alaskans' right to have their voices heard and their votes counted. We request an immediate response on this urgent matter.

Respectfully,

Senator Bill Wielechowski

Senator Tom Begich

Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson

Senator Scott Kawasaki

Senator Jesse Kiehl

Senator Donald Olson

*Via Email*