



June 16, 2020

Office of the Lt. Governor
PO Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99822-0001

Re: 2020 State and Local Elections – Voting By Mail

Dear Lieutenant Governor Meyer,

First, thank you for your service to the State of Alaska. We appreciate the difficulties these unprecedented times have meant for the work you do on all our behalf.

The logistics of voting in person in the time of COVID-19 is difficult to navigate for our community, and we doubt we are alone in our concerns. Upon reviewing our process, we realized an estimated 10 out of the 12 people who typically serve as poll workers are in the most at-risk demographics. Recruiting is difficult under the best of circumstances: having enough time to train a nearly entirely new group of individuals between now and fall will be difficult.

Another number of note for our community is approximately 900-1,000 residents vote in person on a typical general Election Day. We are considering the logistics for accommodating in-person voting as safely as possible but there will likely be risk for many with whatever scenario we come up with.

As discussed in the House hearing May 19 for HB 150, companion to Senate bill 241, increasing access to the vote by mail is a safe way to ensure ballot access during a pandemic. Whether uniformly enacting vote by mail, or proactively sending absentee ballot requests to voters to ensure easy access to the ballot, it is our hope that the State of Alaska will be proactive about these concerns.

It is difficult to predict the future but preserving the sanctity of the vote should always be the constant. Thank you again for your service.

Respectfully,

Jeigh Stanton Gregor
Vice Mayor
Petersburg Borough