

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL

AUG 9 10 46 AM '99

LAW OFFICES OF  
**HOLMES WEDDLE & BARCOTT**

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

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August 4, 1999

Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street  
Washington D.C. 20463

Re: Advisory Opinion  
Our File No. 3729-15158

Dear Sir/Madam:

I write on behalf of the Alaska Federation of Republican Women ("The Federation") to seek an advisory opinion from the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The Federation is a party committee as defined in 11 C.F.R. § 100(5)(e)(4). The Federation has contributed to both state and federal candidates, it maintains separate state and federal campaign accounts and reports its respective activities to both the Alaska Public Offices Commission and FEC

Background

In January 2000, the Federation plans to conduct a Presidential preference "straw poll." This straw poll will enable Alaskan Republicans to express their preference as to the Presidential nominee of the national Republican Party. The straw poll will adopt several of the formalities of an election. All publicly announced candidates for the Republican Presidential nomination in the year 2000 will be listed on a ballot. All Republicans who are registered to vote with the State of Alaska will be permitted to vote for the presidential candidate of their choice. Voters can register as Republicans at the straw poll, but under Alaska law can change their registration immediately thereafter (AS 15.07.040). The results will be totaled and immediately released to the press and public.<sup>1</sup>

The Federation will conduct the straw poll simultaneously in all the organized precincts in the state. (It is estimated that the poll will be conducted in over 350 of the 475 precincts organized by

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<sup>1</sup> In 1996, the Republican Party of Alaska (RPA) conducted such a straw poll which resulted in significant national attention and in-state campaigning by a number of candidates. This year the Central Committee of the RPA has delegated responsibility for the straw poll to the Federation.

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the state.<sup>2</sup>) The Federation has set a date for the poll, is preparing the ballots and will coordinate the counting and release of the results. The Federation will open a separate bank account to hold funds to pay for the straw poll and will deposit all donations into that account to fund the straw poll. The costs of the straw poll will include the preparation and distribution of the ballots, various telephone, fax and communication charges to coordinate the poll and obtain and tally the results. Advertising is planned to alert potential voters of the timing and location of the straw poll. The ads will be purely informational and will not use the poll as a device to seek to obtain new Republican registrants and will not encourage voters to vote "Republican." No advocacy of the election of specific candidates will occur by the Federation. In essence, the Federation will simply conduct the straw poll much like the state does when it conducts a primary. Incidentally, this is to be an all volunteer activity - no paid staff will be involved.

The straw poll is non-binding and plays no part in the election of Alaska's delegates to the Republican National Convention at which the Party's presidential nominee will be selected. The Rules of the Republican Party of Alaska specify that Alaska's delegates to the national convention are selected at a state convention to be held next spring, which will be attended by delegates who were elected at separate district conventions across the state. The results of the straw poll are purely advisory. The results are not binding on the district conventions, or the delegates selected there, on the state convention or the delegates to the national convention. The straw poll merely canvasses Republican voters, to determine a preference.<sup>3</sup>

To pay for the costs of conducting the straw poll, the Federation intends to solicit donations of money and in-kind goods and services. Funds donated to the Federation for the straw poll will not be used for any local or state election purposes. The funds will not be donated to any local state or federal candidates. The Federation will not use these funds to advocate the election of any particular candidate, and will not otherwise advocate for votes at the straw poll for any particular candidate. Candidates and their campaigns can be expected to advocate their candidacies, but such advocacy will be separate from any expenditures by the Federation.

The straw poll will be held at the same location on the same evening as the Republican precinct caucuses. Those caucuses elect precinct committee men and women, and conduct other organizational activities for the precincts. Under the rules of the straw poll, the straw poll will be

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<sup>2</sup> A number of those "missing" precincts are in remote rural communities which traditionally have not had an organized Republican party presence. Therefore, there are no volunteers to conduct the poll in those communities.

<sup>3</sup> The nature of the straw poll and its non-relation to the actual electoral process is well illustrated by the 1996 experience. Then, the straw poll results were Buchanan (1<sup>st</sup>), Forbes (2<sup>nd</sup>), and Dole (3<sup>rd</sup>). At the national convention, however, Alaska's delegates overwhelmingly voted to nominate Senator Dole.

conducted after the caucuses are adjourned. One does not have to participate in the caucuses to vote in the straw poll, and those at the caucuses can choose not to vote in the straw poll.

The caucuses and subsequent district and state conventions themselves do not result in the nomination of candidates for federal, state or local office. All state and non-presidential federal candidates are nominated in a primary held in late August. See AS § 15.25.010 et seq. As noted, the presidential delegates are elected at a state convention held in April or May 2000.

1. The basic issue presented is whether the straw poll, as described, is an activity subject to regulation under the Federal Election Campaign Act (the Act) 2 U.S.C.A. § 431 et seq., and its implementing regulations.

We note that the FEC has jurisdiction over "contributions" and "expenditures" as defined in the Act. The proposed donations and expenses involved with the straw poll do not appear to be "contributions" or "expenditures." 2 U.S.C. § 431(8) defines "contributions" as "any gift . . . made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for Federal office . . . ." Expenditure is defined in 2 U.S.C. § 431(9)(A) in similar terms. "Any purchase, payment . . . or gift of money made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for Federal office . . . ."

The law provides that express advocacy of a clearly identified candidate is required for an expense to be intended to influence the outcome of an election. Federal Election Commission v. Massachusetts Citizens for Life, Inc., 479 U.S. 238, 249, 107 S. Ct. 616, 623, 93 L.Ed.2d 539 (1986); Orloski v. Federal Election Commission, 795 F.2d 156, 160-161 (D.C. Cir. 1986); Federal Election Commission v. Christian Advocate Network, 894 F. Supp. 946 (W.D. VA 1995).

Thus, since donations to the Federation for the straw poll and expenses incurred by the Federation to conduct the straw poll will not expressly advocate the election or defeat of any clearly identified candidate, these donations and expenses do not appear to meet the definitions of contributions or expenditures under the Act.

Also, the straw poll is not an "election" as defined by the Act. The straw poll is not a general, special, primary or run-off election. An election is the "process by which individuals seek nomination for election to Federal office." 11 C.F.R. § 100.2(a). The straw poll, as noted, plays no role in the nomination for election of presidential candidates.

In Alaska, candidates seek nomination for election to federal office through the primary election, held in August. Presidential delegates are selected at the State Convention. The straw poll has no bearing upon either process. It would be a stretch to conclude that the straw poll has even the faintest incidental or tangential influence on the outcome of the Party's nomination process. See F.E.C. Advisory Opinion 1988-10 (April 15, 1988), 1988 WL 170407.

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In the above-cited advisory opinion, the Commission found that the election of party committee chairpersons was not an "election" or a "level" of the delegate selection process under the Act. In that case, the chairperson elections were held together with a presidential preference poll which determined the allocation of delegates to the national convention. Thus, the chairperson elections were the initial part of the actual, formal delegate nomination process for the state party. Plus, the candidates for those chairperson positions were declared supporters for individual presidential candidates. Once elected, these chairpersons - and not the party membership in general - constituted the electorate for selection of delegates to the national convention.<sup>4</sup> Despite the fact that the elections for chairperson were the only opportunity for the general membership to vote for the candidate of their choice and, moreover, that such voting was an integral and necessary part of the nomination process, this Commission ruled that the election was nonetheless too "incidental and tangential" to fall under the Act.

In contrast, no offices whatsoever will be filled, nor delegates chosen and no allocation of delegates will result from the Alaska straw poll. Less than "incidental or tangential," the straw poll is entirely removed from the Party's electoral process. It merely canvasses Party membership. Accordingly, the Federation believes that the proposed straw poll should not be considered an "election" under 2 U.S.C.A. § 431(a).

Because the Federation is merely providing the opportunity for the straw poll and not advocating the election of any particular candidate or candidates, and because the straw poll is not an election, it does not appear that the Act applies to the Federation activities in this regard. Please advise if this conclusion is correct.<sup>5</sup>

**2. Whether straw poll expenses must be allocated pursuant to the allocation rule.**

11 C.F.R. § 106.5 governs the allocation of certain expenses between federal and non-federal activities by party committees. Section 106.5(b) identifies a list of expenses which must be allocated. Inasmuch as the expenses of the straw poll are, at most, indirectly related to the nomination of the Republican nominee for President, it does not appear that any related expenses should be allocated as state election expenses at all. These expenses will have no effect on state candidates or elections.

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<sup>4</sup> In that case the state convention selected additional delegates. However, the chairpersons still maintained much control over that process, since delegates to the state convention were also chosen by the chairpersons.

<sup>5</sup> The Federation concedes that contributions to particular candidates and expenditures by those candidates in connection with the straw poll may be subject to regulation by the FEC. It merely seeks an advisory opinion that its activities in sponsoring and conducting the straw poll are not expenditures or contributions subject to regulation by the Act.

Subsection (i) of Section 106.5 requires allocation of any administrative expenses which are not directly attributable to clearly identified candidates. Such expenses include rent, utilities, office supplies and salaries. Conducting the straw poll will not involve any additional overhead expenses. The Federation already maintains an office and all expenses related to that office are allocated according to the formula in the regulations. All specific expenses of the straw poll such as phone calls, copying or printing costs, mailing or shipping costs and advertising will be separately monitored and paid for with funds donated to the Federation for the purpose of conducting the straw poll.

Subsection (ii) requires allocation of expenses for a fundraising event where both federal and non-federal funds are raised. Here, the straw poll is not such a fundraising event. No federal "contributions" will be received and no "state" contributions will be received. Funds donated for the straw poll will not be contributed to either state or federal candidates or used for any purpose in connection with such elections. The donations will cover costs only.

Subsection (iii) requires allocation of certain activities otherwise exempt from the definitions of contributions and expenditures under 2 USC 431 (8) and (9) and 11 C.F.R. § 100.7(b) (9), (15) and (17), and § 100.8(b) (10), (16) and (18). Under § 100.7(b)(9) and § 100.8(b)(10), slate cards, sample ballots and the like are not "contributions" and "expenditures" but must be allocated. Here the ballots will only list candidates for federal election i.e. the nomination of the National Republican Party. No widespread distribution of sample ballots or slate cards will occur. And of course this will not be an "election," as defined by the Act. Under § 100.7(b)(15) and § 100.8(b)(16), distribution of campaign materials prepared by candidates is not a covered contribution or expenditure. Here, the Federation will distribute no such candidate materials. Under § 100.7(b)(17) and § 100.8(b)(18), voter registration drives and get out the vote drives in connection with the nominees for President and Vice President are not covered contributions and expenditures and must be allocated. Here the activity is not being conducted in connection with the Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees of the Republican Party because those nominees will not be selected until 8 months after the straw poll. This is not a "get out the vote" activity since there is no "election" involved. And while people will be allowed to register at the straw poll, the purpose is not to solicit registrations. It is to permit voters to express a preference. Accordingly, none of the straw poll activities fall within the meaning of the relevant portions of § 100.7(b) and § 100.8(b). Since they do not fall under those provisions, the straw poll activities should not be allocated to both federal and state activities. At most they involve only federal candidates.

Subsection (iv) of 11 C.F.R. 106.5 requires allocation of generic voter drives, get-out-the-vote activities, or "any other activities that urge the general public to register, vote, or support candidates of a particular party . . ." Here, of course, the straw poll will encourage voters to select a Republican candidate for the presidential nomination. The purpose of this straw poll is to obtain a valid expression of Alaska's choice as the Republican nominee. The straw poll attracts significant national media attention. Therefore, candidates want to participate. Attention is focused on specific Alaska issues which otherwise may escape the attention of national candidates. Because of the straw

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poll, candidates for the nomination visit Alaska and address Alaskan issues. It also creates interest in the nomination process.<sup>5</sup> These are the principal purposes of the straw poll. Public advertising will simply provide information as to the location and nature of the straw poll and caucuses. The ads will not encourage voters to register as republicans or vote for any candidates in an "election" as defined by the ACT.<sup>6</sup> Thus, this activity is not the kind of generic voter drive which the regulation should be applied to.

Thus the proposed straw poll does not appear to involve the kind of activities that would require allocation of the expenses among "state" and "federal" accounts.

In short, the Federation proposes to conduct a straw poll, much as the state conducts the primary or general election. There will be no express advocacy of a particular candidate. There will be no attempt on the part of the Federation to influence the outcome of the straw poll which ultimately plays no role in the nomination process. Thus, the Act should not apply to this activity.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have concerning this proposed activity. The plans for the straw poll are already well under way and we would appreciate the earliest possible response.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. McKeever

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<sup>6</sup> Party registration in Alaska plays no role in who can vote in primary or general elections. Alaska has a completely open primary in which a voter can choose among all the candidates seeking nomination in a particular race without regard to party. See AS 15.25.010 et seq. And primary voters can vote for a Republican in one race and a Democrat or Green party candidate in another race. Party registration can be easily changed. Alaska does not allow "straight party" or "party line" voting. Voters must actually vote for each candidate in every race on the ballot. Therefore any increase in registration that may result from the straw poll is of no actual benefit to the Federation.



**FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION**

**Washington, DC 20463**

**August 12, 1999**

**Timothy A. McKeever  
Holmes Weddle & Barcott  
701 West Eighth Avenue  
Suite 700  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3408**

**Dear Mr. McKeever:**

**This refers to your letter dated August 4, 1999, on behalf of the Alaska Federation of Republican Women ("the Federation") concerning application of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), and Commission regulations to the conduct of a presidential preference straw poll.**

**You state that the Federation is a party committee as defined under 11 CFR 100.5(e)(4) and is registered with the Commission as a political committee. In January 2000, the Federation plans to conduct a presidential preference straw poll in which Alaskans may express their preference as to the Republican presidential nominee.**

**You describe the process, stating that the straw poll will adopt several of the formalities of an election but that it will not play any part in the election of Alaska's delegates to the national convention. The Federation will conduct the straw poll simultaneously in all of the State's organized precincts. To pay for the costs, it will solicit donations of money and in-kinds goods and services, and will deposit the funds in a separate bank account opened specifically for the poll. The costs will include the preparation and distribution of ballots, communication charges to coordinate the poll and tally the votes, and advertising. Advertising will inform potential voters of the timing and location of the poll. You assert that the advertising will be purely informational and will not be used to obtain new Republican registrants or to advocate voting Republican.**

**You ask for an advisory opinion confirming that the Federation is merely providing the opportunity for a straw poll and not advocating the election of any presidential candidate, that the straw poll is not an election, and that, hence, the receipt and disbursements of funds for the poll are not contributions and expenditures under the Act. You also ask whether, in the alternative, the expenses must be allocated under 11 CFR 106.5, or whether they can be paid entirely with funds raised outside of the Act.**

The Act authorizes the Commission to issue an advisory opinion request in response to a "complete written request" from any person with respect to a specific transaction or activity by the requesting person. 2 U.S.C. §437f(a). Commission regulations explain that such a request "shall include a complete description of all facts relevant to the specific transaction or activity with respect to which the request is made." 11 CFR 112.1(c).

In view of these requirements, you will need to provide responses to the following questions:

- (1) Explain how the straw poll differs from a presidential preference primary, which meets the definition of "primary election" according to 11 CFR 100.2(c)(2). See also 2 U.S.C. §431(1)(D).
- (2) Cite and briefly summarize the provisions of Alaska State law and regulations that address the raising of funds and spending for the straw poll, as well as any other provisions directly pertaining to the straw poll.
- (3) Cite and provide copies of the Alaska State Republican party rules that address the raising of funds and spending for the straw poll, as well as the other provisions directly pertaining to the straw poll.
- (4) Describe in more detail the advertising and other communications, by the Federation or other State party units, to solicit donations, to invite persons to the poll, to describe the event, and to inform people as to how to participate. Your description should include the mode of communication (e.g., direct mail, e-mails, handouts by volunteers, phone banks, use of print and broadcast media), the contents of such communications, to whom the communications are directed (e.g., specific targets). Provide samples of such communications (e.g., sample mailings, scripts and texts of communications) that fully and accurately represent the language used, and state the target of each sample communication.
- (5) Explain more fully the relationship between precinct caucuses and the subsequent district and State conventions (which select national convention delegates), including whether the caucuses, or the precinct committee persons elected there, choose or give direction to the delegates to those conventions. Explain more fully the relationship between precinct caucuses and the straw poll, including a discussion and description of communications that publicize or advertise the two events together, whether there is any separation in time or location between the caucus and the poll, and whether invitees are made aware of the separation. Describe the extent to which advertising for the straw poll is expected to reach those who will not also be attending the precinct caucuses.
- (6) Explain and describe what activities or communications, other than those specifically related to the administration of the straw poll itself, occur at the straw poll. These other activities or communications would include, but not be limited to, registration of new

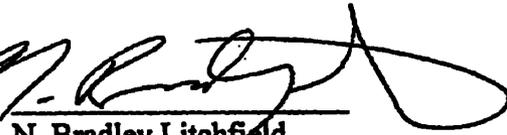
**Republicans and discussions or communications as to party activities. Provide representative samples of written communications distributed or posted at the event.**

**For your information and guidance, this office encloses Advisory Opinions 1991-33, 1988-10, 1986-6, and 1979-71. Upon receiving your responses to the above questions, this office and the Commission will give further consideration to your inquiry as an advisory opinion request. If you have any questions concerning the advisory opinion process, the enclosed opinions, or this letter, please contact Jonathan Levin, a senior attorney in this office, at 202-694-1650.**

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Noble  
General Counsel

BY:



N. Bradley Litchfield  
Associate General Counsel

Enclosures

Advisory Opinions 1991-33, 1988-10, 1986-6, and 1979-71

LAW OFFICES OF  
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September 3, 1999

N. Bradley Litchfield  
General Counsel's Office  
Federal Election Commission  
999 E Street  
Washington D.C. 20463

AOR 1999-27

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL ELECTION  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF GENERAL  
COUNSEL  
SEP 7 3 55 PM '99

Re: Advisory Opinion  
Our File No. 3729-15158

Dear Mr. Litchfield:

This letter is in response to your letter to me of August 12, 1999, seeking additional information concerning my request for an advisory opinion, dated August 4, 1999.

Let me respond to each of your questions in turn.

The proposed presidential straw poll varies from a primary election in several regards. In AO.1979-71, the Commission indicated that to be a "preference primary," an election must be a "primary election" for the expression of a preference by "official ballot" for a presidential candidate. The straw poll is not a "primary election" under Alaska state law. Alaska law provides only for a primary election to nominate candidates for state office and the United States Congress to be held in August of each even-numbered year. AS 15.15.010 et seq. Alaska law does not provide for any presidential primary election, either binding or non-binding. *Id.* Alaska law is silent on the method of selecting delegates to the national nominating conventions of the respective political parties. Also, the "ballot" to be used will not be an "official ballot." The Alaska Division of Elections, which is charged with responsibility under Alaska law with conducting the elections (A.S. 15.10.105), plays no role in the straw poll. In short, the straw poll is not a "primary election" involving an official ballot under Alaska state law.

The straw poll also is not binding on any delegate. Unlike other states where the presidential preference primary results guide the selection of delegates to the national convention (either by serving to apportion delegates, or to bind delegates to vote for certain candidates), the results of the straw poll play no role in the actual selection of delegates. Delegates are not obligated to follow the straw poll results. Thus, the straw poll is non-binding and not a primary election per se.

However, we respectfully suggest that the nature of the straw poll and any similarity to a presidential preference primary is irrelevant to the central issue presented by our request. The Federation concedes that contributions and expenditures made to and by individuals, campaigns and candidates seeking to influence the outcome of the straw poll would be subject to the Commission's jurisdiction since they would involve express advocacy of clearly identifiable candidates. But, the Federation's request is based on the premise that it will not be advocating the election of any clearly identified candidate. The Federation will simply be providing the opportunity for voters to express their choice. Therefore, we believe this is not a presidential preference primary but, even if it were, the role of the Federation in sponsoring it would not give rise to "express advocacy" and, therefore, would not be subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

As noted above, there are no Alaska state laws which authorize or regulate the straw poll. It is entirely a creation of party rules. The applicability of Alaska campaign financing laws to the straw poll is uncertain.<sup>1</sup> The state law does not expressly mention this type of "election" and does not appear to apply to an activity which is devoted, at most, to presidential candidates. The Federation has sought an advisory opinion concerning the applicability of state law to this activity, but has not yet obtained a response from the Alaska Public Offices Commission.

The rules of the Republican Party of Alaska do not specifically address the raising or the spending of funds for the straw poll. Attached as Exhibit A are the sole references in the rules to the straw poll. As you can see, those rules simply provide that the straw poll is to be conducted in conjunction with the precinct caucuses, that the party shall provide the ballots and provide for the release of results. No mention is made of fundraising or spending. As described in our earlier letter, the Party has delegated the responsibility to the Federation to conduct the poll in 2000.

For a number of reasons, the exact nature of the communications relating to the straw poll have not been determined. The plans for the straw poll are still being made and, therefore, many details are not decided. To a large extent, the nature of communications is likely to depend on the funds available to the Federation which obviously depends on clarification of the role of state and federal regulations. However, there are general plans that have been agreed upon.

It is likely that solicitation of funds for the straw poll will be limited and specifically targeted on those who are determined to be eligible to contribute. Most of that communication is likely to be personal communication over the telephone or in person. Potential donors will be told about the poll, reminded of the fact that it was conducted in 1996, the potential for significant national attention for Alaska and Alaskan political issues. Donors will be encouraged to help support this effort. Support for or any benefit to any specific candidate will not be part of any solicitation.

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<sup>1</sup> AS 15.13.010(a)(1) states "The [campaign finance] law applies to elections for governor, lieutenant governor, a member of the state legislature, a delegate to a constitutional convention or judge. . ."

At present, three types of communication by the Federation are anticipated to potential participants in the straw poll. First, it is likely that a post card will be sent to all registered Republicans in the State of Alaska advising them of the straw poll, the nature of the straw poll, where they can go to participate in the straw poll and similar details.

Public advertising of the straw poll is also anticipated. Those advertisements will probably be placed in selected local newspapers and on radio stations. It is likely that those advertisements will stress the fact that the Alaska straw poll will be the first to be held in the election year, that it will put Alaska and Alaskan political issues before the candidates and media, and encourage people to participate. Attached as Exhibit B is an early draft of such an advertisement.

Finally, the Federation will likely issue press releases to the media announcing the straw poll. Both the advertisement and press releases will probably include the date, time and location of the straw poll and a brief reference to the caucuses to avoid confusion.

The Federation is also looking at the possibility of having a Internet web site at which potential participants could learn about the straw poll and perhaps even cast ballots. Security provisions will be incorporated to ensure only qualified persons vote.

At this point, the Federation does not anticipate using phone banks, handouts or general e-mail efforts to publicize the straw poll. The Federation's notification and publicity effort will not be targeted on particular groups or voters other than as outlined above.

I have attached as Exhibit C the relevant portions of the state party rules addressing the relationship between the caucuses and the subsequent district and state conventions. To summarize, at the caucuses each precinct elects a committeeman and woman and other precinct officers. Suggestions are solicited for changes in the party platform, the party resolutions and rules. The precinct caucuses also select delegates to a district convention. In fact, in most cases there are not enough persons attending the caucuses to fill out the delegate slates to the district conventions, so all those interested in serving as delegate to district conventions are selected. In those precincts where there are more persons interested than delegate slots, an election is held. There are some 40 districts across the state (some of which are not organized and functioning).

Several weeks later, the district conventions meet and select district offices, discuss and act on suggestions for changes to the party platform, resolutions and rules and to elect delegates to the state convention. Some districts are very large.<sup>2</sup> Given the great distances and high cost of travel,

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<sup>2</sup> District 5 includes communities on several islands in Southeast Alaska. It stretches several hundred miles from Klawock to Yakutat. District 36 stretches over 800 miles from the Canadian border down the Yukon River almost to its mouth at the Bering Sea. There are several dozen small villages scattered across this vast area. District 35 stretches several hundred miles along interior

it is often difficult for districts to locate enough delegates (who must pay their own way) to attend the state convention. In most Districts, all individuals who wish to be delegates to the state convention can do so. Obviously, in some Districts there are elections for delegates to the state convention and the delegates at the District Convention vote in that election.

Several weeks later the state convention convenes. The cost to attend, even for local residents, is usually about \$150.00. For out-of-town delegates who must stay in hotels and travel by air, the cost is often close to \$1,000.00. The 350 or so delegates to the state convention elect party officers, adopt a party platform and resolutions, adopt changes in party rules and vote for a slate of delegates to the national convention. National convention delegates do not have to have been delegates to their district or state conventions.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, precinct officers elected at caucuses have only a small indirect role in who becomes a delegate to the district and state conventions. Delegates to the district convention selected at the precinct caucuses also have relatively little say in who becomes a national delegate.

Although the caucuses will be taking place on the same day and usually in the same building as the straw poll, to the extent possible, they will be entirely separate from each other and physically distinct. Everyone present will be aware of the separation of the two. Participants can vote in the straw poll without participating in the caucus and vice versa. This fact will be made clear to all participants.

The Federation will advertize and publicize the straw poll only, but will probably include in its advertisements a brief incidental reference to the caucus and that participation in the caucus is not required to vote in the straw poll. The purpose of that brief mention will be to avoid confusion by participants.

The precinct caucuses may be advertised by the district or state party. To the extent possible, the Federation will make sure those ads do not include references to the straw poll. But, a brief, incidental reference again may be appropriate to avoid confusion. There will be no advertising by the Federation of both the caucuses and straw poll. It is likely that the advertising for the straw poll will reach most members of the public in Alaska.

Present plans call for the straw poll to simply involve the delivery of ballots and the marking of ballots. Prior to the caucuses and straw poll, the voter registration of all participants will be confirmed, since by party rules only registered Republicans can participate. Alaska law will permit

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highways of the state from Delta Junction to Cordova.

<sup>3</sup> This rule change has been adopted by the party after the rules in Exhibits A and C were published. A copy of the revised rule is attached as Exhibit D.

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**voters to change their registration at the door or to register for the first time. However, there will be no specific effort to encourage or promote Republican registration.**

**During the straw poll there will not be general communications concerning party activities or events, donations to the party or candidates will not be solicited, communications concerning party platforms or positions will not be made. Some of those activities may occur in the caucuses, but they will not occur during the straw poll voting. No written materials will be distributed to voters in the straw poll other than the ballot which will simply list Republican candidates in alphabetical order. The ballots have not yet been prepared.**

**I hope the foregoing adequately responds to your request for additional information and assume the request is now complete and the Commission can begin to address it. However, if you have additional questions or wish further clarification, please let me know and we will be happy to provide you will more information.**

**Sincerely,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TAM', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Timothy A. McKeever**

**TAM/RJB/ps/ka  
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## **ARTICLE XV - PRESIDENTIAL STRAW POLL**

### **Section 1: Straw Poll Mandate**

The Republican party of Alaska shall hold a Presidential Straw poll in the year of a Presidential election on a single date statewide set by the SCC.

### **Section 2: Voter Eligibility**

Any voter who is registered as a Republican at the time of the Presidential Straw poll shall be eligible to vote. No proxy votes are permitted, and no absentee votes are permitted. Each Republican voter may vote only once, and may vote in a district or precinct other than his own should circumstances preclude his attendance at his own precinct caucus.

### **Section 3: Reporting**

The Presidential Straw poll shall be held simultaneously with the Precinct Caucus of that year. Precinct officers shall certify the results and report those results at the time and in the manner determined by the SCC.

### **Section 4: Ballot Content**

The Presidential Straw poll shall be prepared by the RPA, shall list candidates alphabetically, and shall be identical for all districts and precincts. Any person who has filed formal Federal Election Commission papers for the office of President of the United States as a Republican shall be considered a viable candidate and listed on the ballot.

### **Section 5: Candidate Forums**

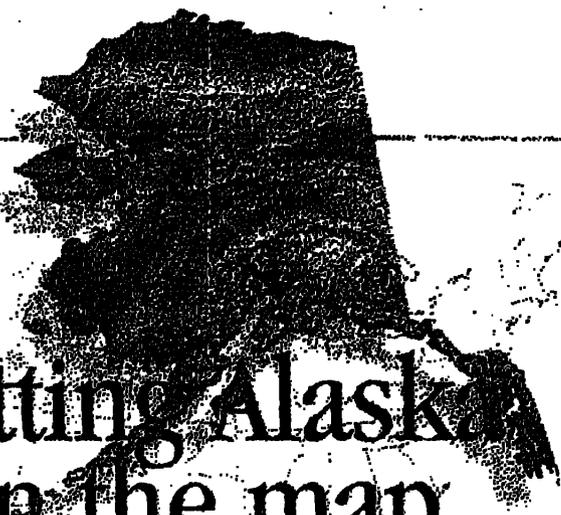
(a) The RPA, its district organizations and officers, and its affiliated Republican organizations, are encouraged to provide forums

for any Republican presidential candidate traveling to Alaska to campaign. Such forums shall not be construed as endorsement of any particular candidate, and Republicans acting for the RPA in providing such forums should endeavor to make similar forums available for any other Republican presidential candidate who may request it.

(b) The RPA should endeavor to provide a statewide forum for a debate by as many Republican presidential candidate participants as possible.

1/24 M.

**DRAFT**



# Putting Alaska on the map

*Alaska Republican Party*

## *Straw Poll*

Alaska is holding the first straw poll of the millennium. Help generate national media attention with a turnout that shows we take choosing our next President seriously. Your involvement will put Alaska on the map.

**Monday, January 24, 2000  
7 pm**

Districts 10 through 16 -- West High School  
Districts 17 through 25 -- Service High School

Straw Poll ballots will be distributed immediately following short precinct caucuses. Participation in these caucuses is not required.

**Call 276-8616 for more information**

Paid for by Alaska Federation of Republican Women

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## **ARTICLE I - STATE CONVENTIONS**

### **Section 1: Call for Regular State Convention**

A Regular State Convention of the Republican Party of Alaska (RPA) shall be called biennially during the even-numbered years by the Republican State Central Committee (SCC), to be held at such time and place within the State of Alaska as may be determined by the SCC. The date established for the Regular State Convention shall be ninety (90) or more calendar days before the beginning date of said convention. The date set for the Regular State Convention during a Presidential Election year shall be such that delegates to the Republican National Convention will be elected thirty-five (35) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the Republican National Convention. If the date of Regular Precinct Caucus is to be restricted on a state-wide basis, then the Call for Regular State Convention shall be issued sixty (60) or more calendar days before the earliest date of Regular Precinct Caucus and one-hundred fifty (150) or more calendar days before the date set for the beginning of the Regular State Convention. Information in the Call for Regular State Convention shall include the time, date, and place of the convention; the number and apportionment of delegates and alternate delegates to the convention; and the schedule of fees for the convention.

### **Section 2: Registration Fees for a State Convention**

The delegate and alternate delegate registration fee for the Regular State Convention shall be set by the SCC and shall be included as information in the Call for Regular State Convention. Alternate delegates who are eligible for seating as permanent delegates must pay the remainder of the delegate registration fee before being seated.

### **Section 3: Apportionment of Delegates to the Regular State Convention**

The Call for Regular State Convention shall state the total number of delegates and alternates to the convention, as well as the apportionment of delegates and alternates to each district. The

formula base number of authorized delegates and alternates to the State Convention shall be determined by a majority vote of the SCC at the meeting in which the time of the convention is set. The formula base number shall be not less than three hundred and fifty (350) delegates. The delegates represented by the formula base number will be portioned among the various districts on the basis of the vote for the Republican Candidate for U.S. Congressman at the last preceding Alaska State General Election. Each district is entitled to the same percentage of delegates that its vote for the Republican Candidate for Representative to Congress bears to the total vote in the State of Alaska for such candidate. Districts allocated a part of a delegate under this procedure shall be allocated an additional delegate for that part. Districts allocated fewer than three delegates under the preceding procedures shall be authorized three delegates. An equal number of alternate delegates shall be apportioned to state conventions on the same basis and in the same manner as provided herein for the apportionment of delegates.

#### **Section 4: Purpose of the Regular State Convention**

The purpose of the Regular State Convention shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Election of Republican Party officers as required by the rules of the RPA.
- (b) Election of a National Committeeman and a National Committeewoman as required by the rules of the RPA.
- (c) Revision of the Rules of the RPA as required.
- (d) Election of delegates and alternate delegates to the Republican National Convention.
- (e) Review and/or revision of the platform and policies of the RPA.
- (f) Formulation of resolutions stating the position of the RPA on various state and national issues.
- (g) Enlistment, encouragement, and training of candidates for local, state, and national elective office, as well as campaign workers.
- (h) Review and formulation of plans to raise the necessary funds to support Republican candidates and the RPA.
- (i) Formulation of plans for political organization of the RPA and methods to encourage Alaskans to become members of the Republican Party.

- (j) Enhancement of communications between elected Republican officials and all Republicans throughout the State of Alaska.

### **Section 5: Officers of a State Convention**

The State Chairman and State Secretary of the RPA shall be the permanent chairman and permanent secretary at any state convention of the RPA. The convention chairman shall have the authority to grant special privileges of the floor when he deems necessary.

### **Section 6: Chairmen of State Convention Committees**

The State Chairman of the RPA shall appoint a chairman of each standing and special committee of the State Convention and report such appointments to the convention Committee on Committees for approval at the time set prior to the State Convention.

### **Section 7: Committee on Committees for the State Convention**

The SCC of the RPA shall be the Committee on Committees for the State Convention. The SCC shall meet within a period of not more than twenty-four (24) hours before the beginning of the State Convention for the purpose of

- (a) approving the temporary roll of the convention.
- (b) approving the convention agenda as prepared by the State Chairman.
- (c) assignment of delegates from the temporary roll to the convention committees.
- (d) preparing special reports to be submitted to the convention.

The Committee on Committees shall meet as necessary during the convention.

**Section 8: Qualifications for Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the State Convention**

(a) Each delegate and alternate delegate to the State Convention shall be a registered voter in his District, shall be a registered Republican, and shall have been seated as a delegate at the District Convention of the District in which he resides.

(b) Each delegate and alternate delegate to the State Convention shall have signed the Registry of the State Convention during the period in which Registration was open.

(c) There shall be no automatic delegates at any level of the delegate selection process. Republican U.S. and Alaska State Legislators shall be allowed delegate status at the State Convention during Off-Presidential Election years.

(d) If a delegate or alternate delegate to a State Convention moves to another district within the state after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the district in which he was elected. If a district boundary is moved after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the precinct in which he was elected.

(e) Each delegate and alternate delegate to the State Convention shall have been selected as a delegate or alternate delegate by his District according to the rules of the RPA.

**Section 9: Certification of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the State Convention**

An alphabetical list of persons elected as Delegates to the State Convention (Elected State Delegate List) and a ranked list of Alternate Delegates to the State Convention (Elected State Alternate Delegate List) for each district shall be filed with the State Secretary of the RPA by the District Chairman within a period of not more than ten (10) calendar days after the adjournment of the District Convention. These lists will be used to make up the Temporary Roll of the State Convention. Each list will contain the name, address, and phone number of each person on the list. The names and district of each delegate and alternate delegate of the Temporary Roll of the State Convention will be made available to the public at reasonable cost ten (10) or more calendar days before the opening day of the State Convention.

**Section 10: Challenges to State Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates**

Any properly registered Republican voter may challenge the qualifications of any delegate or alternate delegate to the State Convention by appealing to the State Credentials Committee. All challenges must in writing, must state the grounds for the challenge, and must be filed with the State Secretary seven (7) or more calendar days before the date of the beginning of the State Convention. An unfavorable decision by the State Credentials Committee may be appealed to that State Convention, whose decision shall be final.

**Section 11: Rights of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the State Convention**

- (a) Any seated delegate to the State Convention has the right to
  - (1) be nominated for and be, if elected, a delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention during Presidential Election Years.
  - 2) serve as a voting member of a convention committee.
  - (3) speak and present motions to the State Convention, when and if recognized by the Chairman of the State Convention.
  - (4) vote, if present at the time the vote is taken, on any issue which may come before the State Convention.
- (b) Any alternate delegate to the State Convention has the right to serve as a non-voting member of a convention committee.

**Section 12: Seating of Delegates to the State Convention**

(a) Registration for State Conventions shall close one hour after State Convention convenes on the first day, unless otherwise stated in the Call to State Convention. The convention Credentials Committee shall issue the temporary roll of the convention as soon as possible after the close of delegate registration.

- (b) Seating of delegates and alternate delegates to a state convention shall be in accordance with the following procedures:
- (1) Registered delegates present shall be seated first.

(2) Thereafter, alternate delegates shall be assigned to vacancies on the delegate list. These assignments shall be first selected in sequence from the top of the alternate delegate list of their respective districts, it being the intent that no district delegation shall remain short of seated delegates so long as registered alternate delegates from the district are physically present.

(3) In the event an elected delegate has not registered by the close of registration of a state convention, an alternate delegate will be assigned to that delegate seat for the duration of the state convention.

(4) Providing the permanent seating of alternates in a state convention has not yet occurred, a delegate registering prior to the close of registration may assume his seat over an alternate delegate.

### **Section 13: Order of Business for the State Convention**

The state convention shall proceed by the order of business printed in the state convention agenda as submitted by the State Chairman and approved by the SCC.

### **Section 14: Election and Appointment of Republican Party Officers**

(a) During the even-numbered years following presidential election years, the state convention shall elect the following officers of the RPA for four (4) year terms:

- (i) State Chairman
- (ii) State Vice-Chairman
- (iii) State Secretary
- (iv) Assistant State Secretary

(b) There shall be a State Treasurer and Assistant State Treasurer for the RPA who shall be appointed by the State Chairman and approved by a majority of the SCC at the SCC meeting immediately after the State Convention. The State Treasurer and Assistant State Treasurer shall be technically well experienced in accounting.

(c) During presidential election years, the state convention shall elect one National Committeeman and one National Committeewoman who shall represent the RPA as members of the Republican National Committee for a four (4) year term.

**Section 15: Election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Republican National Convention**

(a) The Alaska State Convention is entitled to send to the Republican National Convention the number of delegates and alternate delegates specified by the Rules of the Republican Party.

(b) All delegates and alternates shall be elected thirty-five (35) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the meeting of the Republican National Convention.

(c) The State Convention shall endeavor to have equal representation of men and women in its delegation to the Republican National Convention.

(d) No person may be elected as a delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention who is not a seated delegate at the Regular State Convention.

(e) If a delegate or alternate delegate to a Regular State Convention moves to another district within the state after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the district in which he was elected. If a district boundary is moved after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the district in which he was elected.

**(f) Delegation to the National Convention**

(1) Each person who desires to be elected a delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention must submit a completed written Nomination Request to the State Convention Nominations Committee before nominations are begun. Such person must be personally present and registered at the Regular State Convention.

(2) A list of delegates to the Republican National Convention shall be elected at large from those who are qualified according to the requirements of Article I, Sections 15(e) and 15(f)(1). They shall be elected by a plurality of the seated delegates at the Regular State Convention.

(3) When the Regular State Convention has elected a complete slate of delegates to the Republican National Convention, then a list of alternate delegates to the Republican National Convention shall be elected from those who are qualified according to the requirements of Article I, Sections 15(a) through 15(e). The completed list shall be set in order of preference, and approved by a majority of the seated delegates at the Regular State Convention.

**Section 16: Records of the State Convention**

(a) A written register (State Convention Register) shall be signed by all delegates and alternate delegates present at the State Convention. This register shall include the name, address, and telephone number of each person registering. This register shall close one hour after the State Convention convenes on the first day unless otherwise stated in the Call to State Convention.

(b) The State Secretary shall keep an accurate copy of the minutes of the State Convention.

**Section 17: Requirement to Hold a Regular State Convention**

Regular State Conventions shall be held biennially, in even-numbered years.

**Section 18: Special State Conventions**

(a) Special State Conventions of the RPA may be called by the SCC of the RPA when deemed necessary by the SCC. The call shall be issued forty-five (45) or more calendar days before the beginning of the Special State Convention.

(b) The roll of any Special State Convention of the RPA shall be the same as the preceding Regular State Convention unless otherwise directed by the SCC. Special State Conventions of the RPA shall be treated as if the preceding State Convention were reconvened, provided that districts were not instructed otherwise in the convention call issued by the SCC. In cases when some delegates are no longer available from a district for a Special State Convention, the delegates from that district may caucus and select replacement delegates to the convention.

**Section 19: Standing Committees of the State Convention**

(a) The Standing Committees of the State Convention of the RPA shall be:

- (1) Campaign and Candidates
- (2) Credentials
- (3) Finance

- (4) Nominations
- (5) Organization
- (6) Platform Policy/Resolutions
- (7) Public Relations
- (8) Rules

(b) In addition to the above committees, the State Chairman shall appoint the following:

- (1) Canvass Committee
- (2) Convention Arrangements Committee
- (3) Convention Pages
- (4) Convention Parliamentarian
- (5) Sergeant-at-Arms

**Section 20: Special Committees of the State Convention**

The State Chairman shall appoint any special committees he or the SCC deems necessary for studying any issue requiring special attention of the convention and reporting on that issue to the state convention.

## **ARTICLE III - DISTRICT CONVENTIONS**

### **Section 1: Call for Regular District Convention**

A Regular District Convention shall be called by the District Committee whenever a Call for Regular State Convention is issued by the SCC. The date set for the Regular District Convention shall be such that delegates to the Regular State Convention will be elected thirty (30) or more calendar days before the date set for the Regular State Convention. The District Chairman shall determine the time, date, and place for a Regular Precinct Caucus for each precinct in the district by consulting with the precinct committeemen and precinct committeewomen. If a precinct is unorganized, the District Chairman shall determine the date, time, and place of the caucus. The time, date, place, and fee schedule of the Regular District Convention and the time, date, and place of each Regular Precinct Caucus in the district shall be publicly announced sixty-seven (67) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the Regular State Convention and sixty (60) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the Regular District Convention and seven (7) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the first Regular Precinct Caucus within the district. Public announcement shall include publication in a newspaper or appropriate news media which is normally available throughout the district.

### **Section 2: Fee Schedule for a District Convention**

The delegate and alternate delegate registration fee for the District Convention shall be set by the District Committee, and shall be included as information in the Call for District Convention. Alternate delegates who are eligible for seating as permanent delegates must pay the remainder of the delegate registration fee before being seated.

### **Section 3: Apportionment of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to a Regular District Convention**

At a Regular District Convention, each precinct is entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate for each twenty-five (25)

votes, or fraction thereof, cast in such precinct for the Republican candidate for representative to Congress in the last preceding Alaska State General Election.

#### **Section 4: Purpose of the Regular District Convention**

The purpose of the Regular District Convention shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Election of RPA officers as required by the rules of the RPA.
- (b) Proposals for revision of the Rules of the RPA as required.
- (c) Election of delegates and alternate delegates to the Regular State Convention.
- (d) Proposals for revision of the platform and policies of the RPA.
- (e) Proposal of resolutions stating the position of the RPA on various state and national issues.
- (f) Enlistment, encouragement and training of candidates for local, state and national elective office, as well as campaign workers.
- (g) Review and formulation of plans to raise the necessary funds to support Republican candidates and the RPA.
- (h) Formulation of plans for political organization of the district, and methods to encourage Alaskans to become members of the Republican Party.
- (i) Enhancement of communications between elected Republican officials and all Republicans throughout the State of Alaska.

#### **Section 5: Officers of a District Convention**

The District Chairman and the District Secretary shall be the permanent chairman and permanent secretary at any district convention of the RPA. The convention chairman shall have the authority to grant special privileges of the floor when he deems necessary.

**Section 6: Chairmen of District Convention Committees**

The District Chairman shall appoint a chairman of all standing and special committees of the District Convention and report such appointment to the convention Committee on Committees for their approval prior to the District Convention.

**Section 7: Committee on Committees for the District Convention**

The District Executive Committee shall be the Committee on Committees of the District Convention. The District Executive Committee shall meet prior to the district convention for the purposes of:

- (a) Approving the temporary roll of the convention,
- (b) Approving the convention agenda as prepared by the District Chairman,
- (c) Assigning delegates from the temporary roll to the convention committees, and
- (d) Preparing special reports to be submitted to the convention.

The Committee on Committees shall meet as necessary during the convention.

**Section 8: Qualifications for Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the District Convention**

(a) Each delegate and alternate delegate to the District Convention shall be a qualified voter in his precinct at the time of the precinct caucus and shall be a registered Republican.

(b) Each delegate and alternate delegate to the District Convention shall have signed the Registry of the District Convention during the period in which Registration was open or shall have previously submitted to the District Credentials Committee a written Reason for District Absence Statement. Persons who were present at their Precinct Caucus and were elected as delegates to the District Convention, but who will not be able to attend the District Convention may submit a Reason for District Absence statement to the District Credentials Committee three (3) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the District Convention.

(c) If a delegate or alternate delegate to a District Convention moves to another precinct within the District after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the precinct in which he was elected. If a precinct boundary is moved after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the precinct in which he was elected.

(d) Each delegate and alternate delegate to the District Convention shall have been selected as a delegate or alternate delegate by his Precinct according to the rules of the RPA.

### **Section 9: Certification of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the District Convention**

The Precinct Committeeman and/or Precinct Committeewoman shall be responsible for having an alphabetical list of persons elected as Delegates to the District Convention (Elected District Delegate List) and a ranked list of Alternate Delegates to the District Convention (Elected District Alternate Delegate List) for their precinct filed with the District Chairman within a period of not more than seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Precinct Caucus. These lists will be used to make up the Temporary Roll of the District Convention. Each list will contain the name, address, and phone number of each person on the list. The names and district of each delegate and alternate delegate of the Temporary Roll of the District Convention will be made available to the public at reasonable cost ten (10) or more calendar days before the opening day of the District Convention.

### **Section 10: Challenges to District Convention Delegates or Alternate Delegates**

Any properly registered Republican voter may challenge the qualifications of any delegate or alternate delegate to the District Convention by appealing to the District Credentials Committee. All challenges must be in writing, must state the grounds for the challenge, and must be filed with the District Secretary seven (7) or more calendar days before the date of the beginning of the District Convention. An unfavorable decision by the District Credentials Committee may be appealed to that District Convention, whose decision shall be final.

**Section 11: Rights of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the District Convention**

Any delegate or alternate delegate to the District Convention has the right to be elected a delegate or alternate delegate to a state convention. All delegates or seated alternate delegates shall have the right to serve on a convention committee and to vote on any issue which may come before the convention.

(a) Any seated delegate to the District Convention has the right to:

- (1) be nominated for and be, if elected, a delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican State Convention.
- (2) serve as a voting member of a convention committee.
- (3) speak and present motions to the District Convention when and if recognized by the Chairman of the District Convention.
- (4) vote, if present at the time the vote is taken, on any issue which may come before the District Convention.

(b) Any alternate delegate to the District Convention has the right to serve as a non-voting member of a convention committee.

**Section 12: Seating of Delegates to the District Convention**

(a) Registration for District Conventions shall close one hour after District Convention convenes on the first day, unless otherwise stated in the District Call to Convention. The convention Credentials Committee shall issue the temporary roll of the convention as soon as possible after the close of delegate registration.

(b) Seating

(1) At the close of registration, all persons listed on the Elected District Delegate List of their precinct, if registered at the District Convention, shall be seated as permanent delegates to the District Convention.

(2) If any vacancy still exists in the number of seated delegates for any precinct, and if the District Credentials Committee has received a written Reason for District Absence Statement from any person on the Elected District Delegate List from that precinct,

and if that person was present at the Precinct Caucus, then that person shall be seated as a permanent delegate to the District Convention.

(3) If any vacancy still exists in the number of seated delegates for any precinct, alternate delegates shall be selected starting at the top of the Elected District Alternate Delegate List of the respective precinct. Such alternate delegate, if registered at the District Convention, shall be seated as a permanent delegate to the District Convention.

(4) If any vacancy still exists in the number of seated delegates for any Precinct, and if the Precinct Caucus was unable to form an Elected District Alternate Delegate List from those attending the Caucus, then alternate delegates shall be selected starting at the top of the Nominations List of the respective precinct. Such alternate, if registered at the District Convention, will be seated as a permanent delegate to the District Convention.

### **Section 13: Order of Business for the District Convention**

The District Convention shall proceed by the order of business printed in the convention agenda as submitted by the District Chairman and approved by the District Executive Committee.

### **Section 14: Election and Appointment of Republican Party Officers**

(a) During each regular biennial district convention, the Convention shall elect the following officers of the District for a two (2) year term:

- (1) District Chairman
- (2) District Vice-Chairman
- (3) District Secretary
- (4) Assistant District Secretary

(b) The District Treasurer, Assistant District Treasurer and District Finance Chairman shall be appointed by the District Chairman and confirmed by the District Executive Committee. They shall be voting members of the District Committee.

(c) In addition, the District Convention shall elect a Bonus Member to the SCC for each State Representative residing in or elected from that district. These Bonus Members shall be elected in

order of rank and shall be so listed in the Minutes of the District Convention.

**Section 15: Election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Regular State Convention**

(a) Each district is entitled to send to the Regular State Convention the number of delegates and alternate delegates specified in the Call for Regular State Convention.

(b) No person may be elected as a delegate or alternate delegate to the Regular State Convention who is not a seated delegate at the Regular District Convention.

(c) If a delegate or alternate delegate to a Regular State Convention moves to another district after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the district in which he was elected. If a district boundary is moved after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the district in which he was elected.

(d) Election of delegates and alternate delegates

(1) Each person who desires to be elected a delegate or alternate delegate to the Regular State Convention must submit a completed written Nomination Request to the District Convention Nominations Committee before nominations are begun. Such person must either be personally present and registered at the Regular District Convention or must submit a written Reason for District Absence Statement to the District Secretary before the Regular district Convention begins.

(2) A list of delegates to the Regular State Convention shall be elected at large from those who are qualified according to the requirements of Article I, Sections 15(a) through 15(e). They shall be elected by a plurality of the seated delegates at the Regular District Convention. This Elected State Delegate List is not ranked, is to be submitted in alphabetical order, and is to contain the name, address, and phone number of each person on the list. If any delegate on this list was not personally present at the Regular District Convention, then that information shall be noted on the Elected State Delegate List, and their Reason For District Absence Statement shall be attached to the list.

(3) When the Regular District Convention has elected a complete slate of delegates to the Regular State Convention, then an Elected State Alternate Delegate List to the Regular State Convention shall be elected from those who are qualified according to the

requirements of Article V, Sections 15(b) and 15(c)(1). The completed list shall be set in order of preference, and approved by a majority of the seated delegates at the Regular District Convention. This Elected State Alternate Delegate List is to be submitted in order of precedence and is to contain the name, address, and phone number of each person on the list.

### **Section 16: Records of the District Convention**

(a) A written register (District Convention Register) shall be signed by all delegates and alternate delegates present at the District Convention. This register shall include the name, address, and telephone number of each person registering. This register shall close one hour after the District State convenes on the first day, unless otherwise stated in the Call to District Convention.

(b) The District Secretary shall keep an accurate copy of the minutes of the District Convention.

(c) The District Chairman shall submit to the State Secretary of the RPA:

- (1) Within a period of not more than five(5)calendar days following the date of publication or notification of the District Convention Call, a copy of the newspaper publication or other proof of notification,
- (2) Ten (10) or more calendar days before the date of the beginning of the District Convention, a copy of the Temporary Roll of the District Convention,
- (3) Within a period of not more than ten (10) calendar days after the last day of the District Convention:
  - (i) A list containing the name, address, and phone number of each District Officer elected or appointed,
  - (ii) A ranked list containing the name, address, and phone number of each District Bonus Member elected,
  - (iii) A copy of the Elected State Delegate List,
  - (iv) A copy of the Elected State Alternate Delegate List, and
  - (v) A copy, in the original format, of each proposed rule change approved by the Rules

**Committee of the Regular District  
Convention,**

**(4) Within a period of not more than twenty (20) calendar days after the last day of the District Convention, a copy of the Minutes of the District Convention, which shall include a copy of all District Convention Committee reports and**

**(d) In addition, within a period of not more than twenty (20) calendar days after the last day of the District Convention, the District Chairman shall make a copy of the District Convention minutes available, upon request, to each delegate to the State Convention from that district.**

**Section 17: Failure to Hold a Regular District Convention**

**If a District fails to issue a call for a Regular District Convention during the period designated by a call for a Regular State Convention, the**

**(a) State Chairman of the RPA shall declare all district offices vacant and shall call an Emergency District Convention to elect officers and delegates to the State Convention.**

**(b) State Chairman appoints a temporary district chairman.**

**(c) The State Chairman publishes a call to Emergency District Convention including announcement of Emergency Precinct Caucuses for the district. This call shall be published fifty-five (55) or more calendar days before the date of the State Convention and twenty-five (25) or more calendar days before the date of the Emergency District Convention and five (5) or more calendar days before the date of the Emergency Precinct Caucuses. The Emergency Precinct Caucuses shall be held twenty-five (25) or more calendar days before the date of the Emergency District Convention and fifty (50) or more calendar days before the date of the Regular State Convention.**

**(d) Precinct Committeemen and Committeewomen notify their District Chairman and the RPA of attendance and results of elections at emergency precinct caucuses within a period of not more than five (5) calendar days following the Emergency Precinct Caucus.**

**(e) District Chairman will provide a copy of the Temporary Roll of the Emergency District Convention to the RPA ten (10) or more calendar days before the date of the Emergency District Convention.**

(f) Emergency District Convention shall be held twenty-five (25) or more calendar days before the Regular State Convention.

(g) District Chairman will provide a list of elected officers, delegates, and alternate delegates to the State Convention, as well as copies of proposed rules changes to the RPA within a period of not more than 10 calendar days after the date of the Emergency District Convention.

(h) District Chairman will provide a copy of the minutes of the Emergency District Convention including copies of proposed changes in the rules, platform, and resolutions to the RPA within a period of not more than 20 calendar days after the date of the Emergency District Convention.

### **Section 18: Special District Conventions**

(a) Special District Conventions of the RPA may be called by the District Committee when deemed necessary by the committee or upon a call for a Special State Convention issued by the SCC.

(b) Special District Conventions of the RPA shall be called by the District Committee thirty (30) or more calendar days before the time fixed for said convention except when precinct caucuses are required by the convention call. If precinct caucuses are required, then Article III, Section 1 applies.

(c) The roll of any Special District Convention of the RPA shall be the same as the preceding District Convention unless otherwise directed by the SCC or District Committee. Special conventions shall be treated as if the preceding District Convention was reconvened provided that:

(1) Districts were not instructed otherwise in the convention call issued by the SCC and,

(2) District Committees have not instructed precincts to caucus to elect delegates to the Special District Conventions.

(d) In cases when some delegates are no longer available from a precinct for a Special District Convention, the remaining delegates from that precinct may caucus and select replacement delegates to the convention.

## **Section 19: Standing Committees of the District Convention**

The standing committees of the district convention shall be:

- (a) Campaign and Candidates Credentials
- (b) Platform/Policy
- (c) Finance
- (d) Resolutions
- (e) Nominations
- (f) Rules

In addition to the above committees, the District Chairman may appoint the following:

- (a) Canvass Committee
- (b) Convention Parliamentarian
- (c) Convention Arrangements Committee
- (d) Sergeant-at-Arms
- (e) Convention Pages

## **Section 20: Special Committees of the District Convention**

The District Chairman shall appoint any special committees he or the District Committee deems necessary to study and report to the state or district conventions on any issue requiring special attention of the convention.

## **Section 21: Combination of Districts**

(a) The Republican Alaska State House Districts within an Alaska State Senate District may combine to form a single Republican Combined District, with district officers elected at large. The decision to combine districts shall be made by a majority vote at each district convention by the delegates of each district authorized to vote at the conventions in which the vote is to be taken. The decision to organize as separate districts may be made by a majority vote at a district convention of delegates from either district.

(b) As a combined district, the District Chairman and District Vice-Chairman shall be residents of separate Alaska State House

Districts. Each shall have a vote on the SCC, but may assign a proxy to a Republican in the Combined District.

(c) Bonus Members shall be residents of the Alaska State House District that is represented by a Republican in the Alaska State House, but a proxy may be assigned to a Republican in the Combined District.

(d) Delegates to the State Convention shall be elected by a majority vote at the Combined District Convention. Delegates and alternate delegates shall be elected as apportioned by the SCC.

## **ARTICLE V - PRECINCT CAUCUS**

### **Section 1: Call for Regular Precinct Caucus**

A Regular Precinct Caucus shall be called by the Precinct Committeeman and/or the Precinct Committeewoman whenever a call for a Regular State Convention is issued by the SCC. The date set for a Regular Precinct Caucus shall be such that delegates to the Regular District Convention will be elected thirty (30) or more calendar days before the date set for the Regular District Convention. The Precinct Committeeman and/or Precinct Committeewoman shall consult with the District Chairman to determine the time, date, and place of the Regular Precinct Caucus, and the number of delegates and alternate delegates to the District Convention allowed the precinct. The time, date, and place of the Regular Precinct Caucus shall be publicly announced sixty-seven (67) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the State Convention and sixty (60) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the District Convention and seven (7) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the Regular Precinct Caucus. Public announcement shall include publication in a newspaper or appropriate news media which is normally available throughout the precinct.

### **Section 2: Fee Schedule for Precinct Caucus**

There shall be no fee set for Precinct Caucuses.

### **Section 3: Apportionment of Participants in a Precinct Caucus**

There shall be no numerical limitation on participants in a Precinct Caucus.

#### **Section 4: Purpose of the Regular Precinct Caucus**

The purpose of the Regular Precinct Caucus shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) Election of a Precinct Committeeman and a Committeewoman for a two (2) year term.
- (b) Appointment of a Precinct Secretary, Precinct Treasurer, and Precinct Finance Chairman.
- (c) Proposals for revision of the Rules of the RPA as required.
- (d) Election of delegates and alternate delegates to the Regular District Convention.
- (e) Proposals for revision of the platform and policies of the RPA.
- (f) Proposals of resolutions stating the position of the RPA on various state and national issues.
- (g) Enlistment, encouragement, and training of candidates for local, state, and national elective office, as well as campaign workers.
- (h) Review and formulation of plans to raise the necessary funds to support Republican candidates and the RPA.
- (i) Formulation of plans for political organization of the precinct, and methods to encourage Alaskans to become members of the Republican Party.
- (j) Enhancement of communications between elected Republican officials and all Republicans throughout the State of Alaska.
- (k) Any other precinct business necessary prior to the District Convention.

#### **Section 5: Officers of a Precinct Caucus**

The Precinct Committeeman or the Precinct Committeewoman shall be the permanent chairman at any Precinct Caucus of the RPA. The chairman shall have the authority to grant special privileges of the floor when he deems necessary.

### **Section 6: Chairmen of Precinct Meeting Committees**

The Precinct Committeeman and/or Precinct Committeewoman may appoint chairman of special committees for the Precinct Meeting.

### **Section 7: Committee on Committees for the Precinct Meeting**

The Precinct Committeeman and the Precinct Committeewoman shall form the Committee on Committees for any precinct meeting. They shall meet before the meeting to establish the meeting agenda and prepare any special reports for the meeting.

### **Section 8: Qualifications of Participants in the Precinct Meeting**

No person may participate in a Precinct Meeting who is not a registered Republican residing in that precinct. No Person may participate in a Precinct Meeting who has not signed the Precinct Meeting Register and provided a current address and telephone number for inclusion in the Register.

### **Section 9: Certification of Participants at a Precinct Meeting**

Certification of participants shall be from the latest Voter Registration List published by the State of Alaska. If the potential participant is not on that list, then he must show proof of registration and residence in the precinct. If no other proof is available, then a certificate of registration as a Republican and/or change of address may be completed at the Precinct Meeting prior to the election of delegates from that precinct. Certification as a registered voter of a temporary precinct shall be determined as best as possible from available descriptions and maps.

### **Section 10: Challenges to Precinct Caucus Participants**

Any properly registered Republican voter may challenge the credentials of any prospective participant in a precinct meeting by appealing to a temporary Credentials Committee formed of the Precinct Committeeman, the Precinct Committeewoman, and the Precinct Secretary. An unfavorable decision by that committee may

then be appealed to the certified participants at the Precinct Meeting as a Committee of the Whole, whose decision shall be final. All challenges must in writing, must state the grounds for the challenge, and must be filed with the Precinct Secretary before the voting begins for Precinct Officers.

### **Section 11: Rights of Participants in a Precinct Caucus**

Any participant at a Regular Precinct Caucus has the right to:

- (a) be nominated for and be, if elected, a delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican District Convention.
- (b) speak and present motions to the Precinct Caucus, when and if recognized by the Chairman of the Precinct Caucus.
- (c) vote, if present at the time the vote is taken, on any issue which may come before the Precinct Caucus.

### **Section 12: Seating of Participants at a Precinct Caucus**

The Precinct Meeting Register shall be closed before any item is voted upon at the meeting, but in no case shall the Precinct Meeting Register be closed before twenty (20) or more minutes after the announced time of the meeting.

### **Section 13: Order of Business of the Precinct Caucus**

The Precinct Meeting shall proceed by the order of business established by the Precinct Committeeman and the Precinct Committeewoman.

### **Section 14: Election and Appointment of Republican Party Officers**

- (a) Election of a Precinct Committeeman and a Precinct Committeewoman for a two (2) year term.
- (b) The Precinct Secretary, Precinct Treasurer and Precinct Finance Chairman shall be appointed by the Precinct Committeeman

and the Precinct Committeewoman. They shall be voting members of the Precinct Committee.

**Section 15: Election of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Regular District Convention**

(a) Each precinct is entitled to send one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate delegate to the District Convention for each twenty-five (25) votes or fraction thereof cast in such precinct for the Republican candidate for Representative to Congress in the last preceding Alaska State General Election.

(b) No person may be elected as a delegate or alternate delegate to the Regular District Convention who is not a registered Republican residing in the precinct from which he is elected.

(c) Delegate selection

(1) Each person who desires to be elected a delegate or alternate delegate to the Regular District Convention must submit a completed written Nomination Request to the Precinct Secretary before nominations are begun. Such person must either be personally present at the Precinct Caucus or must submit a written Reason for Precinct Absence Statement to the Precinct Secretary before the Precinct Caucus begins.

(2) A list of delegates to the Regular District Convention shall be elected at large from those who are qualified according to the requirements of Article I, Sections 15(a) through 15(e). They shall be elected by a plurality of participants at the Regular Precinct Caucus. This Elected District Delegate List is not ranked, is to be submitted in alphabetical order, and is to contain the name, address, and phone number of each person on the list. If any delegate on this list was not personally present at the Precinct Caucus, that information shall be noted on the Elected District Delegate List, and their Reason For Precinct Absence statement shall be attached to the list.

(3) If the Regular Precinct Caucus has elected a complete slate of delegates to the Regular District Convention, then an Elected District Alternate Delegate List to the Regular District Convention shall be elected from those who are qualified according to the requirements of Article I, Sections 15(a) through 15(e). The completed list shall be set in order of preference and approved by a majority of the participants at the Regular Precinct Caucus. This Elected District Alternate Delegate List is to be submitted in order of precedence and is to contain the name, address, and phone number of each person on the list.

(4) If a Regular Precinct Caucus is convened on the date published by a Notice of Precinct Caucus and a full complement of delegates is not elected during this caucus, the Precinct Committeeman and/or Precinct Committeewoman may accept completed written Nomination Requests and Reason for Precinct Absence Statements from persons who were not in attendance at the Regular Precinct Caucus. The Precinct Committeeman and/or Precinct Committeewoman will list those whose forms have been received to produce a Nominations List. This Nominations List is to be submitted in order of precedence and is to contain the name, address, and phone number of each person on the list. A copy of the Reason for Precinct Absence Statement for each person on the list shall be attached to the list.

#### **Section 16: Records of the Regular Precinct Caucus**

(a) A written register (Precinct Meeting Register) shall be signed by all registered Republicans who reside in the precinct and who are present at a precinct caucus. This Precinct Meeting Register shall include the name, address, and telephone number of each person registering. This register shall be closed before any item is voted upon at the meeting, but in no case shall the Precinct Meeting Register be closed before twenty (20) or more minutes after the announced time of the meeting.

(b) The Precinct Secretary shall keep an accurate copy of the minutes of the Precinct Meeting.

(c) The Precinct Secretary shall submit one copy of the following to the District Chairman and one copy to the State Secretary of the RPA within a period of not more than seven (7) calendar days after the date of the Precinct Caucus:

- (1) Precinct Meeting Register
- (2) A list of Precinct Officers elected
- (3) Elected District Delegate List
- (4) Elected District Alternate Delegate List
- (5) Nominations List (if applicable)

### **Section 17: Failure to Hold a Regular Precinct Caucus**

When a precinct has failed to caucus and/or elect a full contingent of delegates to the District Convention thirty (30) or more calendar days before the date of the District Convention, the District Chairman shall call an Emergency Precinct Caucus to elect a Committeeman and/or Committeewoman from that precinct. Delegates and alternate delegates to the District Convention may then be elected at such Emergency Precinct Caucus after the Committeeman and/or Committeewoman is elected. The call shall be published twenty-five (25) or more calendar days before the date of the District Convention. The caucus shall be held twenty (20) or more calendar days before the date of the District Convention. The call shall be published five (5) or more calendar days prior to the date the caucus is to be held. Lists containing

- (a) the names, addresses, and phone numbers of persons voting at the caucus;
  - (b) the Precinct Officers elected;
  - (c) the delegates to the District Convention elected; and
  - (d) the alternate delegates to the District Convention elected
- will be sent to the District Chairman and to the Headquarters of the RPA within a period of not more than five (5) calendar days after the date of the meeting.

### **Section 18: Special Precinct Meeting**

Special Precinct Meetings of the RPA may be called by the Precinct Committee when deemed necessary by the committee, or upon a call for a Special District Convention issued by the District Committee.

### **Section 19: Standing Committees of the Precinct Caucus**

No standing committees are established for a Precinct Caucus

### **Section 20: Special Committees of the Precinct Caucus**

**Section 15: Republican National Convention Delegate and Alternate Delegate Election**

**Interim Rule Adopted April 17, 1999**

- (a) The Alaska State Convention is entitled to send to the Republican National Convention the number of delegates and alternate delegates specified by NRC Rules.
- (b) All delegates and alternates shall be elected thirty-five (35) or more calendar days before the beginning date of the meeting of the Republican National Convention.
- (c) The State Convention shall endeavor to have equal representation of men and women in its delegation to the Republican National Convention.
- (d) Any registered Alaskan Republican who is not a seated delegate at the Regular State Convention may be elected as a delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention.
- (e) Any seated State Convention delegate has the right to be nominated for and be, if elected, a delegate or alternate delegate to the Republican National Convention.
- (f) If a delegate or alternate delegate to a Regular State Convention moves to another district within the state after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the district in which he was elected. If a district boundary is moved after his election as a delegate or alternate delegate, he shall retain his seat from the district in which he was elected.
- (g) Delegation to the National Convention