

## State of Alaska

### PFD Automatic Voter Registration & Updates to Registrations FAQ's

The PFD Automatic Voter Registration law became effective on March 1, 2017. This means that for 2017, only PFD applications received from March 1<sup>st</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> will be processed for PFD automatic voter registration.

#### **What is PFD Automatic Voter Registration?**

In 2016, Alaskan voters approved Ballot Measure 1 ([15PFVR](#)), which will automatically register or update voter registration information of eligible individuals when they apply for a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD).

The Division of Elections is required to send a notice to eligible individuals who can either become a newly registered voter or can have their voter registration record updated from information provided on their PFD application with this automatic voter registration process.

#### **What are the qualifications to be an Alaska voter?**

Applicants who meet the following criteria are qualified for registration through the PFD application process:

- 1) Is a citizen of the United States;
- 2) Is 18 years of age or older;
- 3) Is an Alaskan Resident;
- 4) Has not been convicted of a felony of moral turpitude, or, if convicted, has been unconditionally discharged from incarceration, probation and/or parole.

#### **Who is not included in the PFD Automatic Voter Registration?**

Applicants who meet any of the following criteria will not be registered through the PFD application process:

- 1) Individuals who do not meet the voter qualifications;
- 2) Convicted felons who have not been unconditionally discharged from incarceration, probation and parole;
- 3) Non U.S. Citizens.

#### **Why is the Division of Elections sending me mail?**

The law requires the Division of Elections to send each PFD applicant that is eligible to vote an opt-out mailer giving the applicant/voter the option to opt-out of being automatically registered to vote or have their voter registration record updated.

#### **What are my options?**

With this new law you have the following options:

- **Take no action.** No response is necessary if you want the information provided on your PFD application to be used for your voter registration record. Not responding to this notice indicates your consent to cancel any registration to vote in another jurisdiction.
- **Use the opt-out** mailer to decline to register to vote or update your existing voter registration record. You must check the box on the reverse side and return the card to the Division of Elections.

- **Select or update your political affiliation** by contacting the Division of Elections. New voters will automatically be registered with the political affiliation undeclared. The political affiliation on existing voter records will not be changed. Please note that your political affiliation may determine which primary ballot you may vote.
- **Make your residence address private** by contacting the Division of Elections. Please note that this may only be completed if you have a different mailing address than your residence address.

### **What if I do not want to be registered to vote or have my registration record updated?**

The Division of Elections will be sending each Alaskan who is eligible for automatic registration or needs their existing voter registration record updated, an opt-out mailer. You can use this mailer to opt-out and decline to register to vote or update your existing voter registration record. You still have the option to register to vote or update your registration by going [online](#), completing and mailing a [voter registration application](#), or by visiting your [regional elections office](#).

### **How long do I have to decide?**

You will have 30 days from the date the opt-out mailer was sent to you. The deadline date will be indicated on the mailer for your convenience.

### **Will a party be selected for me?**

No. The Division of Elections will not decide which party you will be affiliated with, although if you take no action and the 30 day deadline to respond has passed, you will become an undeclared registered voter (a registered voter declaring no party). If you are already a registered voter, your political affiliation will not be changed from what is already in the voter database unless you contact the Division of Elections to change your political affiliation. The Division of Elections encourages you to research and select a party affiliation or to select no affiliation on your own. You can find information on parties on our [website](#).

### **What happens if I miss the deadline?**

Should you miss the deadline, you will automatically be registered as an undeclared voter. You still have options if you miss the deadline. You can still update your information or cancel your registration by contacting your [regional elections office](#).

### **If I opted out this year, am I out forever?**

The way the law is currently written, if you opt-out this year and you apply for a PFD again next year then you will be sent the opt-out mailer again.

### **How will this impact my registration status if I am already registered, haven't moved or voted?**

Each year as you apply for your PFD, information will be shared with the Division of Elections. The Division will then cross match this information and treat this as new voter contact thus keeping your registration active. Your registration will remain active even if you have not voted in a recent election or made other contact regarding your registration.

### **What is public information and what is private?**

Alaska law allows for any person to request a statewide or house district voting list. These lists contain public information such as name, residence address (unless requested to be private), mailing address, political affiliation, and voter history. Please note that residence addresses can only be kept confidential if a voter provides a separate mailing address and requests for their residence to be private.

Certain information in voter records is considered confidential. [AS 15.07.195](#)

The following information is confidential and not open to public inspection:

- 1) Voter's age or Date of Birth
- 2) Voter's SSN or any part of it
- 3) Voter's Driver's License Number
- 4) Voter Identification Number
- 5) Voter's place of birth
- 6) Residence address (if a separate mailing address was provided)
- 7) Voter signature

### **I thought my PFD information was private?**

With exception to the applicant's name, all other information provided on PFD applications is considered private information. However the PFD Division may release confidential information to local, state or federal agencies which include the Division of Elections as required by this new law.

### **I don't want my residence address to be public information, what can I do?**

You can contact the Division of Elections and request your residence address remain private by providing a separate mailing address. The mailing address will have to be different than your residence address.

### **What happens if I move after I apply for my PFD and are automatically registered or had my registration updated?**

You can update your address by contacting [your regional office](#) or by going to the [Division of Elections website](#) to use the [Online Voter Registration system](#). Mailing addresses can be updated via telephone while physical addresses have to be submitted in writing.

### **Where can I find more information about Alaska's elections?**

You can find more information on our [website](#).