

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE  
Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority

*BILL WALKER, GOVERNOR*

Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman

3745 Community Park Loop. Suite 200  
Anchorage AK 99508  
Phone (907) 334-4480  
Fax (907) 334-4486

October 14, 2016

Dear Administrator,

Last month, you received a letter and brochures from our office which provided information on how you could assist the residents in your home to register to vote. As the November 8<sup>th</sup> election date approaches, we encourage you to assist the residents in your home to vote. Residents living in assisted living homes retain their right to vote no matter what type of care they receive, **even if they have a guardian**. Please share the brochures enclosed with this letter with the residents in your home.

Below are some ways assisted living home staff can assist residents to vote:

- Ask family members if they are able to support their loved ones to vote
- Provide transportation to and from the polls during early voting or on election day
- Assist residents in completing a ballot in person or a mail in absentee ballot by explaining instructions, reading the ballot choices, checking the ballot to ensure it accurately reflects the resident's choices and reviewing the ballot for any choices that may have been missed

Here are things facility staff **CANNOT** do when assisting a resident to vote:

- Try to influence a resident's vote or mark a ballot in any way other than as directed by the resident
- Tell anyone how the resident voted
- Vote by proxy, for example "In the past, this resident has always voted a straight party ticket. Now she does not respond to anything around her, so I will vote her ballot as a straight party ticket, because that is what she would have wanted."
- If staff are unable to reliably determine how the resident wants to vote, they cannot assist a resident to complete a ballot

Feel free to call us at 907-334-4480 (1-800-730-6393) if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Teresa Holt  
State Long Term Care Ombudsman