

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

September 15, 2016

Re: Voter Registration for Residents in Assisted Living Homes

Dear Administrator,

The right to vote is a cornerstone of American society. Residents of assisted living homes retain their right to vote no matter where they live or what type of care they receive, **even if they have a guardian**. The Office of the Long Term Care Ombudsman is partnering with AARP, the Disability Law Center, the League of Women Voters and the Division of Elections to increase voting opportunities to residents living in assisted living homes across Alaska.

Enclosed with this letter are some brochures about registering to vote that we would like you to give to the residents in your assisted living home. These brochures explain who can vote and how to register to vote.

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

- When residents move into your home, ask if they would like to vote in upcoming elections
- Ask family members if they are able to support residents to vote
- Assist residents in registering to vote
- If you or family members are not able to transport residents to vote in person at polling locations on November 8th, you can assist them in completing mail-in absentee ballot applications. Facility staff **CANNOT** request a mail-in absentee ballot without a resident's knowledge

In October we will be sending another brochure explaining how your residents can vote in person or by mail-in absentee ballot. Feel free to call us at 334-4480 (1-800-730-6393 toll free) if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Teresa Holt
State Long Term Care Ombudsman