

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
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September 15, 2016

Re: Voter Registration for Residents in Skilled Nursing Facilities

Dear Administrator,

The right to vote is a cornerstone of American society. Residents of nursing facilities 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 nursing facilities 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 nursing facility. These brochures explain who can vote and how to register to vote.

Below are some ways nursing facility staff can assist residents to register to vote:

- When residents move into your facility, 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 your residents are unable to vote in person at a polling place, 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
- Provide activities that educate the residents about the candidates and issues
- Assist residents in maintaining their voter registration cards or identity cards

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