

Introduced by: Mayor Johnson
Date: March 8, 2016
Public Hearing: March 22, 2016
Action: Adopted
Vote: Unanimous

Yes:	No:
Best	
LaFrance	
Carrington	
Combs	
DeVries	
Hanson	
Johnson	

CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA

Ordinance No. 16-005

An Ordinance of the Palmer City Council Amending Palmer Municipal Code Sections 18.35.081 Counting Early Ballots and 18.35.090 Counting Questioned Ballots

THE CITY OF PALMER, ALASKA ORDAINS:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance shall be permanent in nature and shall be incorporated into the Palmer Municipal Code.

Section 2. Severability. If any provision of this ordinance or any application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of this ordinance and the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

Section 3. Section 18.35.081 is hereby amended to read as follows (new language is underlined and deleted language is stricken out):

18.35.081 Counting early ballots.

- A. The early ballots shall be delivered to the city canvass board for counting as determined by the clerk. The tabulation of early ballots may not begin until the canvass board has identified and segregated ballots voted early by voters who also cast ballots in another manner in the election.
- B. Early ballot envelopes shall be reviewed by the canvass board to determine whether the voter is qualified to vote at the election and whether the ballot has been properly cast. If an early ballot is found to be sufficient after research by a canvass board, the canvass board may accept the ballot for counting.
- C. An early ballot shall be counted despite failure of the early-voting official to properly sign and date the voter's certificate as attesting official.
- D. An early ballot shall be counted despite voter's failure to sign the early ballot envelope, provided the voter signed the early voter register and the canvass board has determined the voter is qualified and the ballot has been properly cast.
- E. ~~Ø.~~ If the voter is qualified and the ballot has been properly cast ~~and is accepted~~, the early ballot envelope shall be opened and the secrecy envelope shall be mixed with other secrecy envelopes for counting.

- ~~F.~~ E. The ballots shall then be removed from the secrecy envelopes and shall be mixed with the other ballots for counting.
- ~~G.~~ F. If the ballot has not been properly cast, the clerk shall notify the voter, in writing, of the reason the ballot was not counted. The rejected ballot shall be placed in a container which shall be labeled "no count ballots" and shall be destroyed as set out in PMC 18.35.120.

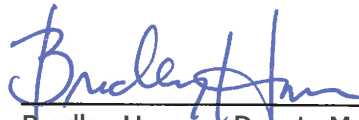
Section 4. Section 18.35.090 is hereby amended to read as follows (new language is underlined and deleted language is stricken out):


18.35.090 Counting questioned ballots.

- A. Questioned ballots shall be delivered to the city canvass board for counting as determined by the clerk.
- B. After research, the canvass board by majority vote may refuse to accept the question and count the ballot of a person properly questioned. ~~If the ballot is accepted, the ballot envelope shall be opened and the ballot envelope shall be mixed with other ballot envelopes for counting.~~
- C. A questioned ballot shall be counted despite failure of the questioned voting official to properly sign and date the voter's certificate as attesting official.
- D. A questioned ballot shall be counted despite voter's failure to sign the questioned ballot envelope, provided the voter signed the questioned ballot register and the canvass board has determined the voter is qualified and the ballot has been properly cast.
- E. If the voter is qualified and the ballot has been properly cast, the questioned ballot envelope shall be opened and the secrecy envelope shall be mixed with other secrecy envelopes for counting.
- F. The ballots shall then be removed from the secrecy envelopes and shall be mixed with the other ballots for counting.
- ~~G.~~ D. If the question is accepted and the ballot is refused, the clerk shall notify the questioned voter, in writing, of the reason the ballot was not counted. The rejected ballots shall be placed in a container which shall be labeled "no count ballots" and shall be preserved as set out in PMC 18.35.120.

Section 5. Effective Date. Ordinance No. 16-005 shall take effect upon adoption by the City of Palmer City Council.

Passed and approved this twenty-second day of March, 2016.


Bradley Hanson, Deputy Mayor


Janette M. Bower, MMC, City Clerk