

**CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**May 19, 2017**

**TO:** Lee Thibert, Chief Executive Officer

**THROUGH:** Tyler Andrews, VP Member and Employee Services

**FROM:** Teresa Kurka, Director of Member Services

**SUBJECT:** **2017 Election Report**

**2017 Election Recap**

This was our first year of balloting through primarily electronic means while still offering paper balloting by request to our members. The foundation was laid for this change beginning in 2011 when we offered electronic voting for the first time. Communication efforts for this year's election began in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2016 and continued up through the last week of balloting in May 2017. Chugach used a variety of communication tools including email, IVR/Phone, mail, social media, Web, and our monthly newsletter to reach all members.

Voting opened on Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup> with a voting email campaign sent to over 44,000 Chugach members and paper ballots being mailed to 402 members who had requested them. With 68,826 members of record at election time, it was significant that Chugach member services staff had collected email addresses for nearly 2/3 of the membership.

In terms of voter participation, we had been told to expect a drop with the paperless voting default. However, we found that we were able to increase our overall voter participation over 2016 with 7,436 valid ballots versus 6,329 from 2016; representing 10.8% of the membership and more than a thousand votes more than 2016.

**Voting Statistics**

Members of Record for the 2017 Election	68,826
Valid Email Addresses for Members	44,182
Paper Ballot Requests	402
Validated Mail Ballots Cast	167
Electronic Ballots Cast Via Internet	7,194
Members Registered at the Annual Meeting	224
In-Person Ballots cast at the Annual Meeting	75
Total Ballots Cast in the 2017 Election	7,436
Percentage of Membership Voting	10.8%
Percentage of votes cast by mail	2.3%
Percentage of votes cast electronically	97%

**Directors**

Stuart Parks (elected to a 4 year term)	4,898
Harry Crawford (elected to a 3 year term)	4,063
Ron Stafford	2,513

## **2018 Looking Ahead**

Chugach staff will meet with the Election Committee and Election Contractor, BDO to do a “lessons learned” debrief session on May 23, 2017. Over the years, this meeting has yielded valuable information that has been incorporated into each subsequent election cycle. Preliminary feedback reflects strong support of the communication efforts to date, particularly the use of postcard mailings and the mailing of the voting control number in order to reach all members, including those without email addresses on file.