

## **Senate Bill 36**

### **Sponsor Statement**

Senate Bill 36 has been drafted to address a concern that manifested itself in the 2004 general election. This concern sprang from the decision of the Alaska Democratic Party to have individual absentee ballot requests mailed back to the political party office instead of directly to the Division of Elections. This action resulted in sensitive personal data being made available to a political party apparatus without express consent. Although there is no clear evidence of illegal action or wrongdoing, individual Alaskans should not feel that their privacy is under attack just because they wish to participate in a regularly scheduled election.

SB 36 requires that all absentee ballot requests be delivered directly to the Division of Elections for confidential processing. The act further prohibits a political group or political party from assisting or encouraging the violation of the new law.

SB 36 allows for all citizens and groups in Alaska to encourage participation in our election process through the use of absentee ballots. However, once a person decides to request an absentee ballot, they have every right to assume that only non-partisan personnel at the Division of Elections will handle their request