

ALASKA'S PARTIES PAY THEIR WAY INITIATIVE

**AN INITIATIVE TO:
PROHIBIT USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES'
CANDIDATE NOMINATION PROCESSES.**

A BILL BY INITIATIVE

For an Act Entitled:

"An Act preventing the expenditure of public funds for any process by which political parties select their official nominees or endorsed candidates for office."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

Section 1. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a section to read:

FINDINGS AND INTENT. The People of the State of Alaska find:

- (1)** Political parties are important to civic life and democracy in Alaska, however political parties should not be allowed to expend public funds for their own processes for determining their official party candidates for elected office.
- (2)** It is in the public interest that political parties pay their own way and not rely on the public to subsidize party primary elections, conventions, or any other process for selecting official party candidates.

Section 2. AS 15.15 is amended to add a new section to read:

AS 15.15.023 Prohibiting the use of public funds for political party candidate selection.

- a)** Public funds cannot be expended for the purpose of selecting political parties' general election candidates for public office. Such monies may not be expended regardless of whether the selection process involves a party convention, a party primary, or any other process that results in the selection of an official party nominee.
- b)** This section does not prohibit the expenditure of public funds for conducting open primary elections in which all eligible voters may vote for any candidate, and in which candidates compete with all other candidates without regard for political affiliation.
- c)** For purposes of this section, "political parties" has the meaning provided by AS 15.13.400(17).

Section 3. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to read:

SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Act are independent and severable. If any provision of this Act or the applicability of any provision to any person or circumstance, shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected and shall be given effect to the fullest extent possible.