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TELECOPY DOCUMENT COVER PAGE

TO: Tom McKay

OFFICE: Republican Party of Alaska

FAX NUMBER: 1-202-219-0130

FROM: Timothy McKeever

Background to  
AOR 1999-27

MESSAGE: Please see attached. Thank you.

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FILE NUMBER: 3729-15158

DOCUMENT TITLE: letter dated 10/20/99

NUMBER OF PAGES BEING SENT 5 + COVER

OPERATOR'S NAME: Kris Armbrust

DATE: October 20, 1999 TIME: 4:43pm

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October 20, 1999

VIA TELEFAX - 276-0425

Tom McKay  
Chair  
Republican Party of Alaska  
1001 W. Fireweed Lane  
Anchorage, AK 99503

RE: Alaska Federation of Republican Women  
File No.: 3729-15158

Dear Tom:

As I mentioned on Friday, certain items on the Republican Party of Alaska Website have caused an attorney for the Federal Election Commission to inquire as to the "separateness" of the caucuses and the straw poll. The Federation has asked the FEC for an advisory opinion concerning the funding for the straw poll in an effort to be able to use corporate money to fund the straw poll. Maintaining that "separateness" is critical to having the maximum flexibility to raise funds to promote and conduct the straw poll.

In particular, the FEC attorney asked about portions of the July 1999 draft "How to Conduct a Successful Precinct Caucus and District Convention" manual. I have explained that this is only a draft and has not been finalized. I have asked Glenn Clary to incorporate certain changes in the draft, as reflected on the attached, and believe those are acceptable to him. I understand those changes have been sent to the party office. If it is possible to remove that draft manual from the Website until these changes are made, it would be helpful. The FEC is going to address the Federation's request on October 28<sup>th</sup> and it would be less confusing if this draft material were not available on the site.

Second, the FEC attorney asked about the Great Alaska Straw Poll page. I have explained that the Federation will not publicize the caucuses and will promote and pay for the straw poll. He seemed to have some concern about the Party promoting the straw poll and the reference to caucuses held "in conjunction with" the straw poll. Can the party change the language so that it reads "held separately, but the same day as the straw poll." Also, can you include language to the effect that "You can vote in the straw poll even if you don't participate in your caucus?" Those changes indicate

**Tom McKay**  
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**less of a connection between the two. I also suggest you add a disclaimer that says "The 2000 Straw Poll is being conducted and paid for by the Alaska Federation of Republican Women."**

**Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about these requests.**

**Sincerely,**



**Timothy A. McKeever**

**TAM/ps/ka**

**ps C:\0720\1115\0001\mckay**

# The Precinct Caucus

## SHORT COURSE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

*SIX MOST IMPORTANT WORDS*

*"I ADMIT I MADE A MISTAKE."*

*FIVE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS*

*"YOU DID A GOOD JOB."*

*FOUR MOST IMPORTANT WORDS*

*"WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?"*

*THREE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS*

*"IF YOU PLEASE."*

*TWO MOST IMPORTANT WORDS*

*"THANK YOU."*

*ONE LEAST IMPORTANT WORD*

*"I"*



## *WHAT IS A PRECINCT CAUCUS?*

A caucus is a fancy term for a neighborhood meeting. Before our nation became industrialized everyone lived in small towns and communities. To conduct town meetings (precinct caucuses) everyone would meet at the one room school house or local church. Today metropolitan cities are divided into a smaller population area. These groups of people meet periodically for political purposes. In Alaska they are called "Republican Precinct Caucuses."

## *THE PURPOSE OF PRECINCT CAUCUS!*

1. To register Republican voters.
2. To elect precinct officers
3. To elect delegates and alternates to represent your precinct at the district convention
4. To propose any changes to the Republican Party of Alaska's State Rules.
5. To recommend changes to the Republican Party of Alaska's State platforms and resolutions.
6. ~~To cast ballots in the Alaska Republican Straw Poll.~~



14. Have the Precinct Recommend any Changes to the Party's Platform and/or Resolutions.
15. Suggest the Precinct accept any and all changes from participants up to four days after the Caucus meeting. Then send all recommended changes to the District Convention for review by the District's Platform and Resolutions Committee and a vote at the District Convention.
16. Have available several "Plank for the Platform," "Resolutions," and "Rule Change" Forms for those who want them. (pp. 18-20)
17. Also, have available copies of the Republican Party's Platform/Resolutions Booklets.
18. Prepare suggestions for changes to the State Party Rules.  
Handle all suggested rule changes like you would Platforms and Resolutions.
19. Emphasize that any proposed change (Platform, Resolution or Rule) must be submitted not later than the date agreed upon and must be either typed or neatly hand written on the forms provided so that no misunderstanding will occur. (pp. 18-20)
20. A precinct may choose to talk about and vote on Platform, Resolution and Rule changes at their caucus. This is fine but make sure everything is covered thoroughly and that the proper forms are used and turned in to the District Secretary when finished.
21. Collect the Volunteer Forms from each caucus participant.
- ~~22. Distribute Straw Poll Ballots/Collect Straw Poll Ballots.~~ *Remind everyone they can vote in the straw poll, being conducted if they wish, and direct them to where the straw poll voting is occurring.*
23. Ask for any new business and complete the same.
24. Accept a motion to adjourn.
25. Dismiss everyone except those elected as Delegates and Alternates to the District Convention.
26. Before the Delegates and Alternates leave have them fill out a Convention Registration Form and a District Convention Nominations Form.\* (pp. 16-17) Refer to the District/State Committee definitions to explain what each committee does to help those elected to make their committee preferences. (pp.21) \*This form is required if you wish to be a delegate to the State Convention or District Officer Candidates only.
27. Explain where and when the District Convention will be and give an appropriate cost.  
Collect their District Convention Fee. \$ \_\_\_\_\_
28. Dismiss each person as they turn in their forms. If they don't have the fee with them, set a date it must be turned in by.
29. Make sure you and your Secretary have every form filled out properly and that you both have signed them.
30. Turn all documents into your District Chairman as you leave. Wait until he/has made sure everything is in order and has filled out the Precinct Caucus Quick Reference Accountability. (pp. 22)



**YOUR WORK IS NOT DONE UNTIL  
THE PAPER WORK IS COMPLETE!**



