



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Law

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Via Electronic Mail

Robert M. "Bob" Bird
Email: bob.bird@hotmail.com

Re: *Alaskan Independence Party*

Dear Mr. Bird:

We write in response to your inquiry with the Attorney General's Office regarding the status of the Alaskan Independence Party (AIP). Alaska law does not contain a specific statute or regulation governing the dissolution of a political party. In practice, the Division of Elections relies on formal communications from a party's recognized leadership and reviews internal documentation—such as board minutes—to determine whether a party continues to exist as an organized political entity. In this case, after receiving notice from AIP's secretary and confirming with Chair John Howe, the Division acknowledged the party's dissolution. This approach is consistent with how the Division has handled the wind-down of other political groups, albeit on a smaller scale.

Political party status in Alaska is governed by AS 15.80.008 and related provisions. These statutes require that, to be recognized, a party must have at least 5,000 registered voters and submit bylaws to the Division and the U.S. Department of Justice. There is no legal restriction on a new political group organizing under the same name as a previously dissolved party, or on the reuse of identical or revised bylaws. If a group submits the required materials under AS 15.80.008, the Division will begin tracking registrations affiliated with it. While the Division's voter notice letters referred to a 30-day window, the agency has opted, as a courtesy, to wait sixty days before reclassifying former AIP voters as undeclared.

While the Law Department advises the Division, the Law Department does not have statutory authority to reverse the division's acknowledgment of the AIP's dissolution. If you have questions for the Division, we recommend you contact them, including to obtain a list of voters currently registered as affiliated with the Alaska Independence Party (AIP). Your question about a party convention and AIP board members appears to be a question about AIP's bylaws and internal governance, in which neither Division nor the Law Department play a role.

Sincerely,

The signature of Stephen J. Cox, which is handwritten in blue ink.
Stephen J. Cox
Attorney General

The signature of Nancy Dahlstrom, which is handwritten in blue ink.
Nancy Dahlstrom
Lieutenant Governor