



What Is The **STATE**
Of Your **FUTURE?**

Election Day
Fact and Fantasy

(Mac's Foto)

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★ What is it all about?

On August 26th Alaskans will vote on three propositions, at the same time as the primary elections for state and federal offices under Statehood.

If **any one** of the three propositions fails to pass, Alaska will not become a state and the primary election will be null and void.

The three propositions are:

- "1. Shall Alaska immediately be admitted into the Union as a State?
- "2. The boundaries of the State of Alaska shall be as prescribed in the Act of Congress approved July 7, 1958 and all claims of this State to any areas of land or sea outside the boundaries so prescribed are hereby irrevocably relinquished to the United States.
- "3. All provisions of the Act of Congress approved July 7, 1958 reserving rights or powers to the United States, as well as those prescribing the terms or conditions of the grants of lands or other property therein made to the State of Alaska, are consented to fully by said State and its people."

Proposition number one is obvious.

Proposition number two merely means that the boundaries of the State of Alaska will be **exactly** the same as they are for the Territory of Alaska.

Proposition number three merely means that we accept the terms of the Statehood Act.

The last two propositions are standard provisions found in many statehood acts and are, for example, both in the current Hawaii statehood bill. All three propositions have been approved by the voters in Alaska previously.

★ Who may vote?

The Executive Order issued by Governor Mike Stepovich authorizing the August 26th primary election sets out the qualifications for voting. They are:

"All citizens of the United States, nineteen years of age and over, who are actual and bona fide residents of Alaska, and who have been such residents continuously during the entire year immediately preceding the election, and who have been residents continuously for thirty days next preceding the election in the precinct and District in which they vote, and who are able to read and write the English language and who are not barred from voting by any other provision of the law, shall be qualified to vote."

Other general qualifications for all Alaska State elections are:

1. If a person is unable to read and write the English language, he shall still be qualified to vote if:
 - a. He legally voted in the election of November 4, 1924.
 - b. He is unable to read and write because of physical disability.
2. No person convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude may vote, unless his voting right has been restored.
3. Pre-election registration is **not** required.
4. Absentee voters secure ballots from the U. S. Commissioner or postmaster of their district.

4. Many businessmen are freely and accurately predicting a depression that "will curl your hair" should statehood fail. Confidence will sag, investors disappear, plans for new building, remodeling or expansion will be shelved, real estate values decline. Taxes won't disappear, but the means to pay them will. The situation is entirely different than it was before June 30th when we were looking ahead to statehood. We have gone too far **ever** to return to the old status quo.

If we don't care about our future, no one else will.

★ The rumor mill

1. "Statehood will **not** affect existing authority for cost-of-living allowances for federal employees in Alaska," according to Harris Ellsworth, chairman of the Civil Service Commission. All other authorities agree. Evart E. Miller, Alaska representative of the American Federation of Government Employees, has expressed the opinion that two Alaskan Senators and a Representative in Congress might well succeed in raising this differential.

2. "Alaskan activities of the FBI will **not** be terminated by statehood," says the FBI office.

3. "Statehood for Alaska will **not** affect the welfare programs operated by the Alaska Department of Public Welfare," says a signed statement by Director Henry A. Harmon.

4. "Statehood will **not** affect foreign duty pay or per diem allowances for military personnel, and will **not** change the prescribed length of tour for personnel assigned to Alaska," according to an official letter from the Department of Defense.

5. "The Alaska National Guard has **nothing** to lose and **much** to **gain** by becoming the 49th State," according to Col. Thomas P. Carroll, Adjutant General of the Alaska National Guard.

6. Indians and Eskimos will **not** be moved to reservations or lose any freedom because of statehood. Reservations can only be created under the Wheeler-Howard Act, extended to Alaska in 1936, and only by **majority vote of the Eskimos and Indians concerned**. Even then, there are no restrictions on them and nothing in the law requires them to stay.

7. Taxes will **not** necessarily be higher because of statehood. An official estimate of the Department of the Interior is that new revenues will **exceed** necessary new costs by \$1,400,000 until Alaska assumes control of the fisheries. This is **without counting one cent** in new revenue from the increased investment and business (for example, tourists) which statehood will bring, from the sale and subsequent development of 105 million acres of land given the new State, nor any revenue from oil production. In the final analysis, the State Legislature will set the taxes according to the will of the people.

8. We have **not** been sold down the river by temporary federal retention of control over the fisheries. The Statehood Act says that federal control shall be retained only "until the first day of the first calendar year following the expiration of 90 legislative days after the Secretary of the Interior certifies to Congress that the Alaska State Legislature has made adequate provisions for the administration, management, and conservation" of the fisheries. Secretary of the Interior Seaton has said he will so certify "as fast as I possibly can." Alaska would **never** get control of its fisheries as a territory.

★ What does self-government mean?

"We the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land, in order to secure and transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the Union of States, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska."

—Preamble, Constitution of the State of Alaska.

The Constitution of a state is its most important law. Its authority comes directly from the people whose vote is required to adopt it or to change it. It determines the basic structure of government and the powers and responsibilities of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. It lays down essential principles and safeguards for the conduct of the public business and guarantees the rights and liberties of all the people.

The Alaskan Constitution was drawn by 55 elected Alaskans during a Constitutional Convention which met for 75 days at the University of Alaska during the winter of 1955-56, and it was ratified overwhelmingly by the voters in April, 1956. Political experts all over the United States have proclaimed it the best state constitution ever written.

If we vote YES on August 26th:

1. This State Constitution will take effect. To make the laws, there is to be a legislature composed of a senate of 20 members elected for 4-year terms and a house of representatives of 40 members elected for 2-year terms. To enforce the laws and direct the administration of state affairs, there is to be a governor elected for a 4-year term. To interpret the laws and administer justice, there is to be a single system of courts consisting of a supreme court, a superior court and other courts that the legislature may establish. The powers of state government are divided among these three departments so that each has full responsibility for its own conduct, yet each can be checked by the others or by the people. All are bound both by the State and by the United States Constitution. All are subject, finally, to the absolute control exercised by the people in the polling booth.

2. We will enjoy these first-time privileges as first class citizens—denied us as a Territory—we may:

- a. Elect our own governor.
- b. Elect 2 United States Senators and 1 Representative.
- c. Vote for the President of the United States.
- d. Have our own state court system.
- e. Control our natural resources.
- f. Own state land.
- g. Participate automatically in federal state aid programs.
- h. Permit 19 and 20 year olds to vote.
- i. Have representation from ALL parts of Alaska in our State Legislature.

★ What are the benefits?

The benefits are tangible and intangible, personal and public, positive and negative. There are too many to list here, but these are a few:

1. The world wide impact of the extension of the democratic way of life; the personal pride of full-fledged citizenship, of congressional representation, of participation in foreign affairs and those of our nation, of being

citizens of the biggest, newest, potentially richest state, of being able to tell our children, "I helped make history by voting Alaska into the Union."

2. The automatic advantages of voting representation in Congress; the control of our own natural resources; the selection of 105,000,000 acres of land of our own choice; the grant to the state of its tidelands; the running of our own affairs by people of our own choice rather than by a busy Congress or a distant and often indifferent bureaucracy; the removal of development barriers in the Organic Act and other discriminations, such as the Jones Act.

3. The progress and prosperity that Statehood will bring: new investment, more jobs, development of our resources, increase in value of property.

Alaska has received untold millions of dollars worth of publicity since the Statehood Bill was passed and signed. The results are already apparent:

Ask any bank, Chamber of Commerce, airline, travel agency, hotel, federal or territorial agency or department, newspaper or investment firm. Without exception they will tell you that they are being literally flooded with requests for information and evidence that people desire to travel to Alaska, move here, invest here.

Many investors have already arrived, the tourist business has increased, every real estate firm has had letters, phone calls and personal visits from interested buyers. National dime store chains have sent representatives to Alaska looking for space, the Gallup Poll has established an office, TIME Magazine has opened an Alaskan Bureau. Immediately following passage of the Statehood Act, the City of Anchorage Port bonds sold like hotcakes.

The Oil and Gas Journal of July 7th said: "The ultimate entry of Alaska as a full-fledged member of the union will pave the way for what may be one of this country's greatest drives to develop new oil resources."

★ What happens if we vote NO?

Word is being spread around that if we vote NO on August 26th we can return to the status quo and can vote on statehood again in the near future. Nothing could be further from the truth.

1. If we turn down statehood this time, it is safe to say there will not be another chance in our lifetime. The legislative process to achieve statehood is long, costly and difficult. The final vote on June 30th was the product of 40 years of work. Congressmen would very correctly take the attitude that if Alaskans don't care, why should they.

2. A NO vote would again result in reams of publicity—this time all on the other side of the Iron Curtain. Our friends and allies throughout the world would be confounded, our enemies delighted. The democratic process is on trial in Alaska on August 26th.

3. We would indeed return to the status quo of non-self-government, non-representation and no control over our resources or destiny, with this difference: a negative vote would be a direct slap in the face to the 208 Representatives and 64 Senators, the President and his administration, the press of the nation, and the people of America—all of whom worked hard and enthusiastically for statehood and thereby expressed confidence in Alaskans. No longer would any one of them care what becomes of us.

4. Many businessmen are freely and accurately predicting a depression that "will curl your hair" should statehood fail. Confidence will sag, investors disappear, plans for new building, remodeling or expansion will be shelved, real estate values decline. Taxes won't disappear, but the means to pay them will. The situation is entirely different than it was before June 30th when we were looking ahead to statehood. We have gone too far ever to return to the old status quo.

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9. **Not one** federal agency or defense activity in Alaska will disappear because of statehood. In fact many of them will be strengthened.

10. Authority for the President to make defense withdrawals within a certain area does **not** give him any authority he doesn't already have, does **not** mean that these withdrawals will automatically be made, does **not** mean that any withdrawal will necessarily cover the whole area or even a large part of it, does **not** mean that such an area would be removed from the State nor that local government within such area would be abolished or the rights of individuals abridged.

★ Who's opposed?

It's strange that the opposition in Alaska is nameless, faceless. It consists of unsubstantiated rumors without source, anonymous postcards, door-to-door "poll-takers" who refuse to be identified.

The opposition has always come from the Southern bloc in Congress, the Seattle cannery interests and those allied with them, a tiny group of Alaskans who for their own interests don't want progress, and those who oppose democratic government. Surely no one is naive enough to believe that this opposition will stop while there is still one more hurdle to be crossed.

When you hear rumor, demand facts and sources. Those FOR statehood have always been out in the open, ready to stand on a platform, state their case and back it up with facts. We challenge the opposition to do the same.

The clue to the opposition can be found in asking yourself the question: **Who will benefit if Alaska turns down statehood?**

★ What will be the State of YOUR future?

The world will be watching Alaska on August 26th. Our friends—the free people of the world—hope our territory will become a state. Our enemies—the string-pullers behind the Iron Curtain—want us to remain colonials, reject our democratic form of government.

The publisher of Edna Ferber's best-selling *ICE PALACE* has this to say of her book: "Here are the Territory's modern vigorous people, its dramatic weather and scenery, its desperate, still-unfinished struggle for statehood. And here, too, are the men from 'The Outside' determined to exploit a fabulously rich Alaska for their own gains . . . The novel's vital theme of a proud land's virile insistence on the dignity of independence is as forceful as the invigorating air its people breathe."

This dignity of independence and vigorous spirit is being tested now. As Americans we are political heirs to a great tradition. As Americans, we therefore have not only the **honor** but the **duty** to participate on August 26th in the victory that will transform the colonial Territory of Alaska into a full-fledged state. To rejuvenate, at a time of crisis, the public philosophy of the free world by proving the strength of democracy—this is an opportunity to be handled with respect.

Vote YES on Alaska Statehood. Vote YES to return to your birthright as a first-class citizen. Vote YES to insure the development and prosperity of Alaska for yourself, your children and your nation. Vote YES on propositions 1, 2 and 3 on August 26, 1958.

This is your last call to citizenship.