



NEWS

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Contact: Jeffrey Mittman, (907) 258-0044, ext. 103

**ACLU Launches Election Countdown Voter Empowerment Program
*Cards Advise Voters of Basic Rights and Election Day Emergency Contacts***

ANCHORAGE, AK, October 31, 2008 — The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Alaska today announced the launch of its ***96 HOUR VOTER EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM***.

The ACLU of Alaska is distributing thousands of cards and hand-outs in English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Yup'ik that inform voters of their rights on Election Day and how to avoid problems when casting a ballot.

“With turnout expected to reach record levels, it is more important than ever for voters to know their rights on Election Day,” said Jeffrey Mittman, Executive Director of the ACLU of Alaska. “The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy, and we are working hard to ensure that all voters’ rights are protected and that every vote is counted on November 4.”

The Voter Empowerment Cards are available for download at www.akclu.org or can be requested in printed format at akclu@akclu.org. The Cards summarize Alaska and federal laws pertaining to every Alaska voter and list emergency contact numbers for voters to call if they encounter problems at the polls. The Cards provide answers to common questions such as: Where do I vote? Is identification required? How can I minimize potential problems?

The national ACLU Voting Rights Project toll-free help line at (877) 523-2792 will also answer voters’ questions.

“With Election Day right around the corner, we are pleased to offer these important tools to help people exercise their fundamental right to vote,” said Laughlin McDonald, Director of the ACLU’s national Voting Rights Project. “You never know what might happen at the polls – that’s why voters must be as informed as possible.”

“We are particularly pleased to offer voting information for the first time in Yup’ik” said Jason Brandeis, ACLU of Alaska Staff Attorney. “The State has not been providing sufficient information to allow Alaska Natives the rights guaranteed under the Voting Rights Act. We hope this information helps increase voter participation.”

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