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Communities Served

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Alakanuk | Nightmute |
| Ambler | Noatak |
| Andreafsky | Noorvik |
| Anvik | Nulato |
| Brevig Mission | Nunapitshuk |
| Chevak | Old Harbor |
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| Elim | Pitkas Point |
| Emmonak | Quinhagak |
| Gambell | Russian Mission |
| Goodnews Bay | St. Mary's |
| Grayling | St. Michael |
| Holy Cross | Savoonga |
| Hooper Bay | Scammon Bay |
| Huslia | Selawik |
| Kaltag | Shageluk |
| Kasigluk | Shaktoolik |
| Kiana | Shishmaref |
| Kivalina | Shungnak |
| Kotlik | Stebbins |
| Koyuk | Teller |
| Lower Kalskag | Togiak |
| Marshall | Toksook Bay |
| Mekoryuk | Tununak |
| Minto | Upper Kalskag |
| Mt. Village | Wales |
| New Stuyahok | |



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AK-105

Vote No on 1

In the August primary election, Alaskans will vote on Ballot Measure 1, a poorly worded initiative brought to Alaska by a wealthy Libertarian activist from New York. We think you should **Vote No on 1**, for many reasons.

Signature gatherers collected names by calling it an "anticorruption" act at a time in Alaska's history, 2007, when corruption in the Alaska Legislature was a daily feature on the news and Alaskans were understandably fed up with business as usual in Juneau.

But don't be fooled by fancy words or the out-of-state interests that brought this initiative to Alaska. Ballot Measure 1 is an attempt to silence local voices in Juneau.

Rural Alaska communities are especially threatened by this initiative.

This measure will outlaw municipal-funded lobbying. In other words, local governments could not use public funds to hire staff or contract with a lobbyist to advocate for needs in their area. Even worse, they could not pay for airfare and expenses to send their mayor or council members to Juneau to lobby for their issues and projects.

Communities need to be strong in advocating for local interests. It takes time and persistence to educate members of the Legislature on the unique needs of rural Alaska, which is why they use lobbyists. But if this measure passes, communities will be shut out of the legislative process and left out in the cold when it comes to much-needed funding for community projects. Funds would go to larger communities with more representation, while leaders of small communities and villages likely would be unable to afford to travel to Juneau out of their own pockets, as the initiative requires.

Ballot Measure 1 also will cut you and your family out of the political process and further silence the voices of individual rural Alaskans. How? It prohibits any Alaskan who does more than \$500 of business with the state, city or

village from making political contributions.

Many of the folks affected are Alaskan-owned small and medium-sized businesses. But to make it worse, the ban extends to the contract holders' "immediate" family, including any spouse, child, spouse's child, son-in law, daughter-in-law, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, stepbrother, stepsister, stepparent, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, guardian and domestic partner. That is quite a list!

Measure 1 also takes aim at Alaska nonprofits. According to the language, board members and officers of nonprofits who receive city or state funds to support their work in our communities will lose their right to support candidates just for serving on the board. And again, the "immediate family" members of these volunteers also would be silenced.

The Alaska Attorney General and the Alaska Legislative Affairs' Legal Services office both have issued opinions saying the initiative likely would be struck down as unconstitutional. If it passes, the state will be forced to defend it in the courts at taxpayer expense. These funds could be better spent on public safety, transportation or education. A similar initiative was just ruled unconstitutional in Colorado.

Our opponents call this "clean and open government." We call it ridiculous. We encourage you to read the language in the initiative and make the call yourself. You, too, will find that the proponents have gone too far and are trying to quash the rights of individuals and their families, businesses, communities and nonprofits.

Please read all 1,967 words of Measure 1 at www.stopthegaglaw.com and ask yourself if you understand all of its potential impacts.

It is a mess.

Please vote NO on Measure 1.

Meera Kohler, President and CEO