



# Press Release

Alaska Court System, 820 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501

Contact: Rebecca Koford, Public Information Officer, rkoford@akcourts.gov

## **Deadline for Challenges to Amended Alaska Redistricting Board Plan Due by May 3, 2022**

**Anchorage, AK:** On April 27, 2022, Anchorage Superior Court Judge Thomas Matthews issued an order establishing expedited deadlines for any qualified voter to file a new challenge to the Redistricting Board's Amended Proclamation Plan that has not yet been filed. Any complaint or other applications to compel the Redistricting Board to correct any error in redistricting must be made by May 3, 2022.

The court has expedited the process and shortened deadlines to allow sufficient time for the Superior Court to hear and decide the merits of any challenge to the Amended Plan, and the Supreme Court if there is an appeal. The expedited process and accelerated deadline for any further challenges to the Amended Plan is necessary because of the June 1, 2022 deadline for legislative candidates to file for the 2022 elections.

The expedited process and shortened deadlines provide a reasonable but expeditious period of time for a voter to file a challenge. A copy of the order is attached to this press release. Copies of all filings and orders can be found on the [Most Requested Cases page](#). Hearings in the case can be livestreamed on the [Trial Court Video Hearings](#) page on Judge Thomas Matthews' channel.

###

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA  
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the )  
 )  
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI

**ORDER ESTABLISHING EXPEDITED DEADLINE FOR CHALLENGES TO  
AMENDED PLAN**

On April 13, 2022, the Alaska Redistricting Board issued an Amended Proclamation Plan following this Court's remand. In light of the upcoming candidate filing deadline for the 2022 elections of June 1, 2022, this order provides for an expedited process and accelerated deadline for any further challenges to the Amended Plan. Any Complaint or other Application to compel the Redistricting Board to correct any error in redistricting must be made by **May 3, 2022**.

Article VI, Section 11 of the Alaska Constitution requires the Court to expedite its redistricting decisions, "affording them priority over all other matters." While the Constitution does not expressly discuss the process for challenges to plans that are *amended* after court remand, Civil Rule 90.8(b) sets forth a 30-day deadline for initial challenges. Given the fast approaching deadline for candidate filings, it will be impossible for this Court and the Supreme Court to process, hear and decide the merits of any challenge to the Amended plan if it is filed as late as 30 days after the Board's Amended Proclamation (April 14, 2022). Therefore, this Court is exercising its inherent power to expedite the process and shorten the deadline in order to provide a reasonable, but expeditious period of time for any qualified voter to file a challenge.<sup>1</sup>

In this Court's view, an expedited process will provide for a maximum opportunity for the parties, voters, the general public, and potential candidates for office to make

---

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Civil Rule 92 gives the Court the power to proceed in any lawful manner not inconsistent with the Civil Rule, the Constitution and the Common Law. Similarly, Civil Rule 94 permits the Court to relax or dispense with any rule where it is manifest that strict adherence will work an injustice.

informed and reasonable decisions in time to meet the upcoming June 1 deadline for candidate filings.

In order to provide notice of this expedited schedule to the greatest extent possible, the Board shall post a copy of this order on its website, the Court will post a copy of this order on its website on a daily basis until the deadline has passed. In addition, the Court will instruct the Court's media representative to provide press release in order to notify the media.

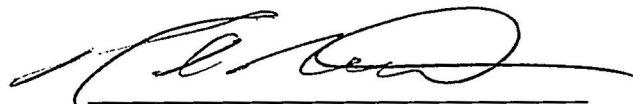
Copies of all court filings related to the Redistricting case are available under the "most requested cases" tab on the court's website. Interested parties, and the general public may access the file. <http://www.courts.alaska.gov/media/case-files.htm>.

In addition, the Board shall post a copy of the supplemental Record on its website as soon as it is available. The Board shall also cooperate with any party who seeks information about the process for submitting a challenge.

Finally, counsel for the Board shall provide a copy of this Order, and any other information requested to any interested lawyer, or other party who inquires about a possible challenge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2022.



Thomas A. Matthews  
Superior Court Judge