

Case Study



To protect the integrity of the election process, Vote by Mail (also known as Vote from Home) systems must electronically verify voter eligibility and be auditable, secure, and transparent.

Resource Data is experienced at assisting election officials throughout the entire process of implementing Vote by Mail.

At a Glance

The Municipality of Anchorage's Vote by Mail system successfully verified and counted a record-breaking 79,295 ballots its inaugural election with a 99.87% acceptance rate. Since spring of 2018, the Municipality has successfully conducted 4 Vote by Mail elections.

Traditional Election Challenges

For decades, Anchorage Municipal Elections suffered from low voter turnout. Historically, Anchorage conducted traditional poll-based elections, with more than 120 polling locations. To increase public engagement and voter turnout and decrease the administrative burden of hiring, training, and monitoring hundreds of temporary election workers, the Municipality began exploring alternative voting options.

Transitioning to Vote by Mail

Resource Data played an instrumental role in the Municipality's project to replace poll-based voting with a Vote by Mail system. Our roles included

- Conducting extensive research on electronic voting systems
- Defining equipment and software requirements to print, mail, sort, verify, and tabulate ballots

- Writing RFPs and providing technical support in vendor selection and management
- Conducting community outreach
- Updating Municipal Code
- Developing plans and documents for procedures, training, reporting, and more
- Assisting with the acquisition of a secure space to administer elections, including lease negotiations
- Training a Vote by Mail workforce
- Presenting to and supporting Assembly and City Council meetings and working sessions
- Onsite support during elections
- Emergency planning for disasters

Supporting Technology

In addition to providing project management throughout the project, we also developed supporting systems and applications including

- Database tools to support the call center and Accessible Vote Centers
- Signature verification software widgets to capture, format, and rotate signatures from poll books and other sources
- Geographic information systems (GIS) enhancements to match voter residence addresses for correct ballot distribution