

Alaska Civic Infrastructure Assessment — July 29, 2026

This analysis and accompanying presentation were developed by Build Alaska's Future Education Fund, a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) nonprofit, because good governance powers everything. Roughly one third of Alaska's economy is generated by public funds — and when the civic infrastructure that allows communities to govern themselves, hold elections, and participate in public decisions begins to fail, everything built on that foundation is at risk. Transparency and trust are not separate from democracy. They are its preconditions.

About Build Alaska's Future Education Fund

Build Alaska's Future Education Fund is a nonpartisan 501(c)(3) dedicated to strengthening public trust, fostering civic engagement, activating a thriving workforce, and equipping communities for good governance through transparent, accessible, and credible information. The organization operates through BuildAlaska.org — an interactive platform and resource hub that translates complex public investments into information communities can use. Our work rests on a foundational truth about Alaska: good governance powers everything.

Roughly one third of Alaska's economy is generated by public funds. Federal infrastructure investments, state appropriations, and tribal funding streams flow into roads, ports, broadband networks, schools, health facilities, and water systems — projects that define the quality of daily life in every corner of the state. BuildAlaska.org tracks more than \$9.4 billion in active infrastructure investments across 3,000+ projects statewide. Half of what we do is make that money visible: where it comes from, where it goes, who it serves, and how it moves. When Alaskans can see how public dollars work in their communities, they develop a sense of connection to the decisions shaping their lives. That connection is the foundation of trust. And trust is what makes civic participation feel worthwhile.

But understanding is only half of the equation. The other half is the civic systems that make participation physically possible. Transparency without functional governance is information with nowhere to go. A resident who understands exactly how federal broadband dollars were spent in their village still cannot vote in a local election if there is no local government clerk to run one. A voter who trusts the system still cannot return an absentee ballot if the post office is closed on Election Day. Build Alaska's Future holds both halves together: building trust through transparency and ensuring that the civic infrastructure exists to make that trust actionable. This is the reason this analysis was conducted.

Build Alaska's Future's initiatives connect five program areas — transparent governance tools, local government clerk workforce development (ClerkStart), infrastructure transparency and StoryMaps, the Alaska Economic Forum Series, and Rural and Alaska Native Workforce Development — around one theory of change: functioning systems produce visible results; visible results enable informed participation; informed participation builds trust; earned trust drives civic and voter engagement. Build Alaska's Future takes no position on candidates, parties, or policy outcomes. Our work is not about who wins elections — it is about whether elections can happen at all, whether the public can trust them, and whether every Alaskan has what they need to participate.

The Looming Crisis in Alaska Civic Infrastructure

Alaska is experiencing a quiet democratic emergency that is not making headlines. At the same moment that more than \$9.4 billion in federal infrastructure investment is reshaping Alaska's roads, energy systems, broadband networks, and water infrastructure — a once-in-a-generation public investment in Alaska communities — the civic systems that allow communities to govern themselves and participate in decisions about that investment are quietly atrophying. The clerks who administer local elections, the post offices that carry absentee ballots, the local governments that stand between state authority and community voice: these entities work together to ensure self-governance. In Alaska's most remote and vulnerable communities, that structure collapses when one piece is missing. They are a convergence — and they are arriving exactly where the need for civic voice is greatest.

Without a local government clerk, there is no local election. Alaska law (AS 29.20.380) requires every municipality to appoint a city clerk — the sole administrator of local elections. As of May 18, 2026, DCRA Local Government Assistance confirmed 24 local government clerk vacancies across Alaska municipalities, affecting approximately 8,872 residents. These are not administrative inconveniences. They are communities where local democracy is legally suspended. An additional 29 incorporated cities have not reported a city election to DCRA in two or more years — every one of them a 2nd Class City, rural, and off the road system. Local governance in these communities has quietly gone dark.

The postal system that carries absentee ballots is fraying at exactly the same locations. Of 77 Postmaster Relief (PMR) vacancies identified from the USPS vacancy list, 75 were in rural communities that Get Out The Native Vote considers tribal precincts (Michelle Sparck, GOTNV, April 2025). PMR sites provide only 2–6 hours of window service per day, staffed by noncareer employees with no benefits, high turnover, and no notice requirements before closing. A new USPS rule (Federal Register 2025-20740, effective December 24, 2025) confirmed that drop-box deposits no longer reliably receive a same-day postmark — meaning voters must appear in person at a staffed counter for a hand-cancel. In communities where that counter may be closed, unstaffed, or accessible only by air, the practical ability to return an absentee ballot on time has been eroded by policy.

Meanwhile, state and federal election participation is collapsing in the communities most affected by these infrastructure failures. The YK Delta (HD38) fell from 44.5% turnout in 2020 to 37.3% in 2024 — a 7.2 percentage point drop in four years. The Arctic and North Slope (HD40) fell from 46.2% to 36.9% — down 9.3 points. The Brennan Center for Justice (November 2024) documented an average 11-point turnout gap between people living on tribal lands and others, rising to 15 points in presidential years, across 21 states from 2012 to 2022. In the 2022 special primary — Alaska's first all-mail election — 13.74% of rural Alaska absentee ballots were rejected, compared to 4.55% statewide. In the YK Delta, 1 in 6 ballots was rejected. Alaska provides no mechanism for voters to cure rejected ballots (Arctic Village Council v. Meyer, ongoing). These are not access failures in the abstract. They are documented, measurable, and systemic.

This convergence — vacant local government clerk positions, unstable postal infrastructure, declining participation, and no ballot cure process — does not affect Alaska uniformly. It is concentrated in the 229 federally recognized tribal communities (BIA Federal Register 91 FR 4102, January 30, 2026) that form the backbone of rural Alaska civic life and account for an outsized share of Alaska's publicly funded infrastructure investment. These communities deserve both the transparency that shows how public dollars flow to them and the civic infrastructure to act on what they learn. Right now they are getting neither. If the infrastructure that makes elections possible is not rebuilt, the right to vote will remain theoretical for thousands of Alaskans — not because the law was changed, but because the systems quietly stopped working. Good governance powers everything. Where governance has broken down, everything else follows.

About This Analysis

This report is produced by BuildAlaska.org. It presents a comprehensive assessment of civic infrastructure across 289 recognized Alaska communities, examining four dimensions: the capacity of incorporated municipalities to administer local elections, state and federal election participation rates, the availability and reliability of postal infrastructure for absentee ballot access, and the governance structures that determine what interventions are possible. Each dimension is scored and cross-referenced to identify compound vulnerabilities — communities where multiple systems are failing simultaneously. All data is sourced to official records: DCRA, the Alaska Division of Elections, USPS FOIA facility records, the BIA Federal Register, and the DCCED certified community database. Local government clerk vacancies are confirmed by DCRA Local Government Assistance as of May 18, 2026. Voter registration data is from the Alaska Division of Elections October 3, 2025 report.

Executive Summary

The following indicators summarize the state of Alaska's civic infrastructure across the four assessment dimensions. Full analysis follows in the body of the report.

KEY INDICATORS	
Communities analyzed: 289	Confirmed local govt. clerk vacancies: 24
CRITICAL risk communities: 13	Cities — no local election reported (2+ yrs): 29
HIGH risk communities: 51	Communities — no USPS service: 60
MODERATE risk communities: 160	USPS PMR Sites (postmaster relief — noncareer, part-time, high-turnover): 63
Turnout below 15% (2024 General): 6	Turnout 15–25% (2024 General): 32

Alaska Governance Structure

Under Alaska Constitution Article X and Alaska Statutes Title 29, there are two forms of incorporated municipal government: boroughs (regional governments equivalent to counties) and cities (community-level governments). Only incorporated municipalities have elected councils, appointed city clerks, taxing authority, and the legal capacity to hold municipal elections. Alaska also has 229 federally recognized tribes (BIA Federal Register 87 FR 4636, 2022) which provide governance capacity in many unincorporated communities.

Governance Area	Count	Key Characteristics
Organized Boroughs	19	County equivalents governing large regions. 4 Unified Home Rule Boroughs also function as the city government for Anchorage, Juneau, Sitka, and Wrangell. All 19 operate school districts and assess property taxes.
Incorporated Cities	149	4 Unified Home Rule + 11 Home Rule + 17 First Class + 117 Second Class. All have an elected city council, an appointed city clerk, and hold annual municipal elections under Alaska Statutes Title 29.
Unincorporated Communities — with Governance	118	Communities with no municipal government but with confirmed governance capacity through a federally recognized tribe and/or a community nonprofit or regional association. Most are Alaska Native villages.
Federally Recognized Tribes	229	Source: BIA Federal Register 87 FR 4636 (January 28, 2022). Tribes are present in both incorporated cities and unincorporated communities across Alaska. In many unincorporated villages the tribal council is the only local governance body. Regional tribal consortia — including AVCP, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Maniilaq, Kawerak, BBNA, Chugachmiut, and SEARHC — extend health, social, and civic services across their member communities.

Pillar 1: The Local Government Clerk as Cornerstone of Local Democracy

Alaska Statutes AS 29.20.380 requires every municipality to appoint a city clerk. The local government clerk administers elections, certifies results, maintains official records, and ensures legal continuity of local government. Without a local government clerk, there are no city elections. As of May 18, 2026, DCRA Local Government Assistance confirmed 24 clerk vacancies affecting approximately 8,872 residents. Of these 24 communities: 6 are CRITICAL risk, 7 also have unstable postal staffing (PMR sites), and 6 also have below-25% state/federal turnout.

Community	Pop.	Risk	Region	2024G Turnout	Local Election Filed?	Recurring Poll Staffing Failures?	PMR Postal?
Anaktuvuk Pass	396	CRITICAL	Arctic Slope Regional	22.6%	NO	No	YES
Deering	177	CRITICAL	NANA Regional	43.0%	NO	No	YES
Nightmute	284	CRITICAL	Calista	23.3%	Yes	YES	No
Selawik	758	CRITICAL	NANA Regional	18.3%	NO	No	YES
Koyukuk	86	CRITICAL	Doyon, Limited	47.5%	NO	No	YES
Hooper Bay	1,298	CRITICAL	Calista	24.9%	Yes	YES	No
Cold Bay	56	HIGH	Aleut	25.3%	NO	No	No
Chevak	919	HIGH	Calista	23.1%	Yes	No	No

Nulato	221	HIGH	Doyon, Limited	44.8%	Yes	No	YES
Port Heiden	88	HIGH	Bristol Bay Native	38.7%	NO	No	No
Mekoryuk	197	HIGH	Calista	50.4%	Yes	No	YES
Emmonak	848	HIGH	Calista	29.2%	Yes	No	No
Kaltag	144	HIGH	Doyon, Limited	36.0%	Yes	No	YES
Russian Mission	430	HIGH	Calista	26.2%	Yes	No	No
Chuathbaluk	85	HIGH	Calista	34.5%	NO	No	No
Nondalton	105	HIGH	Bristol Bay Native	15.6%	Yes	No	No
Savoonga	816	HIGH	Bering Straits Native	32.9%	Yes	No	No
Buckland	597	HIGH	NANA Regional	28.9%	Yes	No	No
Nunam Iqua	211	HIGH	Calista	29.8%	Yes	No	No
Koyuk	329	HIGH	Bering Straits Native	49.5%	Yes	No	No
Nenana	436	MODERATE	Doyon, Limited	53.0%	Yes	No	No
Ekwok	116	MODERATE	Bristol Bay Native	47.2%	Yes	No	No
Golovin	186	MODERATE	Bering Straits Native	45.8%	Yes	No	No
Hughes	89	MODERATE	Doyon, Limited	51.7%	Yes	No	No

Pillar 2: Turnout as a Diagnostic

The 2024 General Election statewide turnout was 55.8% (340,981 / 611,078 registered voters). Primary turnout was 18.0%. Rural regions show the steepest declines: the YK Delta (HD38) fell from 44.5% in 2020 to 37.3% in 2024, a 7.2-point drop in four years. The Arctic/North Slope (HD40) fell from 46.2% to 36.9%, a 9.3-point decline. A critical pattern emerges when postal access is mapped against turnout: 37 communities have functioning USPS infrastructure yet recorded below-25% participation. In these cases the postal infrastructure is not the barrier. The documented barriers are structural: (1) Absentee ballot rejection — in the 2022 special primary, 13.74% of rural Alaska absentee ballots were rejected (1 in 8), compared to 4.55% statewide; the YK Delta rejection rate was 17% (1 in 6). Two-thirds of rejections were for missing witness signatures (AFN, October 2024; Alaska Public Media, January 2025). (2) No ballot cure process — Alaska has no mechanism for voters to fix rejected ballots; litigation is ongoing (Arctic Village Council v. Meyer, Democracy Docket, January 2025). (3) Undeclared voter concentration — the October 2025 Division of Elections data shows 29 precincts where Undeclared voters exceed 60% of registrations (statewide average: 45.2%). Under the prior partisan primary system (pre-2022), Undeclared voters were restricted from party ballots if a party chose to close its primary (AS 15.25.014). Alaska's 2020 Ballot Measure 2 replaced partisan primaries with a nonpartisan top-four system for state and federal offices (effective 2022), removing this barrier. However, presidential primaries remain party-controlled, and a 2026 ballot initiative would reinstate partisan primaries if approved — which would re-expose Undeclared-dominant communities to primary exclusion. The high Undeclared concentration in Alaska Native communities reflects decades of that prior exclusion and merits monitoring. (4) Decades of documented disenfranchisement — Northwest Arctic turnout fell from 78.6% in 1982 to the 20–30% range by 2022 (Michelle Sparck, Get Out The Native Vote, AFN October 2024). The Brennan Center (November 2024) found an average 11-point turnout gap between tribal land residents and others across 21 states from 2012–2022; 15 points in presidential years. (5) Language access — ballots and in-person voter assistance are not uniformly available in Alaska Native languages across affected regions; advocates identify this as both an access and an accuracy issue, since language assistance reduces avoidable ballot errors in addition to expanding participation.

Community	Pop.	City Class	2024G Turnout	Postal Access	PMR?	Local Govt Clerk Vacant?	Postal Type
Chignik	66	2nd Class City	7.3%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only
Tyonek	142	Census Designated	9.7%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only

Akutan	1,594	2nd Class City	11.3%	Full PO	Yes	No	Full Post Office
Egegik	29	2nd Class City	11.6%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only
Wales	109	2nd Class City	12.5%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only
Nondalton	105	2nd Class City	15.6%	PO Box	No	Yes	PO Box Only
Eielson AFB	4,346	Census Designated	15.9%	Full PO	No	No	Full Post Office
Bettles	17	2nd Class City	15.9%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only
Nuiqsut	484	2nd Class City	16.2%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Tatitlek	56	Unincorporated Cen	17.0%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
New Stuyahok	451	2nd Class City	17.8%	Full PO	No	No	Full Post Office
Kasigluk	670	Unincorporated Cen	17.9%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only
Selawik	758	2nd Class City	18.3%	Full PO	Yes	Yes	Full Post Office
Point Lay	259	Census Designated	19.4%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Circle	78	Unincorporated Cen	20.1%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only
Soldotna	4,552	Home Rule City	20.2%	Full PO	No	No	Full Post Office
Atmautluak	367	Unincorporated Cen	21.4%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Napaskiak	489	2nd Class City	22.4%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Alakanuk	755	2nd Class City	22.5%	PO Box	Yes	No	PO Box Only
Saint George	42	2nd Class City	22.6%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Anaktuvuk Pass	396	2nd Class City	22.6%	Full PO	Yes	Yes	Full Post Office
Stebbins	676	2nd Class City	22.7%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Diomedede	66	2nd Class City	22.7%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
City and Borough of Juneau	31,436	Unified Home Rule	23.0%	Full PO	No	No	Full Post Office
Chevak	919	2nd Class City	23.1%	PO Box	No	Yes	PO Box Only
Nightmute	284	2nd Class City	23.3%	PO Box	No	Yes	PO Box Only
Port Alexander	63	2nd Class City	23.4%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Homer	5,648	1st Class City	23.7%	Full PO	No	No	Full Post Office
Kiana	402	2nd Class City	23.8%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
Atkasuk	301	2nd Class City	23.9%	PO Box	No	No	PO Box Only
... and 7 additional communities not shown. See full dataset.							

Pillar 3: Postal Infrastructure and Absentee Voting

Alaska's absentee voting system depends entirely on the USPS. State law requires ballots postmarked by Election Day. The Alaska Division of Elections recommends voters have ballots hand-cancelled by a USPS clerk at the counter — the only method that guarantees a same-day postmark. A USPS rule (Federal Register 2025-20740, effective December 24, 2025) confirmed that machine postmarks may not reflect the date mail was deposited. Drop-box and PO box slot deposits are no longer reliably same-day stamped. Manual hand-cancellation at a staffed retail counter is now the only legally protected method for Alaska absentee ballots.

What Is a Postmaster Relief (PMR) Site?

A Postmaster Relief (PMR) is a noncareer, hourly, part-time USPS employee hired locally to fill in when a community's permanent postmaster position is vacant or the postmaster is absent. Under USPS POSTPlan rules, PMR-staffed post offices provide only 2–6 hours of window service per weekday — compared to full career offices. PMR employees

receive no federal benefits and are subject to high turnover. When a PMR position is itself vacant, the post office may close temporarily with no advance notice to the community.

In Alaska, this is a documented systemic problem concentrated in tribal communities. Of 63 open PMR positions identified from the USPS vacancy list in 2023, 75 were in rural communities that Get Out The Native Vote considers tribal precincts (Michelle Sparck, GOTNV, ICT News, April 2025). Our dataset flags 77 communities as PMR sites — meaning they are staffed by a noncareer relief worker rather than a career federal postal employee, or the position is currently vacant.

For absentee ballot purposes a PMR site creates a triple vulnerability: (1) Reduced window hours (2–6 hours per day) compresses the time available for voters to request a hand-cancel in person. (2) Noncareer operator - PMR employees may not be trained in the hand-cancel requirement and have no continuity of service obligation. (3) Vacancy risk - a PMR vacancy eliminates window service entirely with no notice, leaving voters no option for a same-day postmark on Election Day. As Michelle Sparck stated: “If we have 75 locations that are vulnerable to closures because it's not fully staffed, then that affects our economy, that affects our medical attention, and that affects our ability to vote.” The Native American Rights Fund (NARF, January 2026) further documented that 131 of Alaska's 401 precincts mail physical ballots to Juneau for counting. 33% of all precincts are entirely dependent on USPS for ballots to be counted at all.

USPS Access Level	Communities	Election Mail Implication
Full Post Office	87	Staffed USPS retail window. Voter can request manual hand-cancel on Election Day. Reliable same-day postmark.
PO Box Only	220	Postmaster/clerk present during window hours. Probable hand-cancel available. Voters must confirm hours before Election Day.
Contract CPU / CPO	5	Non-USPS operator (Adak, Elfin Cove, Port Protection, Point Baker, Nikolaevsk). Has USPS hand stamp per contract but operator reliability varies. Verify locally before Election Day.
No USPS Service	60	No postal facility. Voter must travel to the nearest post office — for the 80+ off-road communities typically an air flight. Requires Division of Elections planning.
PMR Sites (any level)	63	Noncareer part-time postmaster relief staffing (see explanation above). 75 of 77 Alaska PMR vacancies are in rural tribal precincts (GOTNV, 2023). Window service: 2–6 hrs/day only. A vacant PMR position eliminates window service entirely, removing the only option for a same-day hand-cancel postmark on Election Day.

Federal Litigation Compounding Postal Uncertainty (2026 Cycle)

Two federal-level developments layer additional uncertainty onto the postal fragility documented above. First, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Watson v. RNC* preserved states' ability to count ballots postmarked by Election Day even if received afterward — but that protection is only as strong as the postal infrastructure required to apply the postmark in the first place. In communities served by a PMR site or no postal facility at all, a legally protected postmark deadline has limited value without a staffed counter available to apply it. Second, a federal executive order sought to authorize USPS to withhold mail ballots absent a citizenship-verification portal; as of mid-2026 the order has been blocked or contested in multiple federal circuits, leaving absentee mail-processing rules unsettled heading into the election. Third, litigation over ballot eligibility compressed the 2026 printing calendar to a hard July 4 deadline, shortening the mailing window available to reach remote and overseas voters and return ballots in time.

Drop Box Custody, Chain-of-Custody Ambiguity, and Historical Delivery Delays

Every rural precinct is mailed a drop box along with its election-supply shipment, but timely arrival of that shipment has itself historically been inconsistent. Once a ballot is placed in a drop box, when it is legally "received" by the Division of Elections for chain-of-custody purposes is not clearly defined in public guidance — a gap coalition monitoring has flagged directly with the Division without resolution to date. State law permits only one Election Day polling place per precinct, which in practice means some communities share a precinct boundary and must rely on a Polling place Alternative Voting (PAV) designation when voters cannot physically reach the shared location; how PAV status is determined, and where it currently applies, is not systematically published. The consequences are measurable: regional absentee-ballot arrival data for the 2022 and 2024 general elections show that in Region 4 (Nome), roughly 65–71% of absentee ballots arrived after Election Day, the sharpest documented example of postal timing risk translating into ballots that may ultimately not count. Separately, mail disruptions compound voter-list maintenance: because second-class mail is not forwarded, voters who move and are later purged from the rolls may never receive notice of that purge, a structural blind spot in how list-maintenance decisions reach the people they affect.

Pillar 4: Governance Structure Determines Capacity

The type of governance structure determines what election interventions are legally possible, who has standing to request state assistance, and what accountability mechanisms exist. This analysis covers 308 Alaska communities across four governance areas: 19 organized boroughs, 149 incorporated cities, 118 unincorporated communities with confirmed tribal or nonprofit governance, and 229 federally recognized tribes (BIA Federal Register 87 FR 4636, 2022) distributed across both incorporated and unincorporated communities. In many unincorporated villages the tribal council is the only local governance body. Regional tribal consortia — AVCP, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Maniilaq, Kawerak, BBNA, Chugachmiut, and SEARHC — extend services across member communities and serve as the primary partners for voter outreach and election support.

A Related Gap: Precinct Poll Worker and Election Board Chair Staffing

Distinct from the municipal clerk vacancies documented in Pillar 1 — which affect an incorporated city's own local elections — state and federal elections at each precinct depend on a separately staffed election board chair, administered through the Alaska Division of Elections. This is not part of the DCRA/BIA dataset underlying the rest of this report, but coalition monitoring in 2026 identified it as a related capacity gap worth flagging: the Division's Region 4 office specifically requested recruitment help for a board chair vacancy in Wainwright, alongside staffing concerns in Levelock and the Lake Iliamna/Kokhanok area. More broadly, advocates have asked the Division directly why individual regions are commonly staffed with only one election board chair when budget authority allows for as many as six per precinct, and have noted that in every recent election cycle some communities have failed to open on Election Day or have not received ballots in time — a pattern that predates the current cycle. This precinct-level staffing gap sits alongside, and likely compounds, the municipal clerk vacancies described in Pillar 1: a single community can face simultaneous shortfalls in both the official who would run its own local election and the worker who would staff its state/federal precinct.

Critical Risk Communities

The following 13 communities were scored CRITICAL — exhibiting simultaneous failures across multiple assessment dimensions. All are small incorporated cities, predominantly Alaska Native, located off the road system.

Community	Pop.	2024G Turnout	USPS Level	Local Govt Clerk Vacant?	Primary Risk Flags
Anaktuvuk Pass	396	22.6%	PO Box/Full	VACANT	⚠ CLERK VACANT (confirmed DCRA LGA 5/18/26) No audit/CFS submitted (2+ years) Very low...
Teller	233	24.5%	PO Box/Full	Filled	City election NOT reported to DCRA (2+ years) Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) ...
Deering	177	43.0%	PO Box/Full	VACANT	⚠ CLERK VACANT (confirmed DCRA LGA 5/18/26) No audit/CFS submitted (2+ years) No budge...
Nightmute	284	23.3%	PO Box/Full	VACANT	⚠ CLERK VACANT (confirmed DCRA LGA 5/18/26) Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) ...
Selawik	758	18.3%	PO Box/Full	VACANT	⚠ CLERK VACANT (confirmed DCRA LGA 5/18/26) Very low turnout: 18.3% (2024G) USPS Postm...
Diomedes	66	22.7%	PO Box/Full	Filled	City election NOT reported to DCRA (2+ years) Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) ...
Saint George	42	22.6%	PO Box/Full	Filled	City election NOT reported to DCRA (2+ years) Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) ...
Goodnews Bay	237	29.3%	PO Box/Full	Filled	City election NOT reported to DCRA (2+ years) No audit/CFS submitted (2+ years) No bud...
Egegik	29	11.6%	PO Box/Full	Filled	Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) CRITICALLY LOW turnout: 11.6% (2024G) USPS P...
Koyukuk	86	47.5%	PO Box/Full	VACANT	⚠ CLERK VACANT (confirmed DCRA LGA 5/18/26) No budget submitted (2+ years) USPS Postma...
Hooper Bay	1,298	24.9%	PO Box/Full	VACANT	⚠ CLERK VACANT (confirmed DCRA LGA 5/18/26) Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) ...

Grayling	184	46.6%	PO Box/Full	Filled	City election NOT reported to DCRA (2+ years) Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) ...
Noorvik	678	26.5%	PO Box/Full	Filled	City election NOT reported to DCRA (2+ years) Chronic staffing/close-out issues (GOTNV) ...

Recommendations

Immediate Actions (0–90 Days)

- Local Government Clerk Vacancy Emergency Response**
 Contact all 24 municipalities with confirmed vacancies. Provide direct technical assistance through DCRA LGA for local government clerk recruitment. Prioritize the 6 CRITICAL communities with both a vacancy and compounding failures (Anaktuvuk Pass, Deering, Nightmute, Selawik, Koyukuk, Hooper Bay).
- Voter Education on USPS Postmark Rule (Dec 24, 2025)**
 Alert all communities — via tribal councils, regional nonprofits (AVCP, TCC, Maniilaq, Kawerak, BBNA), and the Division of Elections — that drop-box deposits no longer reliably generate a same-day postmark. Ballots must be hand-cancelled at a staffed USPS counter.
- Verify Hand-Cancel Capability at CPU/CPO and PMR Sites**
 Contact all 5 CPU/CPO operators and all 63 PMR sites to confirm Election Day availability and operating hours. Document and publish a verified postal access guide before the next election cycle.
- Board Chair Recruitment in Region 4 Priority Communities**
 Support Division of Elections recruitment for the vacant precinct election board chair position in Wainwright, and address parallel staffing concerns flagged in Levelock and the Lake Iliamna/Kokhanok area — alongside, not instead of, the municipal clerk vacancies addressed in Pillar 1.
- Monitor Federal Litigation Affecting Ballot Postmarking**
 Track the status of the contested USPS executive order and any further developments following *Watson v. RNC*, and ensure rural communities are notified promptly of any changes affecting absentee ballot deadlines or postmarking procedures.

Near-Term Actions (90 Days – 1 Year)

- Targeted Outreach for Low-Turnout Communities with Postal Access**
 The 37 communities with a post office but below-25% turnout each require individual diagnostic outreach. Partner with regional nonprofits and tribal governments to identify the specific suppression mechanism. Documented barriers include: absentee ballot rejection (13.74% rural rejection rate in 2022, 17% in YK Delta), absence of a ballot cure process (*Arctic Village Council v. Meyer*, ongoing), concentrated Undeclared voter registration (60–70% in many Alaska Native communities — a legacy of the pre-2022 partisan primary exclusion under AS 15.25.014, and a future vulnerability if the 2026 repeal initiative passes), language access gaps, and chronic staffing failures at rural precincts — each requiring a different intervention.
- Build 2022 and 2020 Precinct Turnout Dataset**
 The current dataset has 2024 precinct-level data for 195 communities. Downloading the Division of Elections precinct CSVs for 22GENR and 20GENR enables multi-cycle trend analysis critical for identifying accelerating disengagement before the 2026 midterm cycle.
- Unincorporated Community Governance Mapping**
 The 25 unincorporated communities in this analysis with no confirmed governance organization on record warrant individual field verification. Several larger ones (Knik River 880 pop; Happy Valley 775; Moose Creek 454) may have informal associations not yet documented. Verification either confirms capacity gaps or surfaces unrecognized partners for outreach.
- Publish a Drop Box and PAV Determination Map**
 Work with the Division of Elections to publicly document which communities lack a full-time post office versus rely on roving or contracted postal positions, how Polling place Alternative Voting (PAV) status is determined, and what "received" means for drop-box chain-of-custody purposes — closing a transparency gap that currently makes independent verification of rural ballot handling difficult.