



October 7, 2016

Alaska Division of Elections
Division of Election
State of Alaska
PO Box 110017
Juneau, AK 99811-0017

Arizona Secretary of State/Elections
1700 W. Washington
7th Floor Phoenix, AZ 85007-2888

State of Hawaii Office of Elections
802 Lehua Avenue
Pearl City, HI 96782

Mississippi Secretary of State
P.O. Box 136
Jackson, MS 39205-0136

Rhode Island State Board of Elections
50 Branch Ave.
Providence, RI 02904-2790

Dear Chief Election Official:

We are writing to urge you to apply your state's voter registration deadline in a way that ensures eligible voters have a full opportunity to participate in next month's election. In your state, the voter registration deadline this year falls on a federal holiday weekend. We understand that you have decided to require that voter registration applicants postmark their mail applications by tomorrow, Saturday, October 8, 2016, instead of the typical practice of registering applicants who postmark their applications by the following post office business day. We are asking you to change this practice so that applications postmarked by Tuesday, October 11 are accepted and those applicants are registered to vote in the November general election this year.

Most states with registration deadlines 30 days before the election have taken the common-sense approach of applying a postmark deadline of Tuesday. In fact, Arkansas, Utah, and Washington recently made changes so that voters whose applications are postmarked by Tuesday will be registered to vote in November. Indeed, the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 establishes a registration deadline of 30 days or less before Election Day.

These last few days before the registration deadline are critical and come at a time when voters are paying increasing attention to the approaching election. Indeed, as you know, election officials often experience a huge surge in registration just before the deadlines.

Project Vote applauds those states that have already made the decision to accept applications postmarked by Tuesday, and urges you to follow this example to give your citizens a full opportunity to participate in next month's election.

Sincerely,

Michelle E. Kanter Cohen

Election Counsel

Project Vote