

How to Determine the Number of Signatures Needed to Petition for a Second Class City* Incorporation

Determining the number of signatures required for a second class city incorporation is a simple two step process:

1. You need to determine the number of signatures to collect:

To do so, contact Alaska's Division of Elections to obtain the number of individuals who cast a vote in the area in the last statewide general election. Once you have received that requested information from the Division of Elections, per Alaska Statute 29.05.060(12) you determine:

- a) What is 15 percent of the number of voters who voted in the area in the last general election, and
- b) Is that figure greater than 25 registered voters residing in the proposed city?

For example, if there were 1000 registered voters in the proposed city, and 200 of them voted in the last general election, then 15 percent of the 200 individuals who voted in the last general election ($.15 \times 200$, or 30 signatures), would be required from any of the 1000 registered voters in the proposed city.

2. Determine who to collect the signatures from (i.e., registered voters).

Once you have answered 1(a) and (b) above, then you should collect signatures from the greater of either 15 percent of the number of voters who cast their vote in the last general election, or of 25 voters. You should collect the appropriate number of signatures from any registered voters residing in the proposed city. Sometimes particular signatures are challenged, so it is best to collect more signatures than are required.

*The process is the same for first class or home rule city incorporation petitions, except that the minimum number of signatures required is 50 registered voters instead of 25.

Referenced statute requiring the number of signatures

AS 29.05.060(12):

"For a second class city, based on the number who voted in the area in the last general election, the signatures and resident addresses of 25 voters in the proposed city, or of 15 percent of the voters in the proposed city, whichever is greater."