

## Campbell Clarifies Statements Made by DOE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 10-022

Campbell Clarifies Statements Made by Division of Elections

(September 15, 2010, Anchorage, Alaska) – Lieutenant Governor Craig E. Campbell is speaking out regarding comments made to the media by Division of Elections (DOE) Director Gail Fenumiai relative to a potential write-in campaign.

In a recent article in the Anchorage Daily News, Ms. Fenumiai is quoted as saying she would have to "speak with the Department of Law for an opinion on whether 'Lisa' alone would count" but indicates that "Lisa M." would be sufficient for a write-in vote would be counted. Ms. Fenumiai is referring to Senator Lisa Murkowski and rumors that she will launch a write-in candidacy to retain her seat in the U.S. Senate.

"After careful review of the statutes it is clear that the oval must be marked and either a candidate's last name or their name as written on their declaration of candidacy must be present in order for the vote to be counted," Campbell said. It is questionable whether simply listing the first name and initial of the last name of a write-in candidate meets the requirements of state statute, unless that is the declared name by the candidate on the written declaration of candidacy.

"If there is a write-in candidate and they have filed the proper paperwork, DOE will follow the letter of the law - nothing more, nothing less. If there are questions of interpretation of the statutes, the Department of Law will be consulted," Campbell stated.

In the meantime, Campbell has discussed the issue with the Department of Law and has been informed that the Attorney General is reviewing the issue.

"I assure you as your lieutenant governor, any decision will be guided by a thorough review of the law and not at the sole discretion of the Director of the DOE or any individual."

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