

From: pl hamlett [plhamlett@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2012 9:03 PM
To: info@communitycouncils.org
Subject: FW: From the Desk of Senator Johnny Ellis: Ballot Measure 1

Mark,

pls fwd to CPCC members

Thanks
PETER HAMLETT

From: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
To: Senator_Johnny_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us
Subject: From the Desk of Senator Johnny Ellis: Ballot Measure 1
Date: Mon, 29 Oct 2012 23:42:34 +0000

[View Plain-Text Version](#)



[PHOTOS](#) [BILLS](#) [PRESS RELEASES](#)



**SENATOR
JOHNNY ELLIS**
Working hard
Solving problems
Getting things

October 30th, 2012

BALLOT MEASURE 1: MY VIEW

Constitutional Convention Could Be Harmful to Alaska
Friends and Neighbors,

This election, each of us has the opportunity to cast a vote and weigh in about whether or not Alaska should hold a Constitutional Convention. As a public servant I am proud to defend the original intent of our founders language and I am not in favor of making changes that could have devastating consequences for Alaska.

done

716 W 4th Ave., Suite
500
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 269-0169
fax (907) 269-0172
[Sen.Johnny.Ellis@
legis.state.sk.us](mailto:Sen.Johnny.Ellis@legis.state.sk.us)

<http://ellis.aksenate.org>

• UNSUBSCRIBE •

Contact Other
Elected Officials:

Senator Mark Begich,
Anchorage Office:
907-271-5915
EMAIL:
Sen. Mark Begich
Congressman Don Young,
Anchorage Office:
907-271-5978
EMAIL:
Rep. Don Young
Senator Lisa Murkowski,
Anchorage Office:
907-271-3735,
EMAIL:
Sen. Lisa Murkowski
Office of the Governor
Anchorage Office:
269-7450
EMAIL:
Office of the Governor



Members of the Alaska Constitutional Convention in 1956.

Alaska's Constitution is unique in its strength and clarity when defending some of the principles Alaskans cherish most.

- [Section 1.5: Freedom of Speech](#). "Every person may freely speak, write, and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right."
- [Section 1.22: The Right of Privacy](#). "The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed."
- [Section 8.1: Statement of Policy](#). "It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest."

These sections highlight Alaska's constitutional commitment to upholding the values of the people. We protect free speech, we respect each other's privacy, and we understand that as Alaskans, we all share ownership of Alaska's tremendous resources. These are some of the values our bi-partisan founders had the foresight to include in our Constitution, and their work should not be undone.

Amending the Alaska Constitution should be something we do only under extreme circumstances. Should we find it necessary, we can vote for changes one at a time through a ballot initiative rather than opening up the entire Constitution for a full scale makeover.

During the course of this election season I, like you, have been inundated with political advertisements. Recent changes to campaign finance laws following the [Citizens United v. FEC](#) decision by the Supreme Court have opened the floodgates for outside money to pour into our democratic process. The simple truth is that this money could ultimately be used to influence the outcome of a Constitutional Convention. Alaskans, not outsiders, should be calling the shots when it comes to our constitution and that's why I think a Constitutional Convention is ill advised.

I urge you to take some time [and read about the fascinating and visionary minds](#) that crafted the Alaska Constitution. Their vision for Alaska has endured thus far and I hope to continue serving under their guidance and leadership.

Until Next Week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Johnny Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Senator Johnny Ellis

P.S. *Early voting has already begun. [To find a polling place check here.](#) Election day is Tuesday, November 6th.*

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 2013.0.2742 / Virus Database: 2617/5863 - Release Date: 10/30/12