

DISMISSING THE ELECTION CONTEST RELATING TO THE
OFFICE OF REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE AT-LARGE
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF ALASKA

APRIL 9, 2025.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. STEIL, from the Committee on House Administration,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 310]

The Committee on House Administration, having had under consideration an original resolution dismissing the election contest relating to the office of Representative from the At-Large Congressional District of Alaska, reports the same to the House with the recommendation that the resolution be agreed to.

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COMMITTEE ACTION

On March 11, 2025, by voice vote, a quorum being present, the Committee agreed to a motion to report the resolution favorably to the House.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with House rule XIII, clause 3(c)(1), the Committee states that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under House rule X, clause 2(b)(1), are incorporated into the general discussion section of this report.

STATEMENT OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND RELATED ITEMS

The resolution does not provide new budget authority, new spending authority, new credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures and a statement under House rule XIII, clause 3(c)(2) and section 308(a)(1) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 is not required.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with House rule XIII, clause 3(c)(3), the Committee states, with respect to H. Res. 310, that the Director of the Congressional Budget Office did not submit a cost estimate and comparison under section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On February 25, 2025, David Ambrose (“Contestant”) filed a Notice of Contest with the Clerk of the House of Representatives pursuant to the Federal Contested Elections Act (FCEA).¹ Contestant ran as a candidate in the August 20, 2024 primary election for the office of Representative to the United States Congress representing the At-Large Congressional District of the State of Alaska. The principal candidates for the At-Large Congressional District were incumbent Democrat Mary Peltola and Republican Nick Begich III (“Contestee”),² who ultimately prevailed in the November 5, 2024, general election. On September 1, 2024, the State of Alaska certified the primary results as follows: Incumbent Peltola received 55,166 votes, Contestee Begich received 28,803 votes and Contestant received 154 votes. Under state law, the top four finishing candidates in the primary election advance to the general election. Contestant finished in ninth place and did not advance to the November 5, 2024, general election.

BASIS OF CONTEST

In his Notice of Contest, Contestant alleges that the official election results for the At-Large Congressional District were tainted by fraud and misconduct by several individuals, including Contestee. Contestant further alleges had this fraud not occurred, Contestant would have advanced from the August 20, 2024, primary election to the November 5, 2024, general election and ultimately prevailed to win the contest. Contestant is asking that the House order a review to determine whether election law violations occurred and a new election pursuant to the authority in Article I Sec. 5 of the United States Constitution.

STANDING

To have standing under the FCEA, a contestant must have been a candidate for election to the House of Representatives in the last preceding election and claim a right to the Contestee’s seat.³ FCEA

¹ 2 U.S.C. §§ 381–96.

² Alaska holds nonpartisan primary contests. As a result, while Contestant’s contest pertains to a primary election and Contestant did not ultimately advance to compete in the general election, Contestant did compete against Republican candidate Nick Begich III in the primary, who later advanced to the general election, prevailed in the general election contest, and is now the incumbent in the seat that Contestant is challenging.

³ 2 U.S.C. § 382(a).

also states that the House of Representatives has jurisdiction over official general and special elections, excluding a primary election, or a caucus or convention of a political party. Since Contestant was a candidate in the primary election for the At-Large Congressional District of Alaska, and not a candidate in the general election, Contestant therefore lacks standing.

TIMING/NOTICE

The Notice of Contest was filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives on February 25, 2025, a date occurring after the prescribed time period for filing set by the FCEA. However, the timing of Contestant's filing is not relevant to the determination of this claim, because Contestant lacks standing.

ANALYSIS

Under FCEA, the House of Representatives has jurisdiction over official general and special elections, but that does not include a primary election, or a caucus or convention of a political party.⁴ Since Contestant was a candidate in the primary election for the At-Large Congressional District of Alaska and not a candidate in the general election, Contestant lacks standing. The Committee finds that this claim must be dismissed due to lack of standing.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, the Committee therefore concludes that this contest should be dismissed.

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⁴ 2 U.S.C. § 381(a).