

October 23, 2008

Hon. Sean Parnell  
Lieutenant Governor  
Alaska  
P.O. Box 110015  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015

**RE: ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTION / NAACP ASSISTANCE**

Dear Lieutenant Governor Parnell:

On behalf of the NAACP, our Nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots based civil rights organization, I am writing to offer the assistance of the NAACP in your state to ensure that the 2008 general election runs as smoothly and as properly as possible and that every vote is counted. As you may be aware, the NAACP, which is non-partisan, has more than 2,200 membership units across the country in every state, including Alaska. In addition to having thousands of volunteers on the ground throughout the Nation, the NAACP has a national Voter Empowerment campaign which includes a toll free voter protection hotline, 866-OUR VOTE, (866-687-8683) which is already operational and will continue to run throughout the election and can be used by both elected officials and individual voters alike.

Lastly, due to our strong commitment to and history of working to ensure that every eligible American is able to cast a free and unfettered vote and to make sure that vote is counted we have some serious concerns and as such, we have developed a series of questions about your preparations for the 2008 general election to which I look forward to receiving your response. Your responses will be passed along to our units within your state so they may respond accordingly to any specific challenges with which they may be faced.

Numerous sources agree that we will witness an historic voter turnout this November 4, 2008. For the past year the NAACP has waged aggressive voter registration and voter education campaigns which will culminate with our Get-Out-the-Vote campaign and our voter protection campaign, as have many other groups as well. With the increased numbers of voters, however, many of whom may be voting for the first time, comes an increased opportunity for mischief, mayhem and disenfranchisement. The NAACP has therefore placed a premium on ensuring that the 2008 election is smooth, fair and truly democratic.

Specifically, I would hope that you would let me know:

- What you have done or are doing to ensure that there are an adequate number of election workers and operational voting machines, both of which should be equally distributed throughout the state and that the workers are sufficiently trained so as to appropriately handle any questions or problems that may arise;

- What you have done to clarify your state's policies on the voting rights of Americans going through foreclosure to ensure that they are not erroneously purged from the voting rolls;
- What you have done or are doing to ensure that all voters and election workers are aware of the type or types of voter identification requirements that currently exist in your state;
- What you have done to educate your state's voters and election workers on the proper use and processing of provisional ballots;
- The extent to which you have trained election workers on how to determine if a voter who is not on the rolls at a given election site can determine if he or she is slated to vote at another site and how the voter can best get to his or her proper polling place;
- Any and all steps you have taken to prevent voter intimidation by:
  - Being sensitive to overt law enforcement presence at polling sites;
  - Being aware of misleading flyers announcing check points at polling sites for outstanding traffic or parking violations or unpaid child support or other such disenfranchising misinformation;
- If you have trained your election workers on how to handle potential third party challenges at the polls, where they are allowed, and if so how; and
- All steps you have taken to ensure that every polling place in your state had adequate facilities to deal with eligible, registered voters who may be faced with a disability, whether temporary or permanent.

As I mentioned in the first part of this letter, the NAACP stands prepared to assist you in your efforts. Please feel free to contact me at (410) 580-5600 or you may contact the NAACP Washington Bureau Director, Mr. Hilary Shelton, at (202) 463-2940. I also look forward to hearing from you regarding the issues specifically laid out above so that we may know what you are doing to address the areas of concern to the NAACP.

Thank you in advance for all of your efforts to safeguard this cornerstone of the democratic process. I look forward to working with you on November 4 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Benjamin T. Jealous  
President & CEO

cc: Governor Palin