

ALASKA

There are many people who have made strong cases for several of the other states under consideration. However, Alaska has often been discounted because of several prevailing myths. Let us first dispel these myths so that we can move to the substantial body of evidence that indicates Alaska as the best choice for the Free State Project.

MYTH #1: Alaska Is Overwhelmingly Male

Alaska is 52% Male and 48% Female, which is only a slight departure from the national average.

MYTH #2 Alaska Is Too Cold

While Fairbanks, Nome, and Barrow are known for their cold winters, the state's largest city, Anchorage, has average January lows of 10 degrees with summer highs of over 65 degrees, while other warm towns such as Annette have average January lows of 30 degrees Fahrenheit and summer highs of 65.

MYTH #3 It's Dark All Winter

This is close to truth above the Arctic Circle, but Alaska is an immense state. Anchorage is far enough south to receive at least eight hours of daylight throughout the winter.

MYTH #4 It's Too Far Away

With the completed paving of the Alaska Highway, the state is accessible by land, sea, and air, with airfares being quite reasonable, as the Ted Stevens International Airport in Anchorage is a particularly busy global commercial hub.

Above are the primary complaints about Alaska, and few others have been levied. Let us now examine the important benefits Alaska will yield to the FSP if it is chosen:

- 2nd Only to Wyoming, Alaska has **the fewest number of voters** of any candidate state, yielding a prime electoral opportunity for the FSP.
- Alaska has **lower primary voter turnout in its majority party** than any other candidate state, giving our movement a critical tool in shaping the political landscape of our Free State.
- Alaska now has the **least restrictive gun control laws** of all the candidate states.
- Alaska has the **least restrictive marijuana laws** of all the candidate states, with personal possession recently ruled by an Alaskan court *completely legal*.
- Alaska has the **LOWEST TAX BURDEN** of all the candidate states as a percentage of gross state product, with no statewide sales, income, or property taxes.
- Alaska has the **least restrictive homeschooling laws**, allowing parents to educate their children **without registering with the state**.
- Alaska is the only state with a truly **extensive coastline and Canadian border**.
- Alaska is the **largest state in the Union**, providing more than adequate room for liberty-minded people, yet 60% of Alaska's population lives in either Anchorage, Fairbanks, or Juneau, making statewide campaigning an easier task than in any other Western state.
- Combined with the Alaskan Independence Party and the Alaskan Libertarian Party, **there will immediately be over 45,000 declared pro-liberty people living in a state** where only 462,000 people are even registered to vote, nearly one-tenth of the entire voting population, which does not even account for the over 200,000 people who are declared non-partisans.

- Alaska has **the lowest percentage of people born in the state**, making it less xenophobic and more accepting of people moving into the state from outside.
- Alaska produces **more oil and natural gas** than any other state in the Union save Texas, and will give the FSP significant leverage over the federal government if it is needed.
- Alaska has more than **15 million acres of farmland**, only one million of which are in production, and has excellent soil with long growing hours during the summer months.
- Alaska receives **fewer dollars in agricultural subsidies** than any other candidate state.
- Alaska is unmatched in its fresh water resources, as it is in possession of over **40% of the entire nation's non-glacial, non-frozen surface water**, in over 3 million lakes and 12,000 rivers and has more wetlands than all of the 49 other states combined, none of which even accounts for the other three-fourths of Alaska's fresh water which is frozen in glacial ice.
- Alaska has an **extremely diverse economy**, including over \$2 billion annually in international trade (mostly with countries in the Asia Pacific Rim), a tourism industry that attracts 1.4 million visitors and over a billion dollars to the state each year, a booming construction industry with more than \$1.2 billion in expenditures planned in the next several years by BP and Phillips, a seafood industry that employs 33,000+ people, and many other industries. In Alaska, there will be jobs for any set of qualifications and work experiences.

The primary battles over state selection have take place between the people advocating one of the Western States and one of the Eastern States. Alaska, however, does *not* fit into the mold of this debate, and it is a third way for Free State Project members dissatisfied with the outlooks of the other states. The information provided herein is but a fraction of the data and analysis that is available, but due to constraints of space, is the maximum we could provide. However, if you desire *more information* and are unable to access the documents online, please call Skinner Layne at 479-619-8303 and he will be more than willing to provide you with hard copies of any of the additional research on Alaska that you would like to read before casting your vote.

The selection of our target state is the **single most** important decision we will make as a political movement, and thus it is vitally important that we choose carefully and wisely. If you have already decided to cast your first-choice vote for another state, Alaska's multitude of advantages makes it a perfect second choice. For many of you who are avid advocates of one region over another, Alaska can be ranked below the states of your preferred region and above the states of the other region.

Its ability to provide **political success**, vast quantities of **natural resources**, and vibrant **economic opportunity** make Alaska one of the Free State Project's strongest candidate states.

Let us move forward, *North to the Future*, as Alaska's state motto reads, to a free tomorrow, indeed, **liberty in our lifetime**.