

Meet the Election Officials

Inspector of Election



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Ryan Cole is an associate attorney in Dorsey's Corporate Practice Group, where he uses his experience to help clients achieve their financial and business goals. Mr. Cole has experience in a variety of transactions involving capital raising, mergers and acquisitions, and the sale of healthcare businesses. A third-generation attorney and pilot in Alaska, Mr. Cole has the background to help business owners succeed in Alaska. As a former commercial fisherman in Bristol Bay, Mr. Cole also understands the unique challenges faced by businesses in Alaska on a daily basis. Mr. Cole regularly conducts employee investigations and drafts reports and recommended actions and supports Alaska Native Corporations with governance issues.

WHAT IS AN INSPECTOR OF ELECTION?

An Inspector of Election is a person, authorized by statute and CIRI's bylaws, who, among other duties, impartially certifies the number of shares outstanding and eligible to vote at a meeting, verifies the existence of a quorum, determines the number of shares represented at the meeting, oversees the tabulation (or counting) of votes and certifies the election results in accordance with the law and CIRI's Election Procedures and Rules of Conduct for Shareholder Meetings. CIRI has retained Ryan Cole as independent Inspector of Election to perform these duties for CIRI's 2023 Annual Meeting. The Inspector of Election has executed an oath requiring that he conduct all affairs pursuant to his duties as Inspector of Election impartially.

DOES THE INSPECTOR OF ELECTION ACTUALLY COUNT THE VOTES?

The law does not require that the Inspector of Election count the votes. In fact, CIRI staff could legally tabulate votes. But to ensure objectivity and transparency in the election process, the Election Procedures and Rules of Conduct for Shareholder Meetings adopted by the CIRI Board of Directors direct that the impartial Inspector of Election at each meeting of Shareholders is permitted to retain an accounting firm to aid in the performance of his or her duties. The Inspector of Election overseeing CIRI elections has opted to retain the Anchorage accounting firm of Sramek Hightower CPAs to assist with receiving and tabulating proxy and ballot votes for CIRI's 2023 Annual Meeting. Sramek Hightower, serving as a neutral third party, performs tabulation services for many companies, including several other ANCSA regional corporations.