

Bering Straits wins vote

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JUNEAU — With all but one precinct counted, voters in Bering Strait School District have succeeded in a move to elect school board members by section rather than districtwide, the Alaska Division of Elections said Wednesday.

The question was part of a larger petition to unseat cur-

rent board members. But Superior Court Judge Thomas Schulz of Ketchikan twice tossed out the recall portion of the petition, initially because it lacked enough signatures and later on grounds it did not sufficiently address the necessary grounds for a recall.

Division of Elections spokesman Chip Thoma said with 646 ballots counted, 584 voted to elect the 11 members by section. He said the normal turnout in the district is 800 votes.

The move to dump the school board, meanwhile, apparently is in limbo. The state, which certified the petition, has twice tried to defend it before Schulz. Assistant Attorney General Jon Rubini said his office was still deciding whether to drop the issue.