

Open Primary
&
Rank Choice Voting
Overview

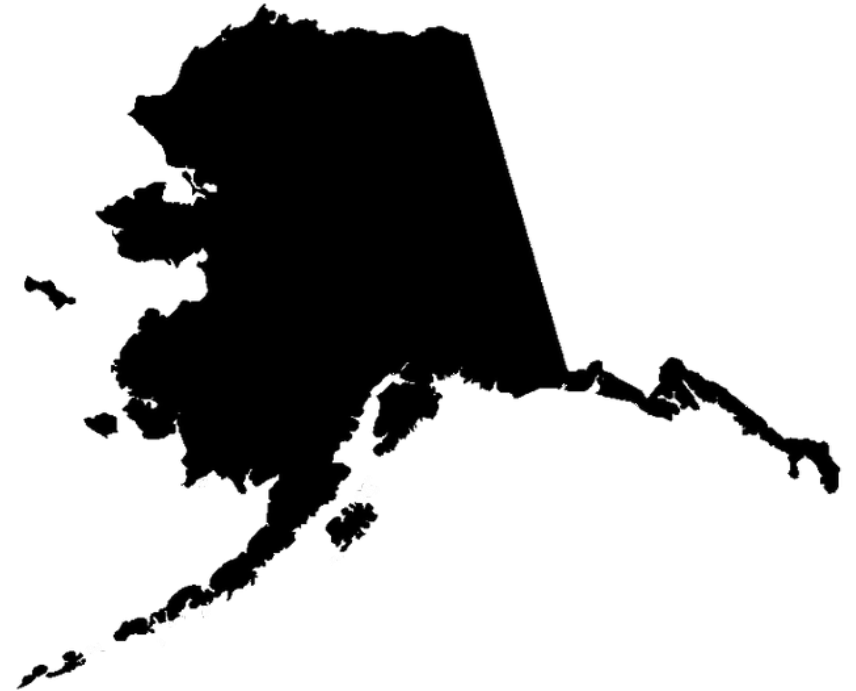
October 30th, 2022

Representative Ben Carpenter

District 8

Agenda

- Primary Election
- Rank Choice Voting Overview
- General Election
- Tabulation



<https://www.elections.alaska.gov>


New Primary Process

August 16, 2022

“Open” “Jungle” “Top-four” Primary Election

- Ballot Measure 2 replaced partisan primaries for:
 - State executive
 - State legislative
 - Federal offices
- All candidates regardless of party will be on the same ballot. Voter party affiliation is irrelevant.
- **Every voter** will receive **one vote** and will select their most preferred candidate for each race.
- The four candidates with the most votes will proceed to the General Election.
- **No Ranked Choice Voting in Primary Election**
- Candidate party affiliation will be listed next to candidate name.

SAMPLE BALLOT



STATE OF ALASKA
 DEMONSTRATION BALLOT
 August 16, 2022
 Primary Election

House District 1

If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot

Instructions: To vote, completely fill in the oval to the left of your choice, ● like this. 1199

PLEASE NOTE: A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political party or group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as affiliated with the party or group.

United States Senator <small>(vote for one)</small>	State Senator District A <small>(vote for one)</small>
<input type="radio"/> Heather Olson <small>(Registered Libertarian)</small> <input type="radio"/> Chick Hicks <small>(Registered Republican)</small> <input type="radio"/> Naomi Jackson <small>(Nonpartisan)</small> <input type="radio"/> Brent Mustangburger <small>(Registered Democrat)</small> <input type="radio"/> Tiffany Strait <small>(Registered AK Indep)</small>	<input type="radio"/> Lucius Best <small>(Registered Democrat)</small> <input type="radio"/> Finn McMissle <small>(Registered Democrat)</small> <input type="radio"/> Abominable Snowman <small>(Registered Republican)</small>
United States Representative <small>(vote for one)</small>	State Representative District 1 <small>(vote for one)</small>
<input type="radio"/> Duke Caboom <small>(Registered Democrat)</small> <input type="radio"/> Bob Gunderson <small>(Registered Republican)</small> <input type="radio"/> Buzz Lightyear <small>(Registered Republican)</small> <input type="radio"/> Cal Weathers <small>(Nonpartisan)</small> <input type="radio"/> Action Jackson <small>(Undeclared)</small>	<input type="radio"/> Crystal Du Bois <small>(Registered Republican)</small> <input type="radio"/> Edna Mode <small>(Registered Democrat)</small> <input type="radio"/> Dirk Pratt <small>(Registered Republican)</small> <input type="radio"/> Elena Rivera <small>(Registered AK Indep)</small>
Governor / Lieutenant Governor <small>(vote for one)</small>	BALLOT MEASURE NO.1 21TEST
<input type="radio"/> Claire Wheeler <small>(Registered Democrat) / Dirk Pratt <small>(Registered Democrat)</small> <input type="radio"/> Elena Rivera <small>(Undeclared) / Jackson Storm <small>(Nonpartisan)</small> <input type="radio"/> Augustus "Spike" Jones <small>(Registered Republican) / Buddy Pine <small>(Registered Republican)</small> <input type="radio"/> Britney Davis <small>(Registered Libertarian) / Ellie Fredricksen <small>(Registered Libertarian)</small> <input type="radio"/> Sherri Squibbles <small>(Nonpartisan) / Rae Mills <small>(Nonpartisan)</small> </small></small></small></small></small>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">This act would allow the State of Alaska, Division of Elections to conduct testing and training on the voting and ballot tabulation system for a Primary Election.</p> <p>Shall this Act be adopted?</p> <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Open Primary Election

- If there are less than four candidates on the primary ballot, all will move forward to the general election.
- If a candidate misses filing deadline, their name will not appear on the primary, or general election ballot.
- Candidates who do not file or lose in the primary have the option to run as an official write-in candidate.
- There is no limit to the number of candidates who can file to run in a race.



Open Primary Election

- Candidates who run for Governor and Lt. Governor will run as a ticket on both the primary and general ballots.
- To run in the primary, one must meet the requirements of AS 15.25.030(a) and seek to become a candidate in the primary election by filing a declaration of candidacy.
- If one of the top four candidates withdraws after the primary, the person who finished in fifth will replace them on the general election ballot.



Ranked Choice Voting Overview



General Election Ranked Choice Voting

November 8, 2022

- The top four candidates from the primary are placed on the general election ballot along with a "write-in" box.
- Next to each name there will be candidate preference indicators that voters will mark their ranked choices on.
- Voters will then select their preference of candidates in order of who they would like to win the office.

SAMPLE BALLOT

House District 1
Judicial District 4

STATE OF ALASKA
DEMONSTRATION BALLOT
November 08, 2022
General Election

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Instructions: Vote by ranking candidates of your choice.

- Rank as many or as few candidates as you like
- Completely fill in one oval for each candidate on a ballot
- For your 1st choice, fill in the oval in the 1st choice column
- For your 2nd choice, fill in the oval in the 2nd choice column
- For your 3rd choice, fill in the oval in the 3rd choice column, and so on
- If you make a mistake, you can ask for a new ballot

PLEASE NOTE: A candidate's designated affiliation does not imply that the candidate is nominated or endorsed by the political party or group or that the party or group approves of or associates with that candidate, but only that the candidate is registered as affiliated with the party or group.

United States Senator

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Heather Olson <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Chick Hicks <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Naomi Jackson <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tiffany Strahl <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

United States Representative

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Duke Calhoun <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bob Gunderson <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buzz Lightyear <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cal Weathers <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Governor / Lieutenant Governor

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Claire Wheeler <small>(Republican)</small> / Dirk Pratt <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elena Rivera <small>(Democratic)</small> / Jackson Storm <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Augustus "Spike" Jones <small>(Republican)</small> / Buddy Pine <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Britney Davis <small>(Republican)</small> / Ellie Fredrickson <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

State Senator District A

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
Lucus Best <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Finn McWizale <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abominable Snowman <small>(Republican)</small>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Continue Voting on Next Side

Alaska State Representative District X					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
John Smith (Republican)	✕				
Tammy Reid (Democrat)					
Marsha Durant (Non-partisan)			✕		
Colton Marks (Republican)		✕			
Write-In: <u>Sam Adams</u>				✕	

General Election Ranked Choice Voting

- Voters are not required to fill out all choices, however failing to rank all candidates can result in unintended consequences.
- **Example:** If a voter only marked their preference for John Smith, and that candidate was to have the lowest number of votes at the end of any round of tabulation, meaning the candidate was eliminated from contention, the ballot would be considered "exhausted" and have no further impact on the outcome.

State Representative District 1					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Crystal Du Bois	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edna Mode	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dirk Pratt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elena Rivera	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Instructions: To vote the following contests, completely fill in the oval to the right of your choice, like this:

Supreme Court - Justice Ramirez
 Shall Cruz Ramirez be retained as justice of the supreme court for ten years?
 Yes | No

Superior Court - Judge Rivera
 Shall Hector Rivera be retained as judge of the superior court for six years?
 Yes | No

BALLOT MEASURE NO. 1
21TEST
 This act would allow the State of Alaska, Division of Elections to conduct testing and training on the voting and ballot tabulation system for a General Election.
 Shall this Act be adopted?
 Yes | No

Alaska State Representative District X					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
John Smith (Republican)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>				
Tammy Reid (Democrat)					
Marsha Durant (Non-partisan)					
Colton Marks (Republican)					
Write-In: <u>Sam Adams</u>					

General Election Ranked Choice Voting

- If a voter decides to skip one of their choices, their subsequent choices will still count in the next round.
- Example: If the voter were to not rank any candidate as their second choice, their original third choice would be automatically considered their second choice.

Alaska State Representative District X					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
John Smith (Republican)	✘				
Tammy Reid (Democrat)					
Marsha Durant (Non-partisan)			✘	✘	
Colton Marks (Republican)		✘	✘		
Write-In: <u>Sam Adams</u>				✘	✘

Alaska State Representative District X					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
John Smith (Republican)	✘				
Tammy Reid (Democrat)					
Marsha Durant (Non-partisan)					✘
Colton Marks (Republican)				✘	
Write-In: <u>Sam Adams</u>					

Ballot Exhausted if **two** choices are skipped & candidate is eliminated

General Election Ranked Choice Voting

Exhausted Ballots DO NOT PROCEED FURTHER

Alaska State Representative District X					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
John Smith (Republican)	✗				
Tammy Reid (Democrat)	✗				
Marsha Durant (Non-partisan)	✗				
Colton Marks (Republican)	✗				
Write-In: <u>Sam Adams</u>	✗				

Not
Counted
First Round

Alaska State Representative District X					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
John Smith (Republican)	✗				
Tammy Reid (Democrat)					
Marsha Durant (Non-partisan)					✗
Colton Marks (Republican)				✗	
Write-In: <u>Sam Adams</u>					

Exhausted
Second Round
if candidate is
eliminated

Alaska State Representative District X					
	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
John Smith (Republican)	✗	✗	✗	✗	
Tammy Reid (Democrat)					
Marsha Durant (Non-partisan)					✗
Colton Marks (Republican)					
Write-In: <u>Sam Adams</u>					

Exhausted if
candidate is
eliminated

Tabulation Process

- To win the election, a candidate must win 50% + 1 of all votes. This is different from the plurality voting process where the candidate with the most votes wins.
- If a candidate wins 50% +1 of the first-choice vote, they win the election. The remaining choices are not used. This process to count the first-choice votes includes all the absentee ballots. The first round will take some time to complete.
- If no candidate wins 50% + 1, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated.
- The voters who voted for the eliminated candidate as their first-choice have their votes reallocated to their second-choice candidate.

Tabulation Process

- Once the votes are reallocated from the last place candidate, the election is checked to see if any candidate has crossed the $50\% + 1$ threshold.
- If no candidate has met the $50\% + 1$ threshold, another round of reallocation takes place where the next lowest candidate is eliminated. This continues until there is a winner.
- The only instance wherein a vote is not reallocated is when a vote is considered “exhausted” and removed from further consideration.
- The removed exhausted ballots lower the number of votes required to reach the $50\% + 1$ threshold by the number of exhausted ballots removed.
- In other words, an exhausted ballot reduces the number of votes required for any remaining candidate to win the election.

Tabulation Process

Unintended Consequences with Exhausted Ballots

Example of a Candidate winning with less than 50% +1 of first round votes because of exhausted ballots

	Round 1 Votes	Deficit	Round 2 Votes	Deficit	Round 3 Votes
Total Ballots	100		90		75
Exhausted Ballots	0		10		15
50% + 1 Threshold Required to Win	51		46		38.5
Candidate A	35	16	35	11	35
Candidate B	40	11	40	6	40
Candidate C	10	41	0		0
Candidate D	15	36	15	31	0
	No candidate received 50% + 1		Candidate C was eliminated; all voters with Candidate C as their first choice had exhausted ballots; 50% + 1 threshold dropped to 46 votes; no candidate received additional votes and no candidate received 50% + 1		Candidate D was eliminated; all voters with candidate D as their first choice had exhausted ballots; 50% + 1 threshold dropped to 39 votes; no candidate received additional votes; candidate B received 50% + 1 of the vote

Questions?