

Ballot Measure No. 2

An Act Restoring Political Party Primaries and Single-Choice General Elections

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

As leaders of Alaskans for Honest Elections 22AKHE, we ask you to support this initiative to get rid of the Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) in Alaska. We think this change is important to make our elections easier, cheaper, and clearer.

Why This Matters:

1. High Costs:
 - o Ranked-Choice Voting is very expensive. Since we started using it, our election costs have gone up to over \$11 million, from about \$3.3 million per year between 2010 and 2020. 2022 Election was 328% more expensive than every election from 2010-2020.
 - o This money could be used for other important things in our state.
2. Low Voter Turnout:
 - o RCV has made voting confusing for many people. This confusion has led to the lowest voter turnout in Alaska's history.
 - o When voting is too complicated, people don't vote. This is bad for our democracy.
3. Misleading Results:
 - o RCV doesn't always show a clear winner. Sometimes, if a voter's chosen candidate is eliminated early, their vote doesn't count in the final result.
 - o This means the winner might not be who most voters wanted.
4. Hurts 3rd Parties:
 - o RCV was supposed to help smaller, third-party candidates, but it hasn't worked. In 2022, no third-party candidates made it to the U.S. Senate race. In 2020 there were 5 3rd party candidates in the U.S. Senate race.
 - o This shows that RCV isn't giving us more choices as promised.
5. Dirty Politics:
 - o The Jungle Primary system, where all candidates run together regardless of party, has led to more negative campaigning within parties.
 - o In 2022, even though Republican candidates got more overall votes, a Democrat won because of how RCV counted the votes.
6. Too Many Candidates:
 - o RCV has brought more candidates into elections, but this hasn't improved the quality of choices. Instead, it makes elections more confusing and expensive.
 - o For example, in the 2022 U.S. House election, 48 candidates ran, but only 4 made it to the general election. Over 90% of these candidates had no real chance to win.
 - o A closed primary system, where parties choose their best candidate, is simpler and gives voters clearer choices.
7. Impact on Minority Voters:
 - o RCV often harms minority voters. Studies show that in places with lots of minority voters, ballots get "exhausted" more often. This means their votes don't count in the final rounds.
 - o Minority voters also tend to have less information about all the candidates, which makes it harder for them to rank many candidates, leading to their votes being wasted.

Conclusion:

Supporting this initiative will make our elections simpler and save money. It will make voting easier and ensure that more people's voices are heard. Let's bring back a clear and honest election system in Alaska. Please vote for 22AKHE.

Signers:

1. Art Mathias, Sponsor of 22AKHE
2. Jamie Donley, Sponsor of 22AKHE
3. Phillip Izon, Sponsor of 22AKHE

We believe this change is necessary for fairer and more effective elections in Alaska.

The statement printed on this page is the opinion of the author(s) and is presented as submitted to the Division of Elections.