

Ballot Measure No. 2

An Act Replacing the Political Party Primary with an Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election, and Requiring Additional Campaign Finance Disclosures

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

The Alaskans for Better Elections initiative puts power back in the hands of voters, creating a better Alaska through more open, transparent, and fair elections.

We live in a moment where our elections are awash in special interest secret money, where transparency, access, and voter participation are overshadowed by divisive, partisan gridlock.

We need a government that works for We the People, not for lobbyists and special interests.

Voting YES for the Better Elections initiative will give voters more power in three ways:

1) End Dark Money in Alaska Elections

Alaskans deserve to know who is spending money to influence their vote.

- Big-moneyed donors can spend as much as they want to influence our elections - without disclosing where the money comes from.
- The initiative requires additional reporting for groups that raise and spend unlimited amounts of money.
- These groups would be required to disclose the true sources behind large donations in real-time.

That means no more hidden outside money.

2) Open Primaries to All Alaska Voters

Our current primary system is partisan and denies voters real choices, yet it's paid for by state money.

- No Alaskan should be denied a vote just because they don't want to be affiliated with Republican or Democratic parties.
- Currently, political parties choose who can vote in their primary elections which disenfranchises non-partisan voters.
- Voters, especially non-partisan voters, are forced to pick between one ballot or the other, meaning only a small group of primary voters end up choosing the candidates that appear on the general election ballot.

3) Ranked-Choice Voting in the General Election

Ranked-choice voting is a simple change that gives voters more freedom to choose the candidate that best reflects their positions.

- Instead of having to pick between the "lesser of two evils," voters can rank candidates in their order of preference.
- If a candidate wins a majority of first choices, they win, just like any other election. If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated; his or her ballots are counted for their second choice.
- The process repeats until one candidate receives a majority of votes and is declared the winner.
- If you prefer not to rank your choices, you can still vote for your first choice as you do under the current system.
- This simple adjustment ensures that every winning candidate receives a majority of votes cast and helps put the focus back on the issues that truly matter to voters.

The Alaskans for Better Elections initiative ensures that every Alaska voter has the right to have their voice heard and vote counted, regardless of whether they think of themselves as Republican, Democrat, or independent. It restores integrity to our elections and gives We the Voters the voice, choice, and power through our votes.

Vote YES for the Alaskans for Better Elections initiative.

Bonnie L. Jack - Republican - Initiative Co-Chair
Jason Grenn - Independent - Initiative Co-Chair
Bruce Botelho - Democrat - Initiative Co-Chair

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