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Ballot Measure 2 is a commonsense reform that provides every Alaskan with an opportunity to have their voice heard. It ends the process of voting for the lesser of two evils by ensuring we have more and better choices in each election, and takes power away from special interests by giving it back to regular Alaskans, where it belongs.

In a state where more than 60 percent of voters choose not to join the Republican or Democratic parties, encouraging more independent-minded candidates to participate will result in leadership that works better for all Alaskans.

**Eliminating Dark Money**

“Dark money” refers to political campaign spending where a donor uses a front group or third-party to shield their identity. Ballot Measure 2 reduces the influence of dark money by requiring both donors and campaigns to report the true source of donations over \$2,000 within 24 hours.

- Over \$818 million in dark money was spent nationwide in the 2018 Election Cycle alone, according to [Open Secrets](#).
- In Alaska, over \$15.7 million in dark money has been spent on elections [since 2014](#).
- [The vast majority of Americans support reforms](#) that would curb the influence of special interest dark money donors.

**Open Primaries**

An open nonpartisan primary is a simple change that will allow all voters, regardless of party affiliation, to use a single ballot that lists every candidate running for office in each race. Instead of using taxpayer money to subsidize the political parties to run separate primaries, a unified primary system simplifies the process and increases participation. Alaskans shouldn't be forced to choose a party before they can choose a candidate.

- [Over 60 percent of Alaska voters](#) are independent, nonpartisan, undeclared, or a member of a third party, but these Alaskans are disenfranchised by the current system.
- In the 2018 primary election cycle, states with open primaries had higher average voter turnout than states without it, according to a [study from the Bipartisan Policy Center](#).
- Alaska used to have open primaries — known as a “blanked primary” — but thanks to a lawsuit from Outside, Alaska was forced to abandon it in the early 2000s. Up until that point, an open primary worked well.
- The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled definitively on the constitutionality of the open primaries model proposed in Ballot Measure 2.

**BETTER ELECTIONS, MORE POWER FOR ALASKANS. VOTE YES ON 2.**



Further Reading:

- [Constitutionality of Ballot Measure 2](#)
- [Washington State Republican Party v. Washington State Grange](#)
- [Legal-Authority-for-Top-Two-Open-Primary](#)
- [Alaska Supreme Court No. S-17629 Superior Court No. 3AN-19-09704 C I O P I N I O N No. 7460 – June 12, 2020](#)

### Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

Ranked choice voting is an easy and effective reform that gives voters the power to rank their candidates in 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, and his or her voters' ballots are counted for their second choice. This process continues until a candidate wins a majority of votes.

- [More than a dozen cities and the state of Maine](#) use ranked choice voting.
- Five state Democratic parties used ranked choice voting in presidential primary elections and caucuses in 2020, including Alaska. Despite a global pandemic, all five states [had high rates of success and higher turnout with ranked choice voting](#) than their previous primaries.
- About 75 percent of voters reported ranked choice voting was “somewhat” or “very” easy when it was used in Maine’s 2nd Congressional District, according to an exit survey conducted by the [Bangor Daily News](#).
- [A 2016 study](#) found that ranked choice voting increases voter turnout by about 10 percent.

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### Want to Talk to an Expert?

We believe the reforms in Ballot Measure 2 will make Alaska's elections more transparent and give voters more voice and more choice. But don't take our word for it. Here are a few national experts that can help expand your reporting.

- **Drew Penrose**, FairVote Law and Policy Director. Expertise: Fair Representation Act, ranked choice voting, presidential elections, National Popular Vote, open vs. closed primaries.
- **Erica Frazier**, FairVote research manager. Expertise: ranked choice voting election data. Contact: Ashley Houghton, FairVote Communication's Director, [ahoughton@fairvote.org](mailto:ahoughton@fairvote.org), 301-793-6604.
- **Gary Bartlett**, Director of the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center. Expertise: Election process, implementation of ranked choice voting. Contact: [gobartlett@nc.rr.com](mailto:gobartlett@nc.rr.com), 919-735-3006.
- **Michael Latner**, Associate Professor at Cal Poly. Expertise: Political participation, representation. Contact: [mlatner@calpoly.edu](mailto:mlatner@calpoly.edu), 805-756-2978.
- **Michael Parsons**, Assistant Professor at NYU Law. Expertise: Alternative voting methods, election law. Contact: [michael.parsons@nyu.edu](mailto:michael.parsons@nyu.edu), 212-992-8196
- **Sarah John**, University of Virginia, formerly head of FairVote research. Expertise: Ranked choice voting. Contact: [sej4d@virginia.edu](mailto:sej4d@virginia.edu),
- **Todd Donovan**, Professor of Political Science at Western Washington University, and **David Kimball**, Professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Expertise: Ranked choice voting. Contact: [Todd.Donovan@wwu.edu](mailto:Todd.Donovan@wwu.edu), 360-650-3018; [dkimball@umsl.edu](mailto:dkimball@umsl.edu), 314-516-6050

### Alaskans Supporting Ballot Measure 2

- **Jason Grenn, Bonnie Jack, Bruce Botelho**. November 1, 2019, [Better governance starts with better elections](#)
- **Sharman Haley**. November 26, 2019, [Alaska's campaign finance laws must be enforced](#)
- **Rebecca Braun**. December 27, 2019, [Ranked-choice voting initiative favors no one but voters](#)
- **Lesil McGuire and Jeremy Grube**. January, 1, 2020, [Let's restore Alaska's tradition of open primaries](#)

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