



PATINKIN RESEARCH STRATEGIES

MEMO

To: Interested Parties
From: Ben Patinkin, Patinkin Research Strategies
Re: Alaska Exit Poll Results — New Election System
Date: November 15, 2022

Patinkin Research Strategies conducted an exit poll of Alaska voters to understand the voter experience in the November election and what Alaska voters believe about the reforms passed in 2020.

The data show Alaska voters were educated about their new election system, found it simple, and believe that this year's elections were more competitive than in the past. The findings included:

- **92% of Alaskans reported receiving instructions on how to rank their choices;**
 - At least 87% of respondents across all major ethnicities — including Alaska Native, Black, Latino, and Asian/Hawaiian voters — received instructions.
 - Asked how they heard about ranked choice voting 42% of respondents reported receiving mail, 44% saw TV ads, 31% heard radio ads, 31% learned on social media, 28% talked with family and friends, 20% visited a website, and 13% attended an event.
- **79% of Alaskans reported RCV to be “simple”**
 - At least 78% of respondents across all major ethnicities — including Alaska Native, Black, Latino, and Asian/Hawaiian voters — said it was simple.
 - Of the 79% who said RCV was “simple,” 59% said it was “very simple” and 20% said it was “somewhat simple.” Only 9% said it was “very difficult.”
- **60% say Alaska’s state and local elections were more competitive compared to previous years**
 - 60% of self-identified Republicans and 68% of self-identified Democrats agree with this assessment

The poll was commissioned by Alaskans for Better Elections and was in the field from November 9th-13th. The survey was completed by 800 registered Alaska voters who reported participating in the general election; the credibility interval (the theoretical margin of error for a blended-methodology poll that relies partially on telephone-based sampling and partially on non-probability based text-to-web sampling) was +/- 3.46%.

n=548 respondents (n=567 weighted) participated via a mix of landline and cell phones, while n=252 (n=232 weighted) participated via text to web. Cell phone interviews represent 72% of the telephone portion of the sample (77% weighted).

Of the 800 respondents:

- 29.8% were registered Republicans, 16.2% were registered Democrats, 16.8% were registered No Party, and 33.1% were registered Undeclared;
- 44% were from Anchorage Borough, 13% from Fairbanks North Star, 12% from southeastern boroughs, 9% from Kenai Peninsula Borough, 16% from Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 3% from smaller boroughs and 4% from unorganized boroughs.
- Alaska Natives represented 9% of the sample, 12% were persons of color (not Alaska Native) and 69% were caucasian.

The exact wording of questions referenced above were:

Did you receive instructions on how to fill out your ballot in the ranked choice voting election?

Yes	92 %
No	7 %
DK/NA	0 %

In your opinion, how simple or difficult was it for you to fill out your Ranked Choice Voting ballot?

Very simple	59 %
Somewhat simple	20 %
Somewhat difficult	12 %
Very difficult	8 %
DK/NA	0 %
NET SIMPLE	79 %
NET DIFFICULT	20 %

Do you think Alaska's state and local elections this year were **[ROTATE:]** __more or __less competitive compared to previous years or were things about the same? **[IF MORE / LESS, ASK:]** Is that much or only somewhat **[MORE/LESS]?** **[IF ABOUT THE SAME, ASK:]** If you had to choose, which way would you lean?

Much more competitive	28 %
Somewhat more competitive	22 %
Lean more competitive	10 %
About the same	20 %
Lean less competitive	6 %
Somewhat less competitive	6 %
Strongly less competitive	5 %
Don't know	4 %
NET MORE COMPETITIVE	58 %
NET LESS COMPETITIVE	17 %