



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2024

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Exit Polling Shows Alaskans Found Ranked Choice Voting Simple

Alaska's election system shown to increase competition, empowering voters

ANCHORAGE, Alaska- Exit polling conducted by Alaskans for Better Elections and FairVote showed that most Alaskans found Ranked Choice Voting to be simple and a growing number show support for a main benefit of the system - moving competitive races to the general election.

In the poll of 600 voters conducted on November 3-6:

- **84% of Alaskans reported Ranked Choice Voting to be “simple”**
- **56% feel positively about the ability to have multiple candidates from the same party in the November general election.**

"Alaskan voters are seeing the benefits of our election system," said Juli Lucky, Executive Director of Alaskans for Better Elections. "Alaska's election system gives every voter the freedom to vote for any candidate, regardless of party, and advances the most competitive candidates to the general election, where more voters participate. Especially in districts where elections were historically decided in the lower-turnout primary election, this gives more power and voice to a larger number of voters and ensures that our elected officials have earned broad support."

See attached [memo](#) from Patinkin Research Strategies with more specifics on the polling.

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MEMO

To: Interested Parties
From: Ben Patinkin, Patinkin Research Strategies
Re: Alaska Exit Poll Results
Date: November 13, 2024

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 Alaskan voters found ranked choice voting simple and believe that the ability to have multiple candidates from the same party on the general election ballot is positive. The findings included:

- **84% of Alaskans reported RCV to be “simple”**
 - At least 75% of respondents across all major ethnicities — including Alaska Native, Black, Latino, and Asian/Hawaiian voters — said it was simple.
 - Of the 84% who said RCV was “simple,” 72% said it was “very simple” and 12% said it was “somewhat simple.” Only 6% said it was “very difficult.”
- **56% say it’s a positive when there are multiple candidates from the same party on the general election ballot**
 - In 2022, only 43% of Alaskans agreed that it was positive to have multiple candidates from the same party on the general election ballot. This means there was a 13-percentage point increase in this perception over the past two years.
 - Majorities of voters under age 50 (64%) and voters over age 50 (52%) as well as men (53%) and women (59%) now agree that it’s a positive when there are multiple candidates from the same party on the general election ballot.

The poll was commissioned by Alaskans for Better Elections and FairVote and was in the field from November 3-6. The survey was completed among 600 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 +/- 4.0%.

n=300 respondents (n=340 weighted) participated via a mix of landline and cell phones, while n=300 (n=260 weighted) participated via text to web. Cell phone interviews represent 71% of the telephone portion of the sample (81% weighted).

Of the 600 respondents:

- 27% were registered Republicans, 16% were registered Democrats, 16% were registered No Party, and 37% were registered Undeclared;
- 40% were from Anchorage Borough, 12% from Fairbanks North Star, 10% from southeastern boroughs not including Juneau, 6% from City and Borough of Juneau, 10% from Kenai Peninsula Borough, 15% from Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and 7% from other borough and census areas across the state.
- Alaska Natives represented 15% of the sample, 17% were persons of color (not Alaska Native) and 66% were caucasian.

The exact wording of questions referenced above were:

For you personally, how simple or difficult was it to fill your ranked choice voting ballot?

Very simple	72 %
Somewhat simple	12 %
Somewhat difficult	8 %
Very difficult	6 %
Can't recall	2 %
NET SIMPLE	84 %
NET DIFFICULT	14 %

Do you believe that it is a positive or negative thing that some general election races in Alaska this year included multiple candidates from the same party? [IF POSITIVE / NEGATIVE, ASK:]
Do you feel that way strongly, or not so strongly?

Positive, strongly	41 %
Positive, not strongly	15 %
Negative, not strongly	9 %
Negative, strongly	29 %
Don't know	7 %
NET POSITIVE	56 %
NET NEGATIVE	38 %