



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Polling Shows Alaskan Voters Received Clear Instructions on the System, Found Ranking to be “Simple,” and saw more Competitive Races

ANCHORAGE- Alaskans for Better Elections surveyed Alaskan voters after the November 8 Ranked Choice General Election and is thrilled to announce that **92% of Alaskans reported receiving instructions on how to rank their choices, 79% of Alaskans reported Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to be “simple,” and 60% say Alaska’s state and local elections were more competitive compared to previous years.**

"Alaska Division of Elections and many organizations across the state committed to ensuring Alaskans were confident and empowered to navigate Alaska’s Election System, and these numbers celebrate their success," said Jason Grenn, Executive Director for Alaskans for Better Elections. "Additionally, we rank things every day, so we are not surprised by the numbers confirming that Alaskans find RCV to be ‘simple.’"

"We said the system would provide more choice and 60% of Alaskan voters identifying more competitive races supports our original claim," said Grenn.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Alaska Division of Elections, Get Out the Native Vote, Tu Voz Importa, Alaska Municipal League, Alaska AARP, Polynesian Association of Alaska, Alaska Center, Voter Hub, AKPIRG, and many more for all their efforts to prepare Alaskan voters who had more choice and more voice in their new Election System.

See attached memo from Patinkin Research Strategies with more specifics on the polling.

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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 % |