



**PATINKIN
RESEARCH
STRATEGIES**

MEMO

To: Interested Parties
From: Ben Patinkin, Patinkin Research Strategies
Re: Alaska Exit Poll Results — New Election System
Date: August 30, 2022

Patinkin Research Strategies conducted an exit poll of Alaska voters to understand the voter experience in the August 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 like the new top-four nonpartisan primary open to all voters. The findings included:

- **95% of Alaskans reported receiving instructions on how to rank their choices;**
 - At least 92% of respondents across all major ethnicities — including Alaska Native, Black, Latino, and Asian/Hawaiian voters — received instructions.
 - Asked how they received instructions, 55% of respondents reported receiving mail, 39% saw TV ads, 30% heard radio ads, 29% learned on social media, 26% talked with family and friends, 22% visited a website, and 10% attended an event.
- **85% of Alaskans reported RCV to be “simple”**
 - At least 80% of respondents across all major ethnicities — including Alaska Native, Black, Latino, and Asian/Hawaiian voters — said it was simple.
 - Of the 85% who said RCV was “simple,” 57% said it was “very simple” and 28% said it was “somewhat simple.” Only 6% said it was “very difficult.”
- **A supermajority of voters (66%) ranked multiple candidates**
 - Of the 33% voters who only voted for one candidate, 75% reported the reason was “that was the only candidate I liked.”
- **62% of Alaskans support the state’s new primary system that is open to all voters and allow the top-four vote getters to advance to the general election.**
 - Only 33% oppose the system, and 4% of respondents were undecided.

The poll was commissioned by Alaskans for Better Elections and was in the field from August 18th - 24th. The survey was completed by 1,200 registered Alaska voters who reported participating in the regular primary and special 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 +/- 2.82%.

n=674 respondents (n=664 weighted) participated via a mix of landline and cell phones, while n=526 (n=536 weighted) participated via text to web. Cell phone interviews represent 56% of the telephone portion of the sample.

Of the 1,200 respondents:

- 33.8% were registered Republicans, 15.6% were registered Democrats, 19.3% were registered No Party, and 26.3% were registered Undeclared
- 43% were from Anchorage Borough, 12% from Fairbanks North Star, 6% from Juneau Borough, 10% from Kenai Peninsula Borough, 15% from Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 7% from smaller boroughs and 7% 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	95 %
.....	
No	5 %
.....	
DK/NA	1 %
.....	

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

Very simple	57 %
.....	
Somewhat simple	28 %
.....	
Somewhat difficult	9 %
.....	
Very difficult	6 %
.....	

NET SIMPLE	85 %
NET DIFFICULT	15 %

In the August 16 special election for Congress, the candidates were Sarah Palin, Mary Peltola, and Nicholas Begich. Did you rank one candidate, did you rank two candidates or three candidates?

Ranked one candidate	33 %
Ranked two candidates	38 %
Ranked three candidates	28 %
DK/NA	1 %

Next is a list of some aspects of Alaska's elections. After each, please indicate whether you favor or oppose that aspect. If you aren't sure, you can tell me that, too and we will move on. **[IF FAVOR/OPPOSE, ASK:]** Do you feel that way strongly or not so strongly?

	Favor, strongly	Favor, not strongly	Oppose, not strongly	Oppose, strongly	DK/NA
An open nonpartisan primary where all candidates appear on one ballot. The four candidates with the most votes move on to the general election ballot	45%	17%	6%	27%	4%