



## Why is voting important?

Each day, we all work to protect traditional ways of life whether we realize it or not. This work unfolds through the way we care for our children, in the way we bring our families together over meals, in the way we enjoy the changing of seasons, and in the way that we seek to be present for our communities. It is the belief of NPA/CF that our communities hold the knowledge of how to create a world where our lands and waters and people are healthy and safe. It is our responsibility to share this knowledge - All of us must use our voices to uplift our cultures, traditions, and ways of life, and identify and enact better solutions to policies and systems that threaten and harm our ways of life. **This means showing up to vote!** Whether at the voting booth, or through the mail for this Special Election. Imagine how much different life in Alaska could be if we had 100% of our people voting.

"Alaska is and always will be a Native place. Alaska Native people are the continued stewards of these lands and waters. We know what is needed for the lands, water, air and all relatives to be healthy and in balance. Nowadays, stewardship looks a little different, to make sure that we are advocating for our ways of life we need to show up at the polls and vote for candidates whose values best align with our own." -Rochelle Adams, NPACF Indigenous Engagement Director



#### **Elections Overview:**

The general election continues on, with the next state-wide election occurring on November 8th, 2022. In accordance with Alaska law, all general elections will be conducted by Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). Voters will be able to cast their ballot absentee (by mail or electronically), early in-person, or in person on Election Day.

## What you will find in this toolkit:

- 1. Information on the structure of the November 8th Election
- 2. Candidate information and sample ballots
- 3. Information for Division of Elections offices/other resources
- 4. Important voting dates and deadlines
- 5. Information on how to apply for an absentee ballot, or return an absentee ballot
- 6. Information on ranked-choice voting
- 7. Graphics to visualize the election or share with your family and friends

As you prepare for the November 8th Election, here are a few key things to note:

1. RCV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. Only the top four candidates who received the greatest number of votes for any office in the primary will appear on the general election ballot. There will still be a space for write-in candidates. For a candidate to win, they must receive a majority (50% + 1) of total votes cast. If no candidate receives a majority of 1st choice votes in the 1st round of counting, more rounds of counting continue until a candidate reaches a majority.

#### **Overview of the November 8th Election from the Division of Elections:**

https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/generalelectioninformation.php

#### **November 8th Election Timeline:**

Voter Registration Deadline: October 09, 2022

Target date to mail english, Alaska Native, and Tagalog OEP to voters: October 10, 2022 Target dates for first mailing of absentee by-mail ballots to civilian voters: October 14, 2022 Statutory deadline for OEPs to be mailed to voters in all languages: October 17, 2022



#### Ways to Turn in Your Ballot

#### **Absentee:**

- Send early to make sure it's postmarked by November 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Drop absentee ballots at any Division of Elections office or voting location on or before November 8<sup>th</sup>
- Deadline to apply to have your absentee ballot mailed to you is October 29th
- Deadline to have your ballot postmarked, emailed or faxed is November 8<sup>th</sup>
- Early in-Person: Early in-person voting beings October 24

## **Absentee By-Mail Voting**

Apply before October 29, Alaska Standard Time, to receive by-mail ballot

Make sure your ballot is postmarked and in the mail by Election Day, November 8th. You will need to ask the postal worker to postmark to ensure your ballot is counted.

In-Person Election Day: Election day is November 8th

#### What will the ballot look like?

The candidates for State and National Offices that have advanced to the General Election in November will be included. This will be on the FRONT of the November 8th Ballot, and will have the races for:

- 1. United States Senator
- 2. United States Representative
- 3. Governor/Lieutenant Governor
- 4. State Senator
- 5. State Representative
- 6. Ballot Measure
- 7. Judges

Voters will pick one candidate for each race on the front of the ballot. To learn more about who will be running in each pick-one election, check out the Division of Elections Candidate List: <a href="https://www.elections.alaska.gov/candidates/">https://www.elections.alaska.gov/candidates/</a>

Curious what the ballot will look like? The Division of Elections has sample ballots available for each house district, here: <a href="https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/sampleballots\_2022general.php">https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/sampleballots\_2022general.php</a>



The Division of Elections offers language assistance and ballots in some Native languages, although not all, in addition to Spanish and Tagalog. Please be sure to visit their website for more information: <a href="https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/languageassistance.php">https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/languageassistance.php</a>

necklist for voting in the November 8 Election:  Make sure you are registered to vote, or that your voting address is updated
☐ Make a plan of how you will cast your ballot - in person, early in-person, or absentee
☐ Learn more about the candidates running for office
☐ Make sure you cast your ballot on or before Election Day!
☐ Encourage your friends and family to vote

#### 1.Registering to vote:

The deadline to register to vote in the November 8th Election is **October 9th, 2022**. Registering to vote, or updating your voting address, is quick and easy.

Check/Update your voter registration address here: <a href="https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov/">https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov/</a>

#### How can you register to vote?

There are three ways to register to vote: Online, with a paper form, or in-person.

- a. Register to vote online:
  - i. Complete this online form using your driver's license or state ID card <a href="https://voterregistration.alaska.gov/">https://voterregistration.alaska.gov/</a>
- b. Register to vote through a paper form:
  - i. Print and fill out this paper form: http://www.elections.alaska.gov/doc/forms/C03.pdf
  - ii. Attach a copy of a form of personal identification. You MUST do this to register. Identification/proof of address can be proved from:
    - 1. Current and valid photo identification
    - 2. Driver's license
    - 3. Passport
    - 4. State identification card
    - 5. Birth certificate
    - 6. Hunting and Fishing license
  - iii. The paper form can be returned by mail, fax, or email to a Regional Elections Office:



Juneau - Region 1 Elections Office

(Southeast, Prince William Sound, Kodiak, Kenai Peninsula)

Email: electionsr1@alaska.gov

**Phone; Toll-free:** (907) 465-3021; (866) 948-8683 **Fax; Toll-free:** (907) 465-2289; (855) 977-3591

Office Location:

9109 Mendenhall Mall Rd, Suite 3 Juneau, Alaska 99801-7136

Mailing Address: P.O.Box 110018

Juneau, AK 99811-0018

**Regional Supervisor:** 

Lauri Wilson, lauri.wilson@alaska.gov

Fairbanks - Region 3 Elections Office

(Fairbanks, Interior, Eastern Mat-Su, Valdez)

Email: electionsr3@alaska.gov

**Phone; Toll-free:** (907) 451-2835; (866) 959-8683 **Fax; Toll-free:** (907) 451-2832; (855) 977-3594

Office Location/Mailing Address:

675 7th Avenue, Suite H3 Fairbanks, AK 99701-4542

**Regional Supervisor:** 

Jeremy Johnson, jeremy.johnson@alaska.gov

**Anchorage - Region 2 Elections Office** 

(Municipality of Anchorage)

Email: electionsr2@alaska.gov

**Phone; Toll-free:** (907) 522- 8683; (866) 958-8683 **Fax; Toll-free:** (907) 522-2341; (855) 977-3592

Office Location/Mailing Address:

2525 Gambell Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503-2838

**Regional Supervisor:** 

Jeffery Congdon, jeffery.congdon@alaska.gov

Nome - Region 4 Elections Office

(Northern, Western, and S. West, Aleutian Chain)

Email: electionsr4@alaska.gov

**Phone; Toll-free:** (907) 443-5285; (866) 953-8683 **Fax; Toll-free:** (907) 443-2973; (855) 242-2973

Office Location:

Sitnasuak Building

214 Front Street, Suite 130

Nome, AK 99762

**Mailing Address:** 

P.O.Box 577

Nome, Alaska 99762-0577

**Regional Supervisor:** 

Shannon "Rena" Greene, rena.greene@alaska.gov

Mat-Su - Region 5 Elections Office

(Matanuska-Susitna Borough)

Email: electionsr5@alaska.gov

**Phone; Toll-free:** (907) 373-8952; (844) 428-8952 **Fax; Toll-free:** (907) 373-8953; (855) 977-3593

Office Location/Mailing Address:

Matanuska-Susitna Elections Office North Fork Professional Building 1700 E Bogard Road, Suite B 102

Wasilla, AK 99654-6565

Language Assistance Program!

Email: samantha.mack@alaska.gov

**Phone; Toll-free:** (907) 275-2333; (866) 954-8683 **Fax; Toll-free:** (907) 522-2341; (855) 977-3592

Office Location/Mailing Address:

Language Assistance Program Region 2 Elections Office 2525 Gambell Street, Suite 100 Anchorage, AK 99503-2838



**Regional Supervisor:** 

Julie Husmann, julie.husmann@alaska.gov

Elections Language Compliance Manager:

Samantha Mack, samantha.mack@alaska.gov

- c. Register to vote in person at:
  - i. Division of Elections Office (see addresses above)
  - ii. A City of Borough Clerk's office
  - iii. A Division of Motor Vehicles office (DMV)
  - iv. A public assistance agency
  - v. A US Armed Forces Voter Assistance Office
  - vi. A Legislative Information Office

#### 2. What are the different ways to cast a ballot?

Once you have registered to vote, updated your voter registration, or confirmed your voter registration address, it is time to decide HOW you will cast your ballot.

There are three different ways that you can safely and easily cast your voted ballot in the November 8th Election:

- 1. Apply for an Absentee Ballot (by-mail or electronic/fax) and return your ballot on or before Election Day
- 2. Vote early at an in-person early voting location
- 3. Vote in-person on Election Day

#### How to request and vote with an absentee ballot:

1. Request your by-mail absentee ballot online or download/complete the paper form

Ballots are mailed to voters who selected the advance ballot due to living, working or traveling in remote Alaska or who may be traveling overseas ballots are mailed beginning 45 days prior to each Primary and General Election Day.

All other ballots are mailed to voters approximately 25 days prior to each Primary and General Election Day.

Your application for a by-mail ballot must be received 10 days before Election Day, which is **October 29th, 2022.** 



2. Return your application online or by sending your application to the Absentee Office by mail, fax, or email. It must be postmarked on or before Election Day, **November 8th at 5pm AKDT.** 

Address: <u>Absentee and Petition Office</u>
2525 Gambell Street, Suite 105
Anchorage, AK 99503-2838

Toll Free Fax: (855) 677-9943

Office Email: akabsentee@alaska.gov

Office Phone: (907) 270-2700

#### How to cast your absentee ballot:

By-mail absentee ballots will arrive in the mail as a voting packet. Ballots must be postmarked in Anchorage by November 8th, Election Day. If you are voting from outside of Anchorage, please return your ballot before November 8th! To return your ballot via the mail:

- 1. Vote your ballot following the instructions provided
- 2. Place your ballot inside of the provided secrecy sleeve. Then place that secrecy sleeve into the provided return mailing envelope
- 3. SIGN THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR BALLOT
- 4. PROVIDE YOUR VOTER IDENTIFIER (birthday, last 4 digits of your social security number, etc.)
- 5. HAVE A WITNESS SIGN AND DATE YOUR ENVELOPE
- 6. Seal your envelope and apply your postage. Place your ballot in the mail before Election Day (November 8th) or have it postmarked by Election Day.

For more information from the Division of Elections, check out the absentee instructions here: <a href="https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/votingbymail.php">https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/votingbymail.php</a>

Voters can also request to vote absentee online, by electronic transmission/fax. Applications for electronic voting are open from **October 23rd to November 7th, at 5pm AKDT.** Online applications can be found here: <a href="https://absenteeballotapplication.alaska.gov/">https://absenteeballotapplication.alaska.gov/</a>

# How to cast an electronic transmission/fax ballot:

- 1. Log into the online system and vote your ballot
- 2. Download your voted ballot, and print your ballot



- 3. Download and print your Voter Certificate and Identification sheet
- 4. Sign and date your Voter Certificate and Identification sheet and provide at least one identifier
- 5. Return your ballot by mail or by fax by 8pm on November 8th, Election Day

**By mail:** print your secrecy sleeve and return mailing envelope. Fold your ballot inside the secrecy sleeve, and place it inside of your return envelope with the Voter Certificate and Identification sheet. Make sure all three are included inside the return envelope! And have the envelope postmarked on or before November 8th.

**By fax:** Follow the instructions provided on how to fax back your ballot. Make sure that you also fax your completed Voter Certificate and Identification Sheet! All three must be received by fax before 8pm on November 8th.

For more information from the Division of Elections, check out their website, here: https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/votingbyonline.php

## Voting early-in person:

Voters can also vote before Election Day, in person, at an early voting location. **Early in-person voting begins October 24.** Early, in-person voting locations will be open Monday through Friday, and for limited hours on weekends. Hours will depend on location. Special needs voting and language assistance services are available at all in-person polling locations.

For the initial list of early in-person voting locations, check out the Division of Elections website, here: <a href="https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/avolocationsp.php">https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/avolocationsp.php</a>

Additional locations will be added soon!

# Voting in-person on Election Day:

In-person polling locations will be open from 7am to 8pm on November 8th, Election Day. Please make sure to check if your polling location has changed due to the 2020 Census. Polling locations can be checked online here: <a href="https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov/">https://myvoterinformation.alaska.gov/</a>

Special needs voting and language assistance services are available at all in-person polling locations. Additional information about voting in-person on Election Day can be found on the



#### Division of Elections' website, here:

https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/votingatthepollsonelectionday.php

#### **Ranked-Choice Voting:**

Alaskans had their first experience with Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) during the August Special Primary Election. We will see RCV on the general election ballot again for all our statewide races that are on the ballot.

## What is ranked-choice voting?

Ranked-choice voting is a voting system where a voter ranks the candidates running for office from their first choice (favorite) to their last choice (least favorite). Votes are counted like any other election - each voter has one vote, and 100% of that vote will go toward their first choice candidate.

However, if no candidate secures over 50+1% of the vote during the initial round of counting, a second round of counting will occur. The candidate with the least amount of votes from round 1 will be eliminated, and voters who chose that person will have their vote go towards their second choice candidate instead. This process is repeated until one candidate has won the majority.

Ranked-choice voting may seem like a confusing system, but the truth is that we rank things in our daily lives all of the time!

**Example**: Let's say I want to make akutaq (Inuit ice cream). I open up my freezer to select what berry I would like to use. My first choice would be salmonberries, because I think they taste the best. However there's a chance that I don't have enough left. In that case, I would also be happy with blueberry akutaq, so I would choose them second. If I was out of salmonberries and blueberries, I would look for Cranberries third, because cranberry Akutaq is also good.



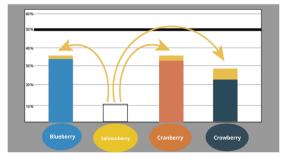
If choosing a berry was a ranked-choice election, here is what my ballot would look like based on my ranking:

RANKED CHOICE VOTING							
INSTRUCTIONS: VOTE BY RANKING CANDIDATE OF YOUR CHOICE  Rank as many or as few candidates as you like  Completely fill in nomore than one oval for each candidate or column  For your 1st choice, fill in the oval in the 1st choice column  For your 2nd choice, fill in the oval in the 2nd choice column  For your 3rd choice, fill in the oval in the 3rd choice column  If you make a mistka,e you can ask for a new ballot.							
Favorite berry to harvest							
	lst Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice		
Blueberry			0		0		
Cranberry	0	0			0		
Crowberry	0	0	0		0		
Salmonberry			0	0	0		
Write-In:			0		0		

# Here are some additional resources to learn about ranked-choice voting and the August 16th Election:

- 1. Ranked-choice voting training from NPACF <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vllveAToD3rYI9XinwSMuE-M\_KpsOGw3/view?usp=sharing">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vllveAToD3rYI9XinwSMuE-M\_KpsOGw3/view?usp=sharing</a>
- 2. Ranked-choice voting training slide deck <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jq4OnzEV2PGXPNHOXznID73hZ2hEH69HjUiOgl1Zd">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1jq4OnzEV2PGXPNHOXznID73hZ2hEH69HjUiOgl1Zd</a> Y/edit?usp=sharing





- 3. Practice ranked-choice voting election with explanation after you cast your vote! <a href="https://app.rankedvote.co/elections/21016/Agutak/21600/vote">https://app.rankedvote.co/elections/21016/Agutak/21600/vote</a>
- 4. Divisions of Elections Ranked-choice voting webpage <a href="https://www.elections.alaska.gov/RCV.php">https://www.elections.alaska.gov/RCV.php</a>
- 5. The Sightline Institute Ranked-choice voting resource page <a href="https://www.sightline.org/introduction-to-ranked-choice-voting/">https://www.sightline.org/introduction-to-ranked-choice-voting/</a>



## Frequently Asked Questions about Ranked-Choice Voting:

1. Does my vote get split among all of the candidates that I rank?

No! Your vote stays whole (one voter = one vote) during the entire counting process. 100% of a voter's vote will go toward their 1st choice candidate. A person's vote will only be fully transferred (again, one voter = one vote) to their second choice candidate if their first choice candidate is eliminated.

2. If my first-choice candidate gets eliminated, does this mean my vote won't count?

Not at all! By ranking a 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place candidate, voters are ensuring that they still have a vote even if their 1st choice is eliminated. This allows a voters' voice to continue to be heard during all possible rounds of vote counting.

3. What if I only want to vote for one candidate?

Voters are still able to choose only one candidate. However if voters only choose one candidate, and that candidate is eliminated, their vote will end, and they will not have a vote in the following rounds of counting.

4. Will I have to vote more than once?

Voters will only have to vote one time on the August 16th Ballot (front and back). On this ballot, they will rank all of the candidates at once.

5. Does it hurt my first choice candidate to rank 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choice candidates on my ballot?

Not at all! 100% of your vote will go toward your first choice candidate. Your vote will only be redistributed to your second choice candidate if your first choice candidate is eliminated.

#### Have more questions about ranked-choice voting?

1. Reach out to the Native Peoples Action Community Fund Team

NPA Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/nativepeoplesaction

NPA Website: <a href="https://nativepeoplesaction.org/contact-us/">https://nativepeoplesaction.org/contact-us/</a>

NPACF Website: https://npacommunityfund.org



#### Contact your local Divisions of Elections Office:

https://www.elections.alaska.gov/Core/contactusandsitemap.php

## **Additional Helpful Links:**

Division of Elections - main information page

Information on becoming an election worker: <a href="https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-workers">https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-workers</a>

Division of Elections - Elections Calendar

Division of Elections - Learn more about ranked choice voting

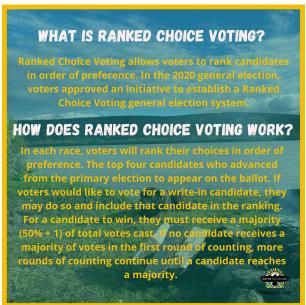
Division of Elections - Early in-person voting locations

Division of Elections - Regional Elections Offices

**Graphics to Share:** 



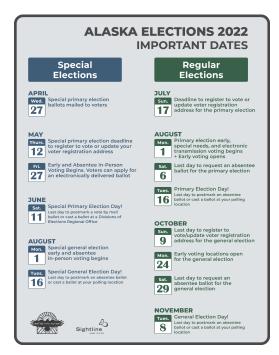


























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