



## **Summary: Warnings About the Impact of Ranked Choice Voting from the Last Frontier from the authors of the 2022 Repeal Effort.**

(See Our Book for Full Report)

Title: Analyzing the Impact of Ranked Choice Voting in Alaska: A Comprehensive Review

### **I. Introduction**

This study delves into the introduction and consequences of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Alaska, especially reflecting on the experiences from the 2022 elections. As residents of Alaska, we have witnessed first-hand the transformations in our electoral process and voter behavior. We have met and collected over 43,000 Signatures to Repeal Rank(ed) Choice Voting from Alaska. We have taken our work nationally; we have sold our book in 5 States since release in 2024. We have done RCV presentations for 5 Secretaries of State, Multiple U.S. Congressional Leaders, Multiple State Legislatures, Governors, and Lt. Governors. We also have consulted on 5 State Bans. We aim to critically analyze various aspects of RCV, including voter turnout, political campaign dynamics, its effects on minority groups, and the broader implications for our Republic in Alaska and America.

### **II. President Trump's Critique and Voter Sentiment in Alaska**

During his 2022 visit to Anchorage, President Trump vehemently opposed RCV, focusing his criticism on Senator Lisa Murkowski. He attributed the adoption of RCV to her, condemning it as overly complex and potentially unfair. His remarks resonated with many attendees, reflecting a widespread skepticism about the efficacy and fairness of RCV among Alaskan voters. This section explores the political and social context of these criticisms and how they have influenced public perception of RCV in Alaska.

President Trump referred to Rank(ed) Choice Voting as “**Ranked Choice Crap Voting**” and referred to the system as “**a Total Rugged Deal.**”

### **III. D.C. Democrats Sue to Block Rank(ed) Choice Voting**

May 31, 2023, The DC Democratic Party, after an eight-month review, rejected Ranked Choice Voting, citing it could worsen unequal turnout and undervoting, and possibly erode the Democratic base, leading to concerns like open primaries. They affirmed that the current system adequately supports voter participation, deeming RCV inappropriate for Washington, D.C.

### **IV. Effects of RCV on Third-Party Candidates**

By examining electoral data from Maine and Alaska from 2016 to 2022, this section assesses RCV's impact on the viability of third-party candidates. Despite initial expectations that RCV might benefit these candidates, the outcomes suggest otherwise. In Maine, there was a noticeable shift towards the Democratic Party, with no significant success for third-party candidates. Similarly, in Alaska, there has been a lack of significant presence of third-party candidates in recent elections. This analysis challenges the notion that RCV inherently supports a more diverse political representation.



## **V. Disproportionate Impact on Alaskan Natives and Minorities**

A study by Princeton University highlights a concerning trend of higher "ballot exhaustion" rates in precincts predominantly inhabited by Native Alaskans and Native Americans. This phenomenon occurs when a voter's choices are all eliminated before the final round of counting, effectively disenfranchising them. Additionally, groups like NASP have raised concerns about RCV's complexity potentially deterring voter participation in these communities. This section delves into the implications of these findings and the broader conversation about the inclusivity of RCV.

## **VI. RCV's Influence on Campaign Civility**

An MIT study contradicts the popular belief that RCV leads to more positive campaign tactics. Instead, the study indicates an increase in negative campaign spending in Maine after RCV was implemented. This section investigates the relationship between RCV and campaign strategies, questioning whether RCV truly fosters a more respectful and constructive political discourse.

## **VII. Case Study: Alaska U.S. Senate Race 2022**

The 2020 and 2022 US Senate elections in Alaska, under traditional voting and RCV, respectively, present a stark contrast in Democratic voter support. This section examines how RCV may have influenced strategic voting behaviors, leading to a dramatic drop-in support for Democratic candidates. The analysis explores whether RCV inadvertently facilitated a gaming of the system, impacting the overall fairness of the electoral process.

## **VIII. The Impact of Candidate Withdrawal in Alaska's 2022 Elections**

The withdrawal of Dr. Al Gross from the U.S. House Race and the subsequent legal and procedural controversies highlight significant challenges in Alaska's election administration under RCV. This section discusses the Alaska Supreme Court's observations on election law compliance and the potential effects of having fewer Democratic candidates in the race, offering insights into the complexities introduced by RCV in election management.

## **IX. Comparison with Other Regions Using RCV**

This section extends the analysis of RCV beyond Alaska, examining cases from Oakland, CA, and Boulder, CO. It highlights operational challenges, such as miscounted ballots, and political shifts observed in these regions. These examples provide a broader perspective on the varied impacts of RCV and contribute to understanding its implications in different political and administrative contexts.

## **X. Perspective of U.S. Vice President Walter F. Mondale (D) on RCV**

Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale's critique of RCV focuses on its complexity and potential to disadvantage certain voter demographics, particularly older voters. His perspective, as discussed in this section, raises important questions about the accessibility and fairness of RCV. The experiences of cities that have repealed RCV are also considered, offering a critical viewpoint on the system's effectiveness and democratic value.

## **XI. Perspective of Two Liberal California Governors**



In California, both Governors Jerry Brown and Gavin Newsom have opposed ranked choice voting (RCV). Brown labeled RCV as overly intricate, stripping away a clear choice from voters. Newsom, refusing to sign a bill permitting RCV's broader use, cited voter confusion and insufficient evidence of its democratic benefits. Their shared skepticism casts doubt on RCV's role in fostering straightforward electoral processes.

## **XII. Conclusion**

We conclude by summarizing the multifaceted impacts of RCV as observed in Alaska and other States. It underscores the need for ongoing research and dialogue about RCV's role in democratic processes, especially concerning its effects on voter participation, campaign dynamics, and representation of minority groups. The study emphasizes the importance of considering local contexts and the diverse experiences of voters when evaluating electoral reforms like RCV.

Please see our website [RankedChoiceEDU.org](http://RankedChoiceEDU.org) we have a 320 page book and a 30 part animated video series about Rank(ed) Choice Voting. RCV and Final Five Voting really are an Illusion of Choice.

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Phil Izon  
Director  
[info@rankedchoiceassociation.org](mailto:info@rankedchoiceassociation.org)

Art Mathias  
Director  
[Art@rankedchoiceducationassociation.org](mailto:Art@rankedchoiceducationassociation.org)