



March 25, 2024

Greetings House State Government and Elections Committee Members,

This Letter of Information is regarding **HB 7540**, which would allow for Ranked Choice Voting in presidential preference primaries. Our Center for Election Integrity would like to provide you with educational materials you might find useful for your hearing. Our published fact sheet and issue brief on Ranked Choice Voting are here, as well as included in the materials for this bill:

Fact Sheet: [Ranked Choice Voting](#). | [Latest](#) | [America First Policy Institute](#)

Issue Brief: [The American People Will Not Benefit From Ranked Choice Voting](#) | [Latest](#) | [America First Policy Institute](#)

Ranked Choice Voting is an overly complicated, confusing system of voting that often prevents the candidate who gets the most votes from being declared the winner. In Alaska, where Ranked Choice Voting was recently implemented, the system has shown itself to be confusing and chaotic, and the state’s citizens are taking notice. Even Alaskan pollster Ivan Moore, who supports the idea of Ranked Choice Voting, acknowledges that the voting system is in trouble. A recent [survey that he conducted](#) shows that a majority of Alaska voters would vote to repeal Ranked Choice Voting; and confirming this data, there are currently more than enough signatures collected for a ballot initiative that would repeal Ranked Choice Voting. The Alaska people’s distrust in Ranked Choice Voting is unsurprising given that in the most recent statewide election, more than 11,000 people did not have their votes counted in the final tallies. This occurred because 11,000 ballots did not rank a candidate as their second preference. So, when election officials started the second round of counting and reallocating votes to other candidates, those 11,000 ballots were completely discarded.

Ranked Choice Voting also creates chaos by piling more work on the already-overloaded election workers. Recently, our country has seen countless stories about election worker shortages, election workers laboring overnight to count ballots, and even election workers who were ordered to stop counting on election day and start the next day again. Requiring these same workers to categorize, discard, evaluate, and recount every election outcome multiple times until a winner can be declared seems like a recipe for disaster.

Finally, Ranked Choice Voting is sold as an election process that would help curb today’s toxic political environment. However, elections that use Ranked Choice Voting have not seen a decrease in partisanship, outside political spending, or negative political attacks. Alaska and Maine have tried using this system, and so have a handful of local jurisdictions across the U.S., but there has been no decline in the partisan nature of their elections.

While the use of Ranked Choice Voting in presidential preference primaries is more limited than the full use for all statewide elections, it is a gateway to this exact scenario. Considering the ramifications of Ranked Choice Voting, it is best avoided even in limited circumstances.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this material.

Best,

**The Hon. J. Kenneth Blackwell**  
Center for Election Integrity  
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