

# Ballot Measure Two: Elections



# What is a Ballot Measure (Initiative)

An initiative petition is the process that people, instead of the legislature, may use to introduce and enact a law.

An initiative petition becomes state law if a majority of voters vote Yes.

Article 11 of the Alaska Constitution allows for initiatives

# The Initiative (Act) Title

An Act Replacing the Political Party Primary with an Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election, and Requiring Additional Campaign Finance Disclosures

The  
initiative  
deals with  
three  
major  
topics:

1. Primary Elections
2. General Elections
3. Campaign financing and disclosures

- The full text of the proposed law is 25 pages long and has 74 sections.
- Sections 2-72 are primarily changes (amendments) to existing state election laws
- The initiative is very detailed, similar to legislation introduced in the legislature
- This initiative requires changes to multiple state laws in order to be implemented, including a number of ancillary changes to state election laws



The full text can be found in the  
Official Election Pamphlet -  
Starting on page 139

or online at:

<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/petitions/19AKBE/19AKBE-TheBill.pdf>

**Ballot Measure No. 1 - 19OGTX**  
**An Act changing the oil and gas production tax for certain fields, units, and nonunitized reservoirs on the North Slope**

This act would change the oil and gas production tax for areas of the North Slope where a company produced more than 40,000 barrels of oil per day in the prior year and more than 400 million barrels total. The new areas would be divided up based on "fields, units, and nonunitized reservoirs" that meet the production threshold. The act does not define these terms. For any areas that meet the production threshold, the tax would be the greater of one of two new taxes.

(1) One tax would be a tax on the gross value at the point of production of the oil at a rate of 10% when oil is less than \$50 per-barrel. This tax would increase to a maximum of 15% when oil is \$70 per-barrel or higher. No deductions could take the tax below the 10% to 15% floor.

(2) The other tax, termed an "additional tax," would be based on a calculation of a production tax value for the oil that would allow lease expenditure and transportation cost deductions. This tax on production tax value would be calculated based on the difference between the production tax value of the oil and \$50. The difference between the two would be multiplied by the volume of oil, and then that amount would be multiplied by 15%. The existing per-taxable-barrel credit would not apply. The act uses the term "additional tax" but it does not specify what the new tax is in addition to.

The tax would be calculated for each field, unit, or nonunitized reservoir on a monthly basis. Taxes are currently calculated on an annual basis, with monthly estimated payments. Since these new taxes would only apply to certain areas, a taxpayer would still have to submit annual taxes for the areas where the new taxes do not apply.

The act would also make all filings and supporting information relating to the calculation and payment of the new taxes "a matter of public record." The act does not specify the process for disclosure of public records.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO

**Ballot Measure No. 2 - 19AKBE**  
**An Act Replacing the Political Party Primary with an Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election, and Requiring Additional Campaign Finance Disclosures**

This act would get rid of the party primary system, and political parties would no longer select their candidates to appear on the general election ballot. Instead, this act would create an open nonpartisan primary where all candidates would appear on one ballot.

Candidates could choose to have a political party preference listed next to their name or be listed as "undeclared" or "nonpartisan." The four candidates with the most votes in the primary election would have their names placed on the general election ballot.

This act would establish ranked-choice voting for the general election. Voters would have the option to "rank" candidates in order of choice. Voters would rank their first choice candidate as "1", second choice candidate as "2", and so on. Voters' "1" choice would be counted first. If no candidate received a majority after counting the first-ranked votes, then the candidate with the least amount of "1" votes would be removed from counting.

Those ballots that ranked the removed candidate as "1" would then be counted for the voters' "2" ranked candidate. This process would repeat until one candidate received a majority of the remaining votes. If voters still want to choose only one candidate, they can.

This act would also require additional disclosures for contributions to independent expenditure groups and relating to the sources of contributions. It would also require a disclaimer on paid election communications by independent expenditure groups funded by a majority of out-of-state money.

Should this initiative become law?

YES

NO

# The Ballot Language

## An Act Replacing the Political Party Primary with an Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election, and Requiring Additional Campaign Finance Disclosures

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# Ballot Measure Two Establishes One Ballot for Primary Elections

Eliminates the existing party primary system  
Parties no longer select their candidates for the general election  
One nonpartisan primary for governor, state legislators, US Senate and US House  
All candidates appear on one ballot  
Political party or affiliations may be shown on ballot  
Governor and Lieutenant Governor candidates must run as a team  
Four candidates that receive the most votes in the primary advance to the general election where ranking occurs  
Ranked-choice does NOT occur in primary

The ballot  
measure  
applies to  
all  
candidates  
in the  
Primary  
Election for:

- Governor
- State House
- State Senate
- United State Senator
- United States Representative

# Ballot Measure Two Establishes Ranked Choice Voting in the General Election

Four candidates that received the most votes in the primary appear on the ballot

Voters rank these four - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> choice

# How Ranked Choice Works

- Voters rank candidates - 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> choice
- If one candidate receives 50%+1 of the 1<sup>st</sup> choice votes they are the winner
- If no candidate receives 50%+1, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes is eliminated
- Those voters' who voted for that candidate as their first choice have their second-choice votes redistributed among remaining candidates
- This process repeats until one of the candidates gets to 50%+1

Ranked-Choice Voting is used in the General Election to rank the 4 candidates who receive the most votes in the primary:

- Governor
- State House
- State Senate
- United State Senator
- United States Representative

Ranked choice is also used in voting for presidential candidates (there are 7 candidates in 2020)

# Ballot Measure Two - Disclosure Requirements and Contribution Limits

The Act Defines and Limits “Dark Money” from campaign contributions

Dark money— the independent political spending made by groups that do not disclose their donors

Section 17 of the Act defines “Dark Money” as: “a contribution whose source or sources, whether from wages, investment income, inheritance, or revenue from selling goods or services, is not disclosed to the public”.

Dark Money and other campaign contribution provisions of the initiative do not apply to ballot measures (initiatives, referendums)

# Ballot Measure Two - Disclosure Requirements and Contribution Limits

The Act would set new rules and penalties for campaign finance.

An entity that spends to influence the election of a candidate and receives over \$2,000 in a year from a donor must disclose all receipts from the donor and their source.

The donor must also report the donations and their source.

Limits contributions limits for Governor and Lt. Governor to \$1000 annually for individuals and \$2000 for a group

Requires certain disclaimers to run the entire time a commercial is aired

# Ballot Measure Two - other changes to State Election Laws

Some changes are proposed due to changes in the role of political parties and political groups, such as:

Section 2 changes requirements for two of the three state election board members

Section 3 allows each candidate (not party) to have one or more poll watchers

Section 4 changes qualifications of certain appointees to the Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC)

Section 30 changes requirements for two of the four district absentee ballot counting board members

# Ballot Measure Two - examples of changes to State Election Laws - Special Elections

Sections 44-49 amend special election process for filling a vacancy in the office of US Senator and Representative - calls for a special open primary followed by special election with ranked-choice voting

Sections 50-54 amend special election process for filling a vacancy in the office of the governor - - calls for a special open primary followed by special election with ranked-choice voting

Section 55 provides that qualifications for filling a vacant legislative seat can include “political Group” in addition to current requirement that appointee be from same “political party”

Sections 56-60 amend special election process for filling a vacancy in state senate to provide for a special open primary followed by special election with ranked-choice voting

**NOTE: Existing state laws do not require a primary for special elections to fill vacancies. The initiative adds ranked-choice voting to special elections**

# Ballot Measure Two, including its campaign finance provisions, does not apply to:

- Municipal Elections
- Regional Educational Attendance Area (REAA) (school board elections in unorganized boroughs)
- Presidential Primaries
- Yes/No Ballot Questions:
  - Judicial Retentions
  - Initiatives, Referendums