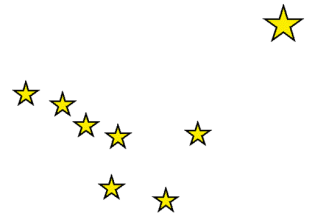




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Nov. 6, 2024

## Alaska Legislative Update

### 2024 General Election Update

While election day may have passed, the 2024 Alaska General Election won't be over for a few weeks. As of 3:00am on Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 93.05% of Alaska's voting precincts have reported but several rural precincts, questioned ballots, mail in ballots, and early votes have yet to be counted. With the Ranked Choice voting system, races without a candidate receiving more than 50% of the vote will go to an instant runoff where the last-place finisher's votes are redistributed to the voter's second-choice candidate. The ranked-choice reapportionment is not yet scheduled, but we anticipate it will occur as early as Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> and before Nov. 27 – after the final count of absentee and questioned ballots and before Thanksgiving. Final certification of the election is targeted for Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

Please note, with 7% of precincts still yet to report some of these items may change.

#### Top Lines:

US President: **Trump/Vance**

US House: **Begich**

State Senate: **R-11, D-9**

State House: **R-20, D-15, I/U/N-5**

Ballot Measure 1 (Minimum Wage): **Passed**

Ballot Measure 2 (Repeal Ranked Choice): **Passed**

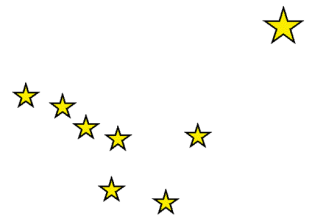
#### Details

##### US President:

Candidate	Party	Total	
Harris/Walz	DEM	102,318	40.40%
Kennedy/Shanahan	NOM	4,197	1.66%
Oliver/Maat	LIB	2,247	0.89%
Sonski/Onak	ASP	496	0.20%
Stein/Ware	NOM	1,652	0.65%



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Terry/Broden	CON	603	0.24%
Trump/Vance	REP	140,936	55.64%
West/Abdullah	AUR	833	0.33%
Total Votes		253,282	

As widely expected, Alaska continued its trend of supporting the Republican nominee for President. The Trump/Vance ticket cleared the 50% threshold to forego ranked choice reapportionment of votes, and Alaska will deliver its three Electoral College votes for Mr. Trump.

**US House:**

Candidate	Party	Total	
Begich, Nick	REP	124,632	49.66%
Hafner, Eric	DEM	2,446	0.97%
Howe, John Wayne	AIP	9,710	3.87%
Peltola, Mary S.	DEM	113,612	45.27%
Write-in		546	0.22%
Total Votes		250,946	

The US House vote appears to be going to Nick Begich, with Begich clearing 50%. However, many rural precincts and absentee ballots have yet to be counted, which could result in lowering Begich's overall percentage. Overnight, Begich fell to under 50% of the votes cast, meaning the votes for Hafner and Howe will be reallocated until either Begich or Peltola emerge as the top candidate. By our math Peltola would need 95% of the ranked choice reallocation in order to overcome the 11,020 vote deficit and pull even, and then 50%+1 of all outstanding ballots to win. While that does leave a pathway for Ms. Peltola to come from behind for a win, it will depend on an unusually large turnout in the rural/western districts to close the gap before reallocation and absentees.

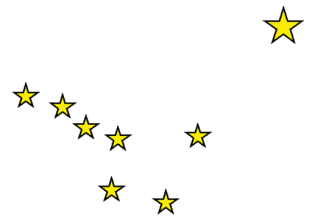
This is a significant change from the election only two years ago, which saw Begich reporting in with only 51,000 votes to Peltola's 100,000. However, in 2022 Begich was splitting votes with Sarah Palin, with Peltola emerging as the winner after a ranked choice runoff.

**Ballot Measure 1:**

	Total	
YES	136,526	56.51%
NO	105,089	43.49%
Total Votes	241,615	



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Ballot Measure 1 proposes to increase the state's minimum wage incrementally: to \$13 per hour in 2025, \$14 in 2026, and \$15 in 2027, with subsequent adjustments based on inflation. It also mandates that employers provide paid sick leave—up to 56 hours annually for businesses with 15 or more employees, and up to 40 hours for smaller businesses. Additionally, the measure prohibits employers from taking adverse action against employees who refuse to attend meetings primarily focused on religious or political matters unrelated to their job duties.

**Ballot Measure 2:**

	Total	
YES	124,762	50.96%
NO	120,058	49.04%
Total Votes	244,821	

Ballot Measure 2 proposes repealing the state's current open primary and ranked-choice voting system, which was adopted in 2020. If approved, the measure would reinstate party-specific primaries and a general election system where the candidate with the most votes wins, even without a majority.

**State Senate and House:**

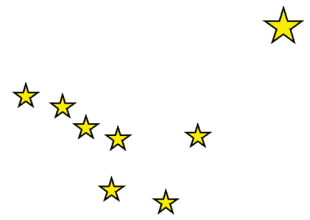
A few races in the House and the Senate will be moving into a ranked choice runoff, but in our analysis only House Districts 28 and 36 appear too close to call. The runoff seats in Senate districts D, F and L, and House district 6 would require between 75 and 90 percent of the redistributed votes to go to the second place finisher to change the winner, which is unlikely. In House districts 28 and 36 the second place finisher would only need 53 or 55 percent of the reallocation to post a win.

A few races are still too close to call. In Senate district P (Fairbanks), incumbent Scott Kawasaki (D) leads challenger Leslie Hajdukovich (R) by 74 votes. Absentee votes may flip this number, but it will likely be close enough to demand a recount either way – keeping the seat too close to call. Similarly, Northeast Anchorage House district 18 has incumbent Cliff Groh (D) leading challenger (and former representative) David Nelson (R) by 24 votes. Over 550 absentee votes remain outstanding in this race, and it remains too close to call.

Rural/Western Alaska will likely remain critical to organization for any majority in the House. We expect Reps Bryce Edgmon (U-Dillingham) and Neal Foster (D-Nome) to return, with significant leads in districts 37 and 39, respectively. With 70% in, the vast District 40 appears to be going to Robyn “Niayuk” Burke (D-Utqiagvik). District 38, however, is too close to call at



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this time. Despite a strong showing in Bethel, incumbent Rep. CJ McCormick (D-Bethel) now trails challenger Nellie Jimmie (D-Toksook Bay) by 53 votes. A full 1/3 of the district has yet to report, but barring any huge changes we see this race going to a ranked choice runoff, where the votes cast for right-leaning candidate Willy Keppel will be reallocated. This will be a close one.

The projected repeal of ranked choice voting will likely play a large role in organizing this cycle, as members up for reelection in 2026 will likely be subject again to being “primaried” by more partisan candidates. We don’t see that being a major influence in the Senate, but it could be in the House.

We do see a clear path for a Senate coalition to form again, similar to the coalition seen in the 23/24 session but with a true minority – something in the 15/5 neighborhood. A strict partisan split would be a D-9/R-11 organization, but we believe personality conflicts may prevent that from happening, and several of the longer-serving members of the Senate are very willing to serve in a bipartisan coalition.

In the House there are still a few variables at play in addition to the end of ranked choice voting, including the extremely close races in 18, 22 and 38, and the addition of at least one more Republican who has been willing to migrate into left-leaning coalitions in the past. If today’s results were final, a strict partisan split would present as D/I-20/R-20. Accordingly, we anticipate the Democrat/Independent coalition to be looking to woo a few moderate Republicans, while the Republican caucus will be making overtures to the members of the bush caucus.

We’ve attached the full results of the election (so far) in an email alongside this update and we’ll have another note out in the near future with an update on these races. As always, please feel free to contact me or Ben if you have any questions. We look forward to a great holiday season soon!

All the best,

Eldon Mulder & Ben Mohr