



Sponsor Statement

HB 4 ELECTIONS; REPEAL RANK CHOICE/OPEN PRIMARY

“An act relating to elections.”

House Bill 4 repeals rank choice voting and open primaries, returning the election process to the way Alaskans voted prior to Ballot Measure 2 of 2020 except for areas in statute the courts have found unconstitutional. This bill attempts to remedy the constitutional issues by providing for combined open primaries and omitting the requirement that party nominees be registered as a member of that party.

The ballot measure that transformed Alaska’s election system in 2020 passed by a narrow margin of less than 1 percent. The campaign led Alaskans to believe the ballot measure would do away with “dark money” only and that it would give them “more options” in voting. Most Alaskan’s did not know that it would upend our way of voting that has always been one person equals one vote. Many voters have expressed buyer’s remorse since passage. In fact, recent polling shows that that majority of Alaskans strongly agree to repeal rank choice voting.

This bill allows combined open primaries when two parties request jointly, and implements court decisions in *State v. Democratic Party*, from 2018 holding that requirement that candidates register with a party when seeking party nomination violates parties’ free speech associational rights and *State v. Green Party of Alaska* in 2005 holding that prohibition on parties combining primary ballots under the system established in AS 15.25.010, 15.25.014, and 15.25.060 is unconstitutional.

House Bill 4 seeks to implement the will of Alaskans by returning us to the historical and trusted election process where one person equals one vote.