From: btyndall
To: House State Affairs
Subject: HB 4
Date: Tuesday, May 2, 2023 10:06:06 AM

Dear Members of the House State Affairs Committee:

I am writing in favor of HB 4 which would repeal Rank Choice Voting in the State of Alaska.

My husband and I have worked for many years as chairs and judges in the state and municipal elections in Fairbanks. This past election cycle we have never witnessed anything like the confusion, frustration and anger we encountered at the ballot box. People at our precinct (many of whom we have enjoyed a great relationship with for many years) detested this system and many had to spoil their ballots and start over. Instead of the usual two to five spoiled ballots we generally have (sometimes none) we had 83 in November. Some had to wait so long because of the sluggishness of the process, that they left instead of staying to cast their ballots.

The creators of RCV said this system would be less confusing; it was mind boggling confusing for most. They said it would be fair; it most certainly was not. The people with the majority of votes often did not win (which is what our Alaska Constitution requires) They claimed this system would be cheaper; the cost was higher and the changes to the system expensive. They claimed that dark money would be eliminated, but in fact, used dark money to get this initiative passed. And last, but not least, they claimed it would get more people out to vote and we just had the lowest voter turnout in Alaska's history.

That said, is there absolutely no reason to retain rank choice voting.
Thank you.
Barbara Tyndall
North Pole

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