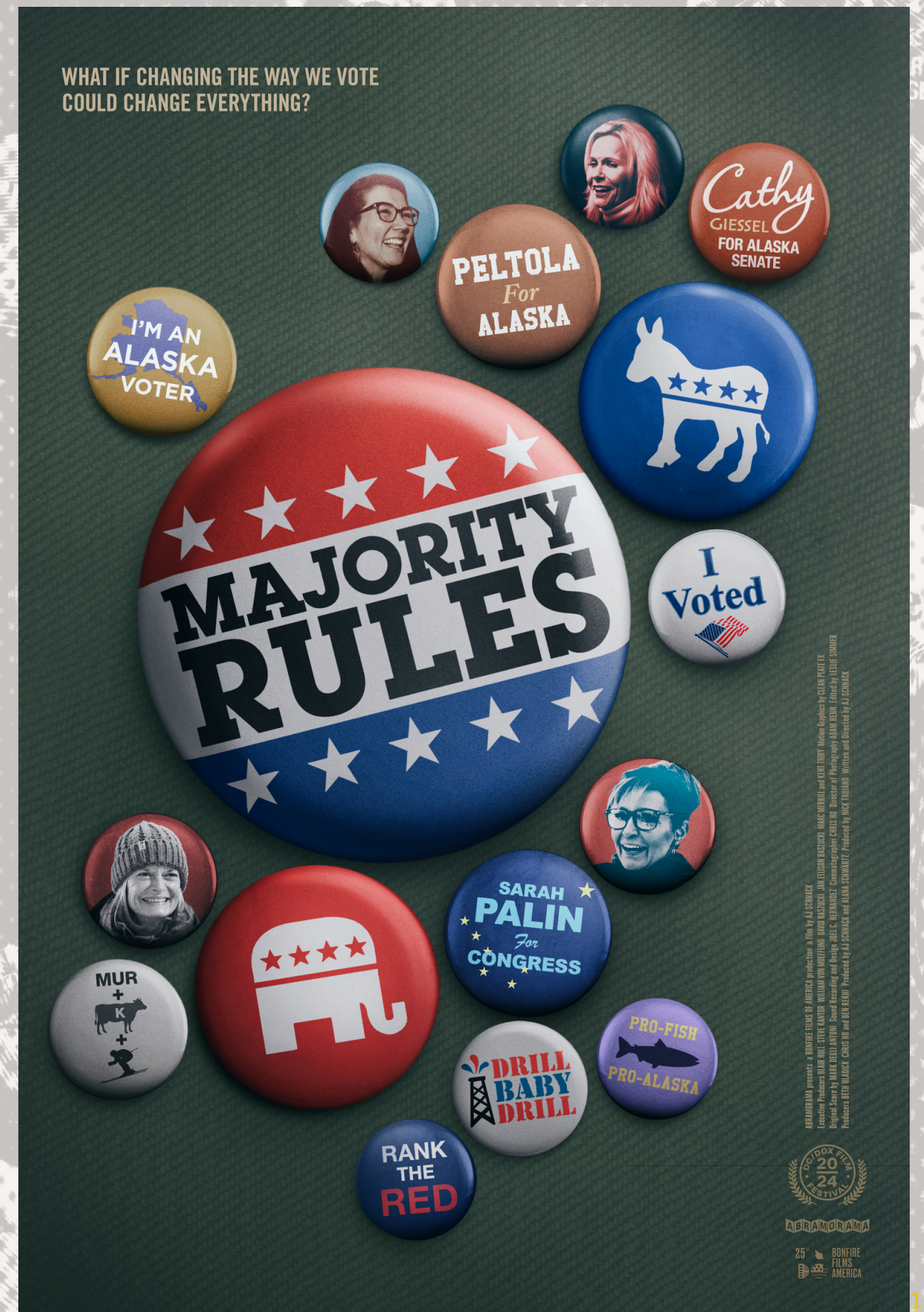


BACKGROUND FOR:

MAJORITY RULES

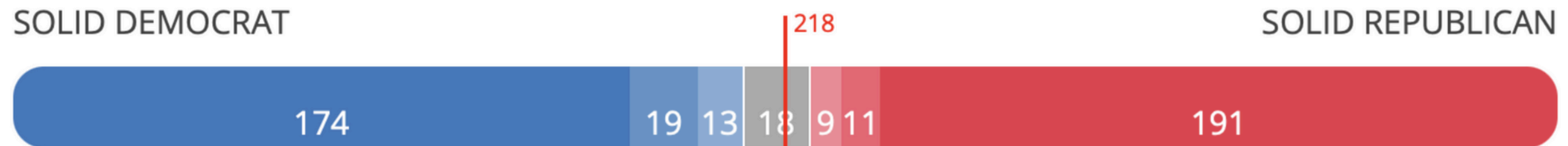
Prepared by:

DAN BUTLER
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS



Most Congressional Seats **are safe for ONE party**

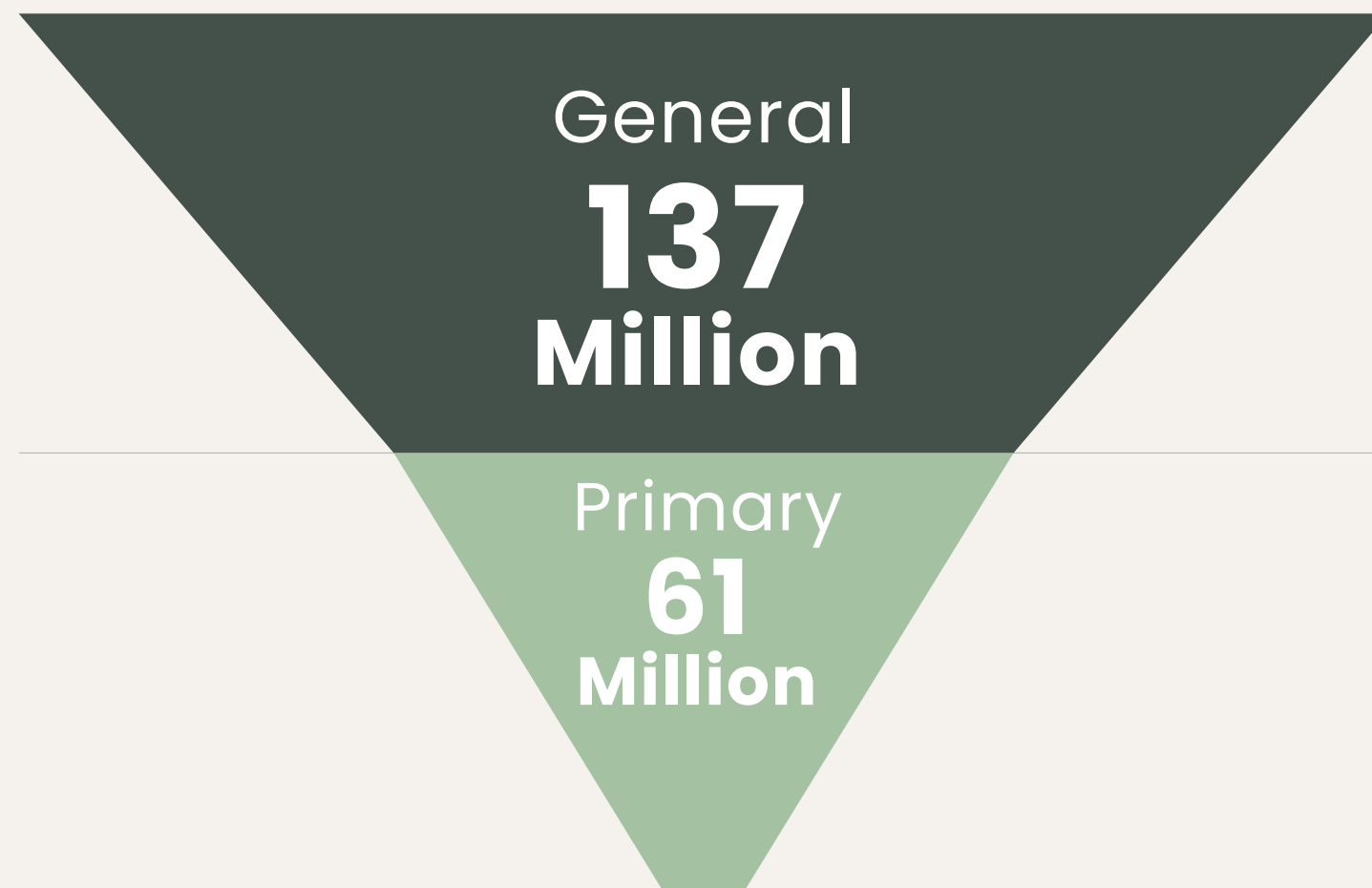
RATINGS SUMMARY



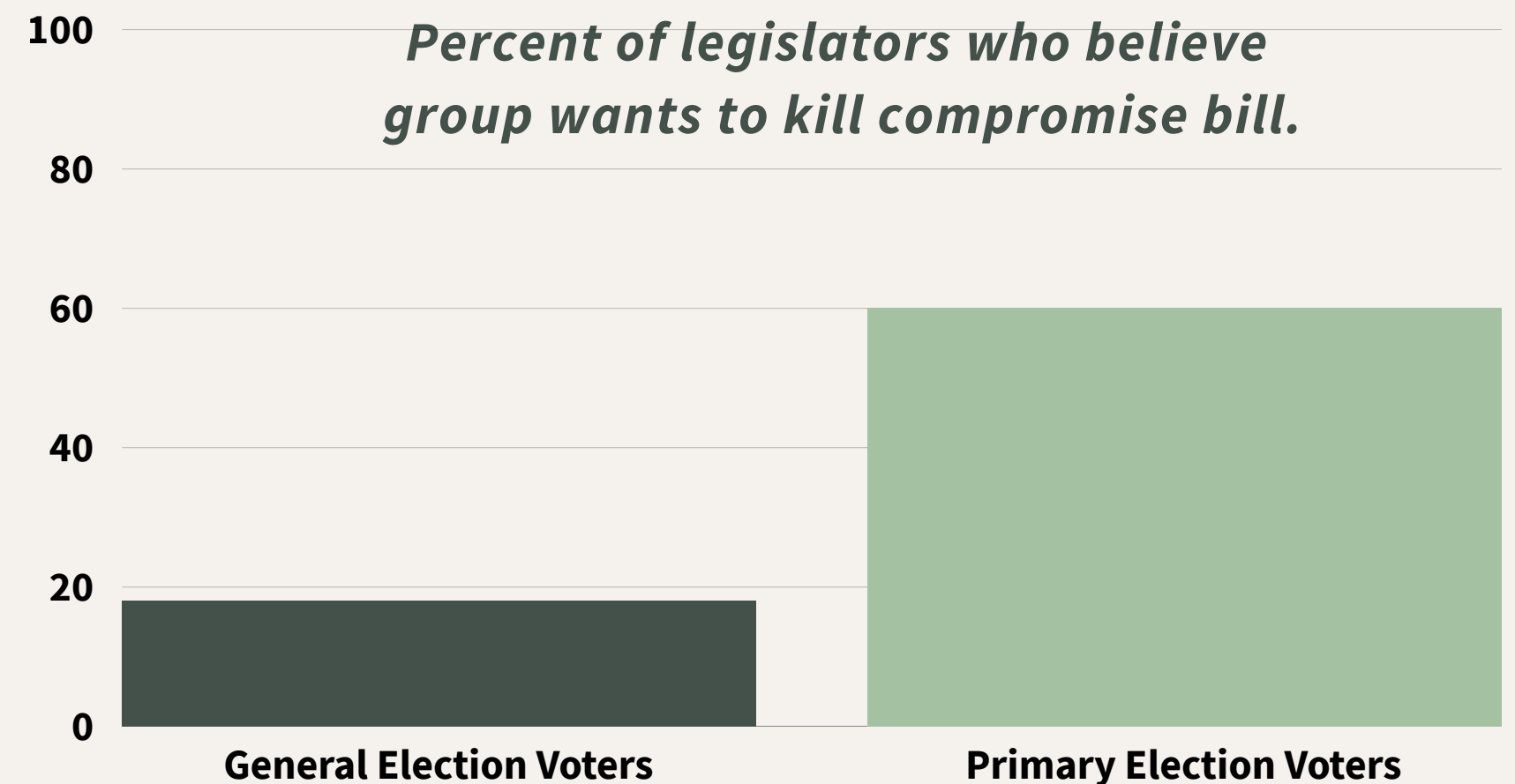
- **Solid:** These races are not considered competitive and are not likely to become closely contested.
- **Likely:** These races are not considered competitive at this point but have the potential to become engaged.
- **Lean:** These races are considered competitive races, but one party has an advantage.
- **Toss Up:** These races are the most competitive; either party has a good chance of winning.

Primaries are the Key Race, but Participation in Primaries is **Low & Not Representative**

TURNOUT IN THE 2016 ELECTION

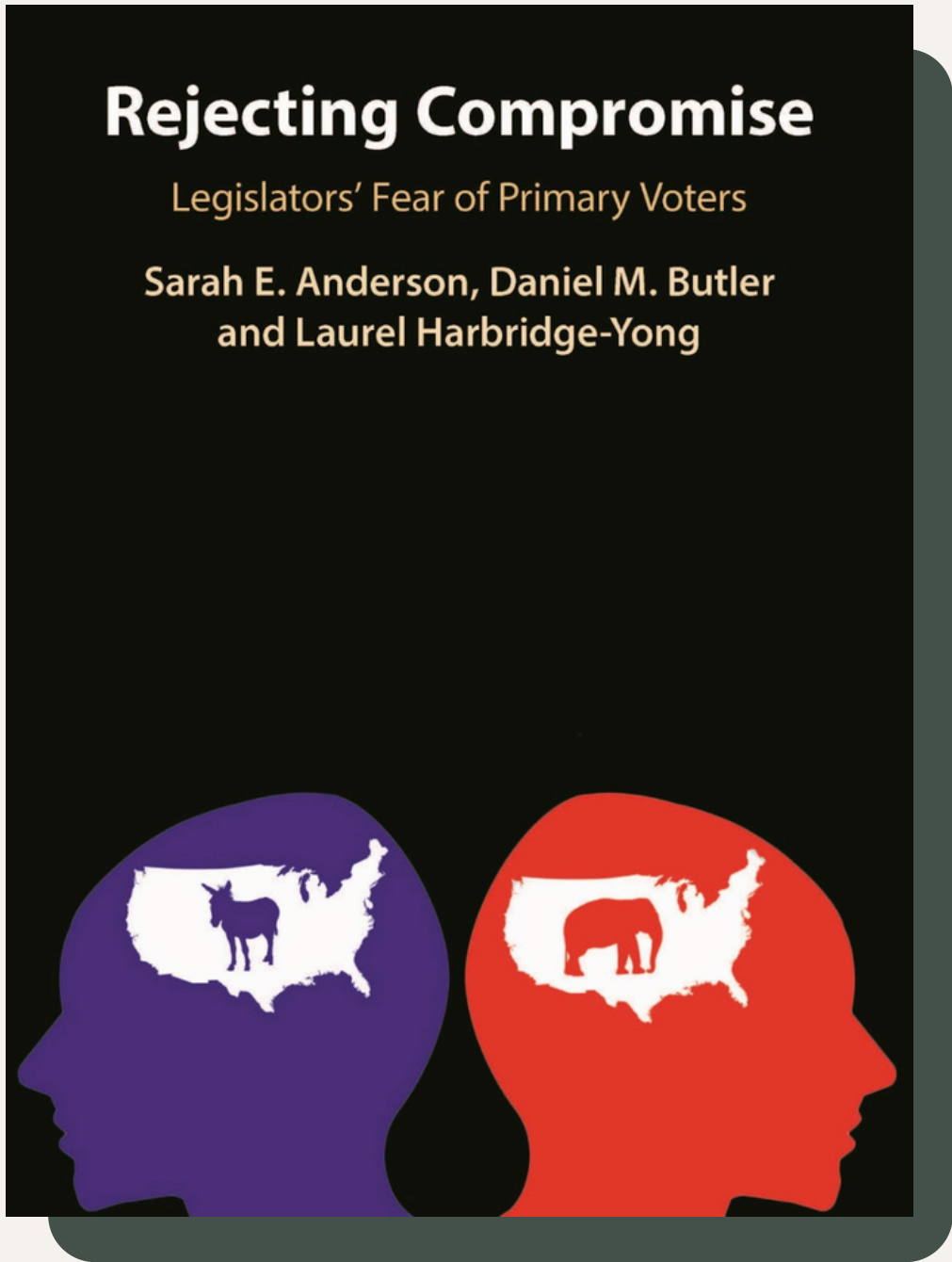


PRIMARY VOTERS ARE MORE EXTREME

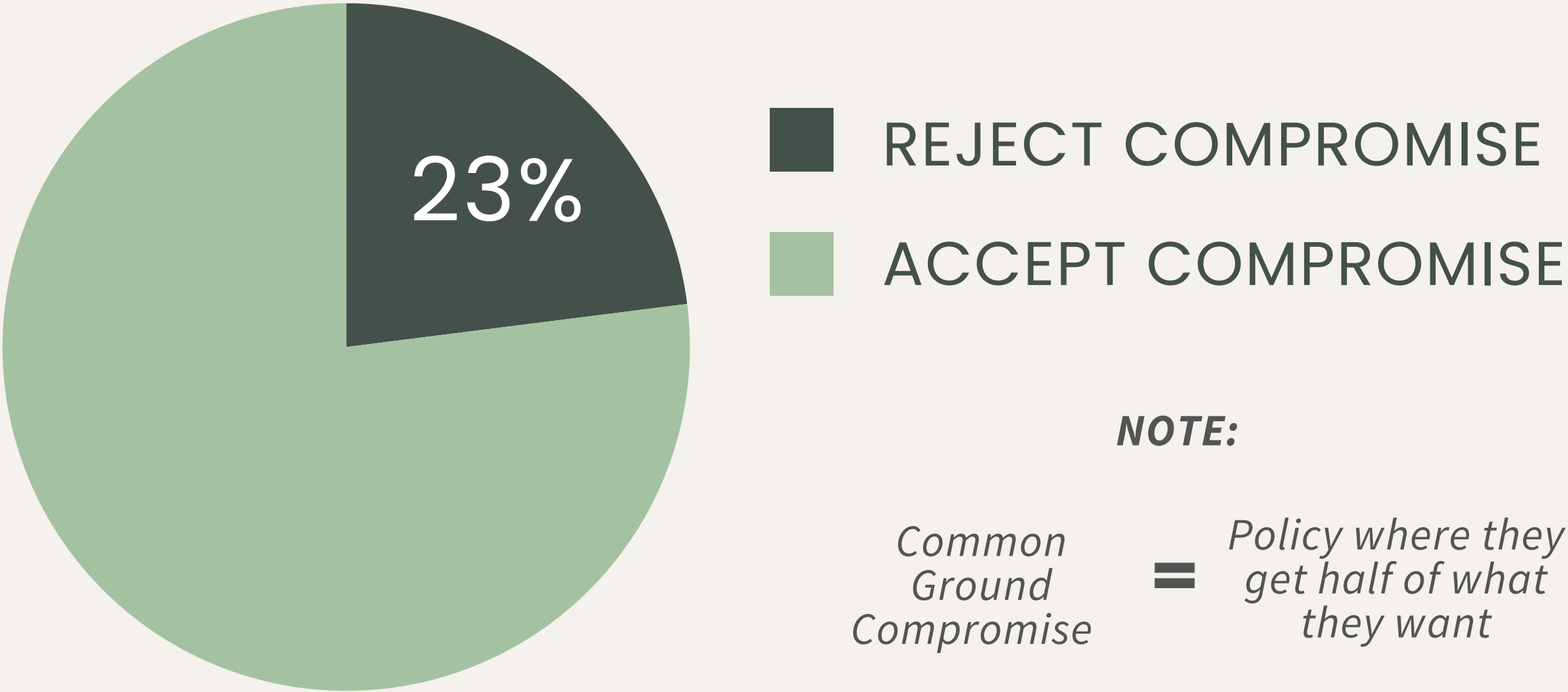


NOTE: This is the presidential election stats; **turnout in congressional election primaries is even lower.**

Politicians Do What Primary Voters Want to Stay in Office

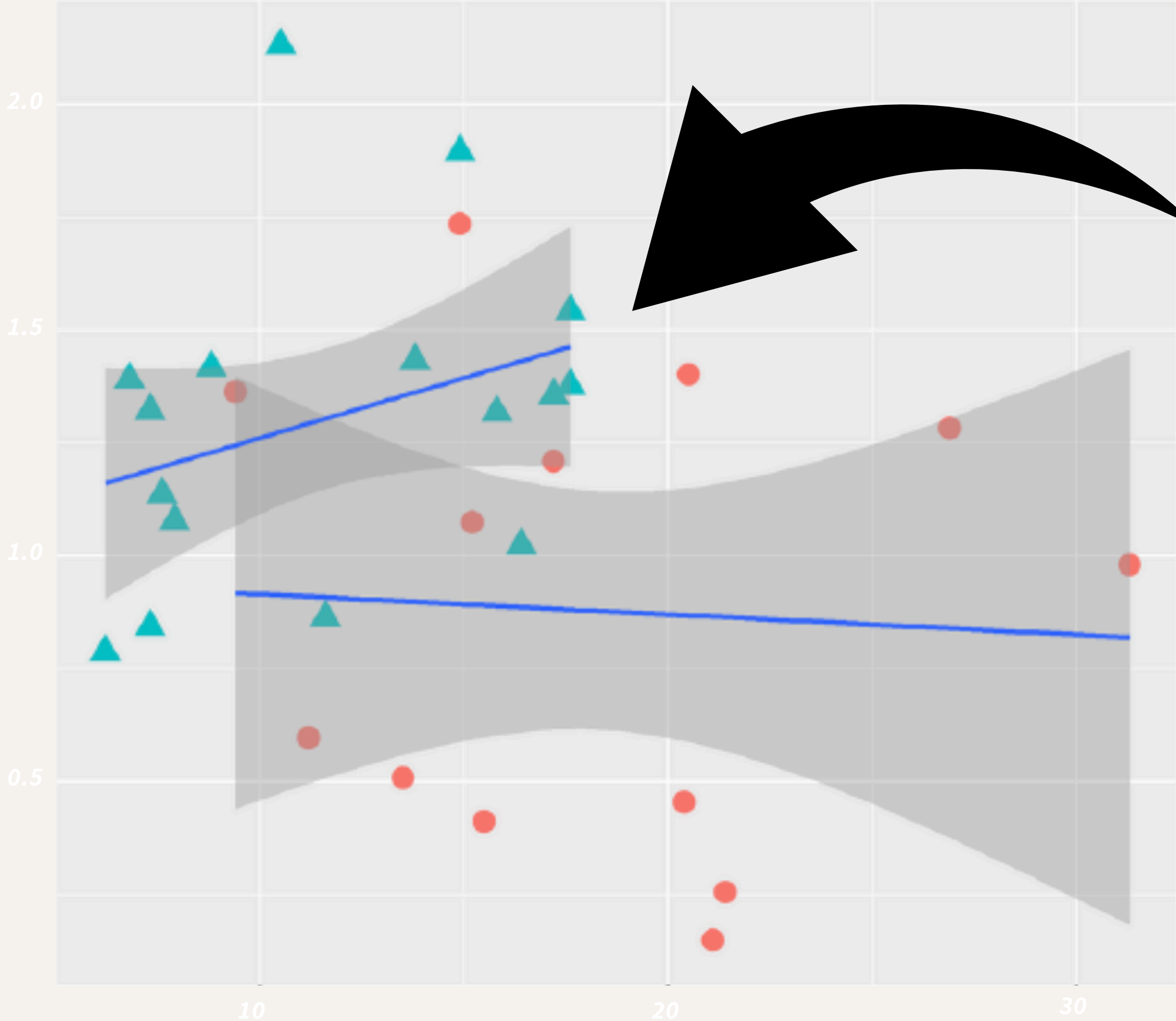


LEGISLATORS REJECT COMMON GROUND COMPROMISE





Vote Share for Moderate Candidates

***Vote Share for Most Moderate Relative to
Expected Copartisan Vote***



**Moderate
candidates in all
candidate primaries
can appeal to voters
from all parties.**

*Single Party (D or R) on Ballot*

*Both R & D on Ballot*

SOURCE:
Sarah E. Anderson*, Daniel M. Butler, Laurel Harbridge-Yong and Renae Marshall

**Top-Four Primaries Help Moderate Candidates
via Crossover Voting: The Case of the 2022
Alaska Election Reforms**

<https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2023-2001>

TRADITIONAL PRIMARY

VS. Top 4 Primary

REPUBLICAN BALLOT

FOR
STATE SENATOR

☐ Randy

☐ Rebecca
Ramsey

☐ River Roberts

DEMOCRATIC BALLOT

FOR
STATE SENATOR

☐ Daisy Davis

☐ Dallas Dixon

☐ Danny DeMarco

TWO SEPARATE BALLOTS

1 Winner from Each Primary Compete in the General

TOP 4 PRIMARY

VS.

TRADITIONAL
PRIMARY

One Ballot

Can Include
Independents



FOR STATE SENATOR	
<input type="radio"/> Randy Reid	<input type="radio"/> Rebecca Ramsey
<input type="radio"/> Daisy Davis	<input type="radio"/> Danny DeMarco
<input type="radio"/> Dallas Dixon	<input type="radio"/> River Roberts
<input type="radio"/> Indiana Ingram	

Top-4 Candidates Compete in the General



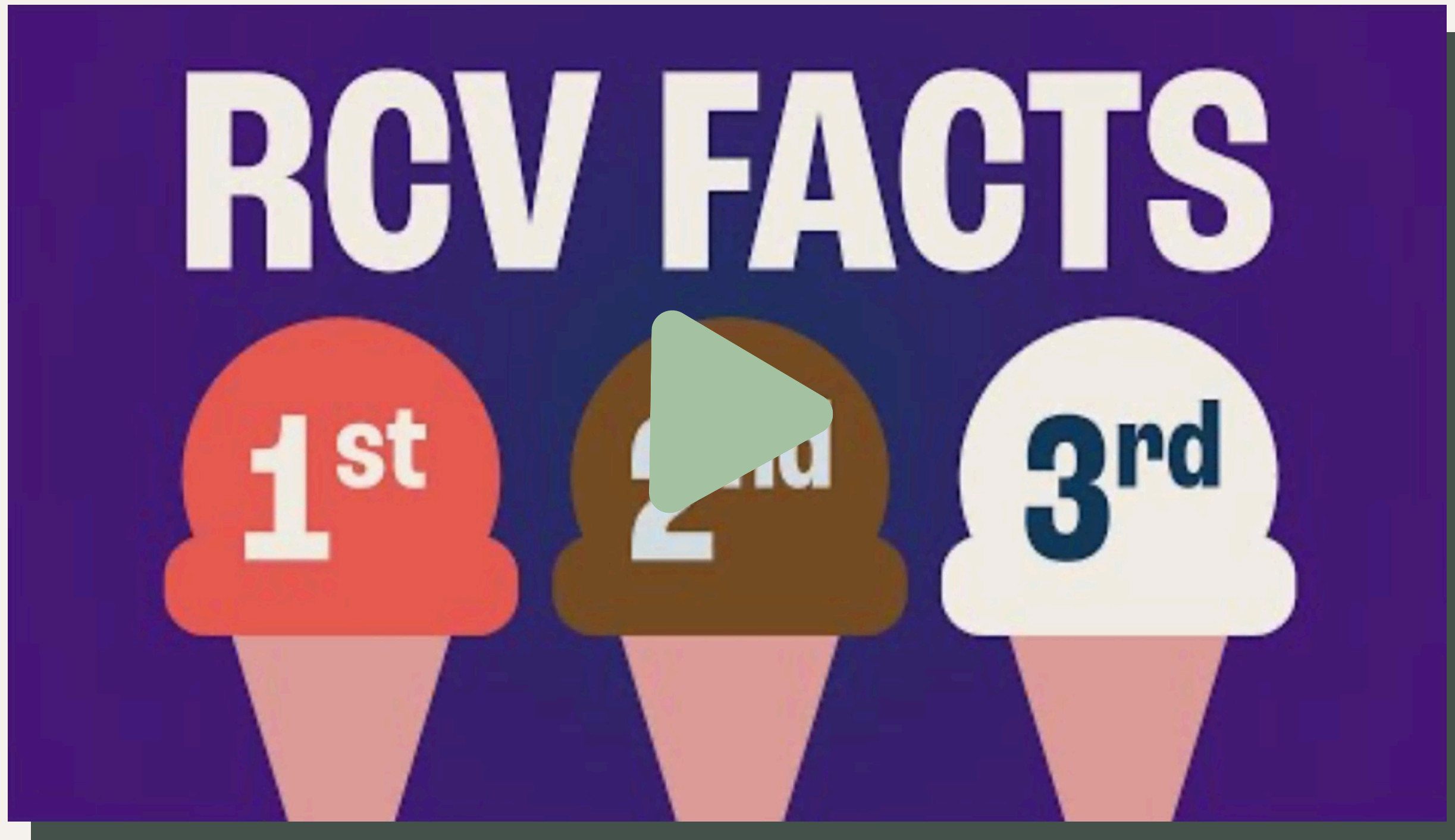
Typ



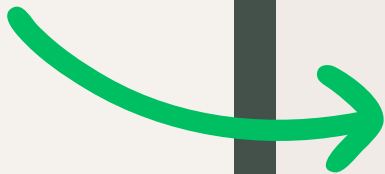
Sixteen states, with 128 U.S. Representatives and 78.8M voters, have closed party primaries for congressional elections. In these 16 states, **16.6M registered independent voters lack the right to vote in taxpayer-funded primary elections.**



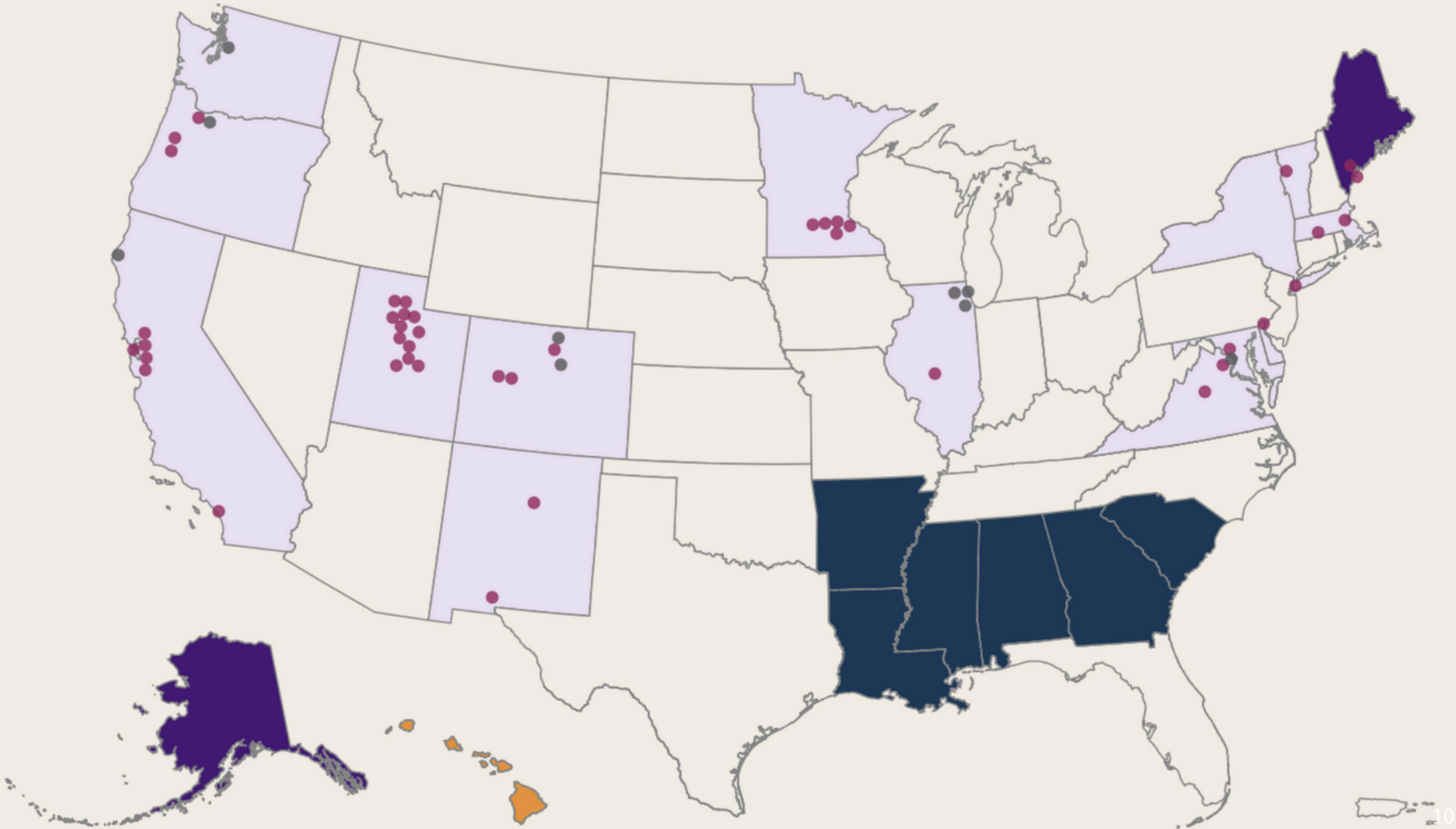
Ranked Choice Voting, **Explained**



Where ranked choice voting is used across the country.



Cities and counties: ● In use ● Upcoming use
States: ■ Used statewide ■ Local elections in some jurisdictions
■ Military and overseas voters ■ Special elections



SOURCE: FairVote

Initiatives v. Referendums



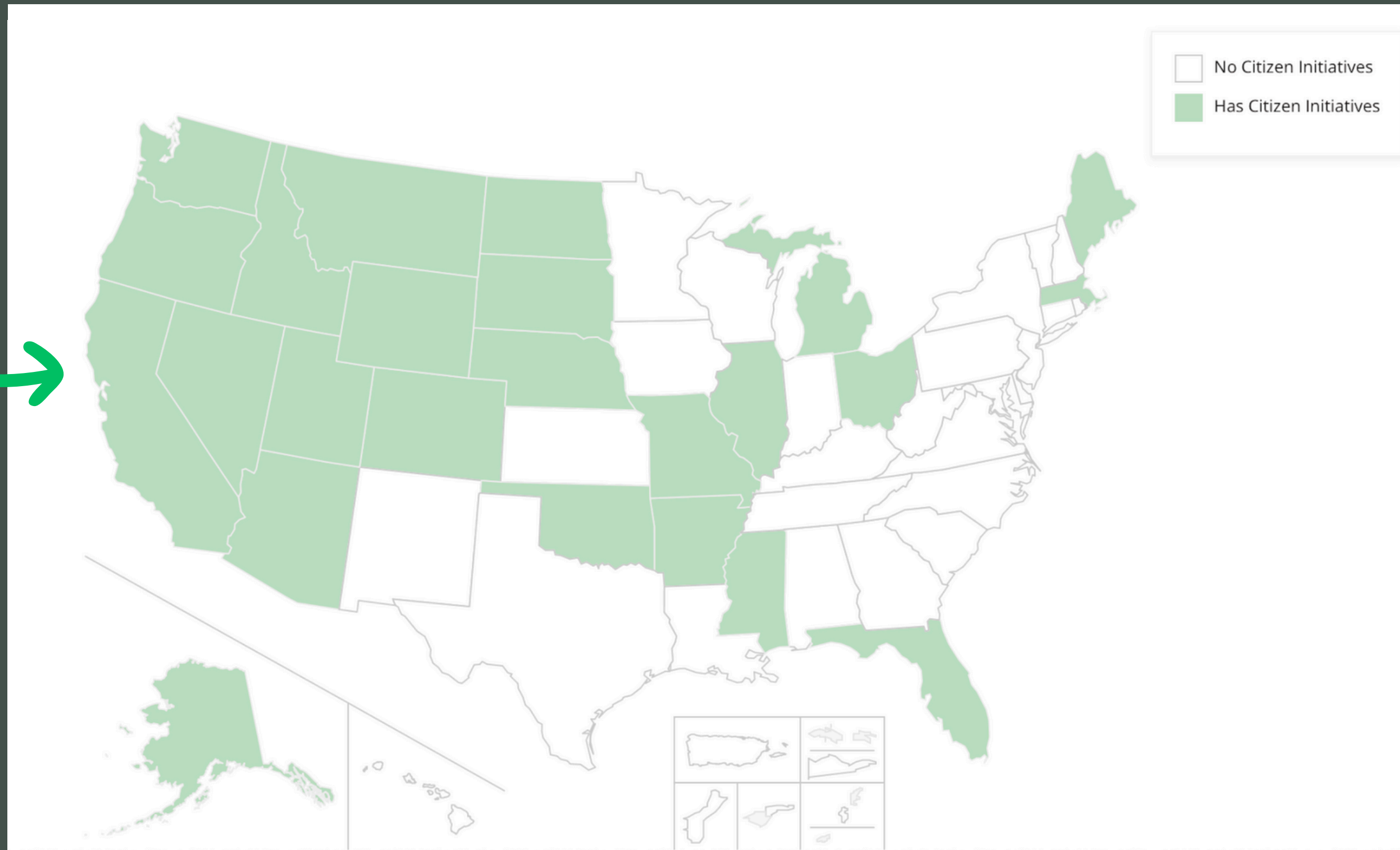
Initiatives: Citizens and groups can propose new policies.



Referendums: Citizens vote on a policy that the legislature has either proposed or passed.

One Key Difference

Initiatives allow citizens to bypass the legislature and propose something new.



SOURCE: *National Conference of State Legislatures*

Some **Reforms of the Progressive Era**

- ✓ **Direct primary elections:** Party members instead of party bosses choosing candidates to represent the party
- ✓ The introduction of **initiatives** and **referendums**
- ✓ **Merit-based hiring** for government jobs
- ✓ **Less Partisan City Governments:** Nonpartisan elections and professional city managers

POLITICIANS IN MAJORITY RULES



LISA MURKOWSKI

U.S. Senator from
Alaska since 2004



CATHY GIESSEL

Alaska State
Senator and
Senate President



MARY PELTOLA

U.S. Representative for
Alaska from 2022 to
2025



NICK BEGICH

U.S. Representative for
Alaska since 2025

Discussion Questions

- While watching Majority Rules, what surprised you the most?
- How might campaigns change over time in states with these reforms?
- In what places are election reforms most likely to be implemented?
- What questions would you have for someone advocating for election reform?