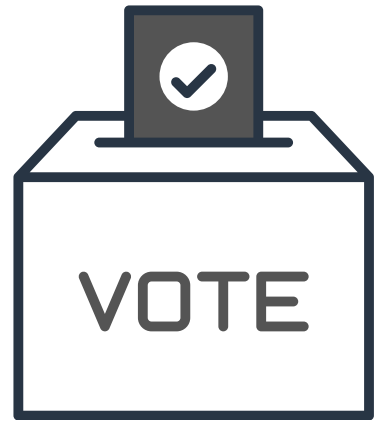


MAJORITY RULES

At a time when confidence in our democracy is at historic lows, Majority Rules offers something rare: a clear, compelling look at a real solution. Through the lens of Alaska's groundbreaking election reforms, this 30-minute documentary illustrates how voters can reclaim power and bring about fairer, more representative elections.

Driving Question: What do you want out of your government?



Key Context

In most states, between 7%–17% of voters engage in primary elections.

Only 3 states in the U.S. offer open, all-candidate primaries.

20 states in the U.S. have open primaries.

11 states have semi-open primaries

20 states have closed primaries.

Discussion Questions:

1. While watching the film, what surprised you most? What was the most important thing you learned from the film?

2. Does the current system offer enough choice for voters? Explain your answer.

Name

MAJORITY RULES



JOURNEYS IN FILM™
educating for global understanding

Name

3. Would election reforms make you more likely to engage in political action? Would advocating for election reform be something you might consider doing?

4. How might campaigns change over time in states with these reforms? What questions would you have for someone advocating for election reform?

5. How different might our political landscape look if there were more consensus in state legislatures and in the national legislature?

6. What does the possibility of voting in the future mean to you? Are you interested/eager to vote? Why or why not?

MAJORITY RULES

Useful Terms

- **All-candidate primary ballot:** Open, all-candidate primary ballots are ballots that increase voter choice and voice regarding selection of the primary candidates that will represent them. These types of elections often push politicians to listen to all of their constituents and put country over party to deliver real solutions. (<https://www.uniteamerica.org/open-primaries>)
- **Ballot initiative:** A citizen-initiated ballot measure. The ballot initiative process allows citizens to propose statutes or constitutional amendments, depending on the state, and collect signatures to place their proposals on the ballot for voters to decide. (https://ballotpedia.org/Ballot_initiative)
- **Consensus:** A general agreement. In politics, consensus is achieved as individuals work to find common ground.
- **Election reform:** A change in electoral systems, often driven by individuals/voters seeking to improve representation
- **Open primary:** In open primaries, the Democratic and Republican parties hold separate primary elections, but all registered voters, regardless of party, can choose which party's primary they would like to participate in. (<https://www.uniteamerica.org/articles/types-of-primary-systems-explained>)
- **Closed primary:** In closed primaries, only voters registered with a political party have a guaranteed right to vote in primaries. Independent voters are barred from participating in primaries unless the parties establish a rule allowing them to participate. (<https://www.findlaw.com/voting/how-u-s-elections-work/what-is-an-open-primary.html>)
- **Party primary:** In a party primary, eligible voters cast ballots to select the party's official nominee for the general election.
- **Non-partisan:** In politics, not partisan, not bound by party affiliation.
- **Partisan:** In politics, a firm adherent or allegiance to a party affiliations.
- **To Primary** (someone)(to be primaried or being primaried): To challenge an incumbent elected official specifically because they are not sufficiently partisan (hence, to be primaried, or being primaried).
- **Primary elections:** Elections held ahead of general elections in order to determine the candidates who are able to run in the general election
- **Ranked choice voting:** An election method in which voters rank candidates for an office in order of their preference (first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on). (<https://www.rcvresources.org/what-is-rcv/>)
- **Referendum:** The principle or practice of submitting to popular vote a measure passed on or proposed by a legislative body or by popular initiative. (Merriam-Webster)



MAJORITY RULES

Extended Learning Activities

- In most states, voter engagement in primary elections is often in the range of 7%–17%. In small groups or individually, have learners create a social media campaign whose goal is to increase voter turnout in primary elections. In addition to creating the campaign, learners should also present this social media campaign to the learning group and explain why it was created in this way and why it would be effective.
- In small groups or individually, have learners create an infographic that explains ranked choice voting. (In small groups with poster paper is a process that could limit the use of AI for this activity.)
- Divide your learners into groups. Assign each group 2–4 states to research. (Pull from 2–4 different categories of primary styles as referenced in the map included herein. Do not show the map to learners until after their project is complete.) Make sure at least one group researches the state where learners live. Have learners research what primary system is used in each of the states they are assigned as well as voter turnout in those states. Then have learners present their findings to the class/learning environment.
- Use this [RankedVote resource](#) or [Fair Vote resource](#) to conduct a classroom/learner group election. After the election, discuss as a class/learning group the way this election is different from other election experiences that students/learners may have experienced.

Additional Resources

- [Ballot Measures, Rock the Vote](#)
- [“It’s Time to Talk About Election Reform” American Progress](#)
- [Fortune Society: Quick Guide to Ranked Choice Voting](#)
- [New Report from the Bipartisan Policy Center Out Now: “2022 Primary Turnout: Trends and Lessons for Boosting Participation,”](#)
- [Open Primaries, United America](#)
- [Ranked Choice Voting Resources](#)
- [Unite America](#)

Ballot Comparisons

TOP 4 PRIMARY

VS. TRADITIONAL
PRIMARY

One Ballot
Can Include
Independents



FOR STATE SENATOR	
☐ Randy Reid	☐ Rebecca Ramsey
☐ Daisy Davis	☐ Danny DeMarco
☐ Dallas Dixon	☐ River Roberts
☐ Indiana Ingram	

Top-4 Candidates Compete in the General

7

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

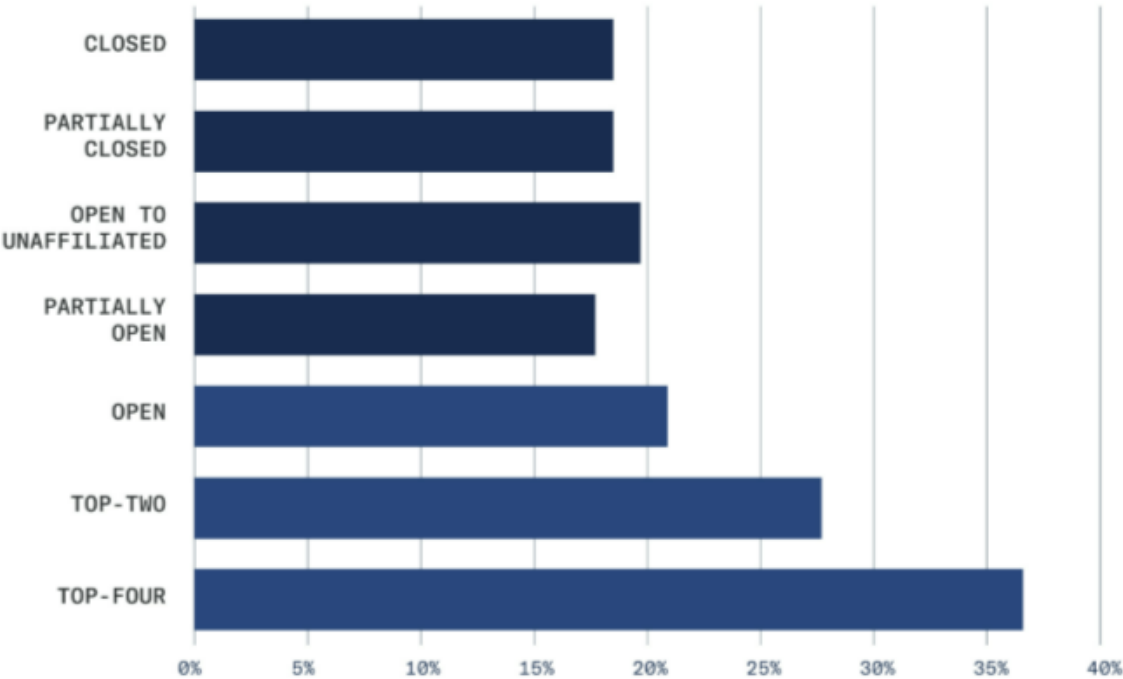
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Primary Turnout Bar Graph

Midterm Primary Turnout by Election Type

2022 primaries showed that states with open primaries have higher turnout than those that do not.



SOURCE: BIPARTISAN POLICY CENTER ANALYSIS OF STATE ELECTION DATA.

Reference Map (for Extension Activity #3)

