

# Alaska's Primary Election History

<b>1947</b>	<p><b>Blanket Primary enacted following a referendum.</b></p> <p>In 1947, Alaskans voted to enact a Blanket Primary. Blanket Primaries are elections where a voter may choose from among all candidates of all parties listed on the ballot.</p>
<b>1960</b>	<p><b>Single Ballot Open Primary enacted by First State Legislature replaced Blanket Primary.</b></p> <p>In the first session of the First State Legislature, the Blanket Primary was replaced with a Single Ballot Open Primary. Voters received one ballot listing candidates from both parties. Voters marked a box indicating they were voting Democrat or Republican. If they voted for candidates from more than one party, their ballots were invalidated.</p>
<b>1967</b>	<p><b>Blanket Primary restored during first session of Fifth State Legislature.</b></p> <p>In 1967, the Legislature restored the Blanket Primary at the request of Governor Walter J. Hickel.</p>
<b>1992</b>	<p><b>Party-Rule Ballot Primary held under court stipulation. (Zawacki v. State of Alaska)</b></p> <p>In 1992, the Republican Party of Alaska (RPA) challenged the State of Alaska in federal court on the constitutionality of the Blanket Primary system. An agreement between the State and the RPA called for a Party-Rule ballot that would contain the names of candidates who filed for the RPA nomination and would be available to Republican, nonpartisan and undeclared voters. A Statutory ballot would contain the names of candidates of all other political parties and would be available to all voters. A voter could vote only one ballot.</p>
<b>1993</b>	<p><b>Party-Rule Ballot Primary retained under court stipulation. (O'Callaghan v. State of Alaska)</b></p> <p>The 1992 agreement remained in place for the 1994 Primary Election under stipulations defined by O'Callaghan v. State of Alaska.</p>
<b>1996</b>	<p><b>Blanket Primary held constitutional under Alaska Supreme Court stipulation.</b></p> <p>In 1996, the State of Alaska defended the constitutionality of the Blanket Primary. The Alaska Supreme Court ruled that the Blanket Primary did not infringe on a party's right of free association. The U. S. Supreme Court chose not to review O'Callaghan.</p>
<b>2000</b>	<p><b>U. S. Supreme Court ruled California Blanket Primary unconstitutional.</b></p> <p>The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 26, 2000 that California's Blanket Primary violated the First Amendment right of freedom of association. The Court said political parties have the right to offer voting to self-identified members, and not to the general electorate.</p> <p>In response to the ruling, the State of Alaska promulgated emergency regulations that allowed the 2000 Primary Election to be conducted as a Party-Rule Ballot Primary. The 2000 Primary Election was similar to those conducted in 1992 and 1994.</p>

## Alaska's Primary Election History (continued)

<b>2001</b>	<p><b>Party-Rule Ballot Primary passed by the Legislature.</b></p> <p>Alaska's Twenty-Second Legislature passed House Bill 193 that specified a Primary Election ballot for each political party. On September 1 the year before the Primary was to be held, political parties were required to submit Department of Justice pre-cleared party bylaws specifying which voters could participate in the Primary Election for that party's candidates.</p>
<b>2002</b>	<p><b>Voters chose from six ballots in the Primary.</b></p> <p>In 2002, voters registered under the parties of Alaska Independence, Democratic, Green, Libertarian, Republican and Republican Moderate were allowed to vote their own party's ballot. Voters not affiliated with a recognized political party were able to choose from ONE of the six ballots.</p>
<b>2003</b>	<p><b>Superior Court allowed parties to appear on a Combined Party ballot.</b></p> <p>The Alaska Superior Court, in Green Party et al. v. State Of Alaska et al., prevented the State from enforcing portions of election laws regarding the Primary Election in 2004. The ruling allowed parties to decide if they wanted to appear on a Combined Party ballot. Parties also specified which voters could have access to their ballots. Parties were given until June 1, 2004 to indicate to the State, through their bylaws, if they wanted to appear on a Combined Party ballot, and which voters would have access to their ballot.</p>
<b>2004</b>	<p><b>Voters to choose from three ballots in the Primary.</b></p> <p>In 2004, the Republican Party chose to have only Republican candidates on its Primary ballot, and ONLY those voters registered Republican, nonpartisan and undeclared had access to the Republican ballot.</p> <p>The Alaska Libertarian Party, the Alaskan Independence Party and the Green Party of Alaska agreed to be on a Combined Party ballot available to all registered voters.</p> <p>On the third ballot, the Alaska Democratic Party appears on a Combined Party ballot with the Alaska Libertarian Party, the Alaska Independence Party and the Green Party of Alaska. The Democratic Party specified this ballot to be accessible to all voters except Republicans.</p>
<b>2006</b>	<p><b>Voters to choose from three ballots in the Primary.</b></p> <p>In 2006, the Republican Party chose to have only Republican candidates on its Primary ballot, and ONLY those voters registered Republican, nonpartisan and undeclared had access to the Republican ballot.</p> <p>The Alaska Democratic Party, the Alaska Libertarian Party, the Alaskan Independence Party and the Green Party of Alaska agreed to be on a Combined Party ballot available to all registered voters.</p> <p>Both party ballots contained the parties' candidates as specified by their party's bylaws and ballot measures that were certified for the 2006 Primary Election ballot.</p> <p>The third ballot type contained ballot measures only and did not include any candidates. This ballot was for voters who did not want to vote for any candidates. The <i>Ballot Measures Only</i> ballot was available to all registered voters.</p>

## Alaska's Primary Election History (continued)

<b>2008</b>	<p><b>Voters to choose from three ballots in the Primary.</b></p> <p>In 2008, the Republican Party chose to have only Republican candidates on its Primary ballot, and ONLY those voters registered Republican, nonpartisan and undeclared had access to the Republican ballot. This ballot was referred to as the <i>Republican Candidate and Ballot Measures</i> ballot.</p> <p>The Alaska Democratic Party, the Alaska Libertarian Party and the Alaskan Independence Party agreed to be on a combined party ballot available to all registered voters. This ballot was referred to as the <i>Alaskan Independence, Alaska Democratic and Alaska Libertarian (A-D-L) Candidate and Ballot Measures</i> ballot. The Green Party of Alaska no longer met the qualifications of a recognized political party in Alaska and was therefore prohibited from appearing on a party ballot for the 2008 Primary election.</p> <p>The third ballot type contained ballot measures only and did not include any candidates. This ballot was for voters who did not want to vote for any candidates. The <i>Measures Only</i> ballot was available to all registered voters.</p>
<b>2010</b>	<p><b>Voters to choose from three ballots in the Primary.</b></p> <p>In 2010, the Republican Party chose to have only Republican candidates on its Primary ballot, and ONLY those voters registered Republican, nonpartisan and undeclared had access to the Republican ballot. This ballot was referred to as the <i>Republican Candidate and Ballot Measures</i> ballot.</p> <p>The Alaska Democratic Party, the Alaska Libertarian Party and the Alaskan Independence Party agreed to be on a combined party ballot available to all registered voters. This ballot was referred to as the <i>Alaska Democratic, Alaska Libertarian and Alaskan Independence Candidate and Ballot Measures</i> ballot.</p> <p>The third ballot type contained ballot measures only and did not include any candidates. This ballot was for voters who did not want to vote for any candidates. The <i>Measures Only</i> ballot was available to all registered voters.</p>
<b>2012</b>	<p><b>Voters to choose from three ballots in the Primary.</b></p> <p>In 2012, the Republican Party chose to have only Republican candidates on its Primary ballot, and ONLY those voters registered Republican, nonpartisan and undeclared had access to the Republican ballot. This ballot was referred to as the <i>Republican Candidate and Ballot Measures</i> ballot.</p> <p>The Alaska Democratic Party, the Alaska Libertarian Party and the Alaskan Independence Party agreed to be on a combined party ballot available to all registered voters. This ballot was referred to as the <i>Alaska Democratic, Alaska Libertarian and Alaskan Independence Candidate and Ballot Measures</i> ballot.</p> <p>The third ballot type contained ballot measures only and did not include any candidates. This ballot was for voters who did not want to vote for any candidates. The <i>Measures Only</i> ballot was available to all registered voters.</p>

**2014 Voters to choose from three ballots in the Primary.**

In 2014, the Republican Party chose to have only Republican candidates on its Primary ballot, and ONLY those voters registered Republican, nonpartisan and undeclared had access to the Republican ballot. This ballot was referred to as the *Republican Candidate and Ballot Measures* ballot.

The Alaska Democratic Party, the Alaska Libertarian Party and the Alaskan Independence Party agreed to be on a combined party ballot available to all registered voters. This ballot was referred to as the *Alaska Democratic, Alaska Libertarian and Alaskan Independence Candidate and Ballot Measures* ballot.

The third ballot type contained ballot measures only and did not include any candidates. This ballot was for voters who did not want to vote for any candidates. The *Measures Only* ballot was available to all registered voters.