



*Nevadans for Election Reform*  
*All Voters - All Elections*

# Advancing Election Reform in Nevada Since 2013



# Why We're Here

Voter Registration Data – As of June 30, 2021

## Statewide

Party	Change in # Voters	% Change	% Voter Share	Difference in Voter Share %
D	439	0.07%	35.32%	-0.24%
R	393	0.07%	30.84%	-0.21%
NP	9,061	1.95%	25.73%	0.30%
IAP	459	0.55%	4.53%	-0.01%
LIB	101	0.57%	0.97%	0.00%
Other	3,146	7.03%	2.60%	0.15%
Total not D or R			33.84%	0.44%

**YOUR  
VOTE  
COUNTS**



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# Why We're Here

Voter Registration Data – As of June 30, 2021

## Clark County

Party	Change in # Voters	% Change	% Voter Share	Difference in Voter Share %
D	590	0.12%	38.27%	-0.28%
R	418	0.12%	27.05%	-0.20%
NP	7,008	2.07%	26.59%	0.32%
IAP	383	0.68%	4.38%	-0.01%
LIB	73	0.65%	0.87%	0.00%
Other	2,544	7.39%	2.84%	0.17%
Total not D or R			34.68%	0.48%

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# Why We're Here

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## Washoe County

Party	Change in # Voters	% Change	% Voter Share	Difference in Voter Share %
D	-84	-0.08%	33.54%	-0.17%
R	12	0.01%	33.60%	-0.14%
NP	988	1.27%	24.60%	0.20%
IAP	62	0.42%	4.62%	0.00%
LIB	16	0.39%	1.29%	0.00%
Other	381	5.33%	2.35%	0.11%
Total not D or R			32.86%	0.31%

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# Why We're Here

Voter Registration Data – As of June 30, 2021

## Rural Counties

Party	Change in # Voters	% Change	% Voter Share	Difference in Voter Share %
D	-67	-0.15%	20.07%	-0.14%
R	-37	-0.03%	49.70%	-0.30%
NP	1,065	2.28%	22.22%	0.37%
IAP	14	0.12%	5.32%	-0.02%
LIB	12	0.50%	1.13%	0.00%
Other	221	7.06%	1.56%	0.09%
Total not D or R			30.23%	0.44%

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# Why We're Here

Voter Registration Data – As of June 30, 2021

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Party	Change in # Voters	% Change	% Voter Share	Difference in Voter Share %
D	-220	-0.12%	35.41%	-0.39%
R	-274	-0.27%	19.83%	-0.25%
NP	4,149	2.33%	35.09%	0.46%
IAP	159	0.67%	4.61%	-0.01%
LIB	43	0.53%	1.57%	-0.01%
Other	1,189	7.03%	3.49%	0.20%
Total not D or R			44.76%	0.64%

# Why We're Here

Voter Registration Data – As of June 30, 2021

55 +

Party	Change in # Voters	% Change	% Voter Share	Difference in Voter Share %
D	525	0.20%	36.42%	-0.15%
R	663	0.23%	39.54%	-0.15%
NP	2,205	1.72%	17.65%	0.20%
IAP	196	0.62%	4.31%	0.00%
LIB	21	0.65%	0.44%	0.00%
Other	768	6.75%	1.65%	0.09%
Total not D or R			24.04%	0.29%

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# Primary Elections – Types and Usage



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- Closed
- Semi-open
- Semi-closed
- Open
- Top-two open non-partisan
- Top-three or more



# Primary Elections – Types and Usage



- Closed
  - Must be registered in a political party prior to election day
  - Can only vote in that party's primary
  - Used in nine (9) states
  - Same day registration clouds definition in Nevada

# Primary Elections – Types and Usage



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- Open
  - Party affiliation not required
  - Can vote in any one party's primary
  - Used in 15 states

# Primary Elections – Types and Usage



- Semi-closed
  - Unaffiliated voters can choose a party
  - Already affiliated voters can not change party
  - Party affiliation must be formally declared prior to election day
  - Can vote in only that party's primary
  - Used in six (6) states

# Primary Elections – Types and Usage



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- Semi-open
  - Party affiliation does not have to be formally declared; must be stated
  - Unaffiliated voters can request ballot for one party
  - Affiliated voters must vote their party's ballot
  - Used in 15 states

# Primary Elections – Types and Usage



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- Top-two open non-partisan
  - No party affiliation required
  - All candidates regardless of party affiliation listed on same ballot
  - All voters regardless of party affiliation can vote for any candidate
  - Top two finishers advance to general election – can be same party
  - Jones v California & Grange v Washington upheld constitutionality
  - Used in four (4) states
  - Most city elections are top-two

# Primary Elections – Types and Usage



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- Top-three or more
  - Similar to top-two but more candidates advance to general election
  - Used with rank choice, approval, or similar voting method in general election
  - Top-four will be used in Alaska, August 2022

# Beyond FPTP



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- Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)
- Approval
- Score
- Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR)
- No primary

# Beyond FPTP



- Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)
  - Voters vote in order of preference; 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>...
  - Tabulated in rounds until one candidate 50%+1 of votes being counted
  - First used in mid-1800's in Europe
  - 1915 first use in United States
  - Longest continued use Cambridge, MA (1941)
  - Used or pending implementation in 53 political jurisdictions
  - Used by 91 colleges and universities
  - Used in over 100 organizations including for the OSCARS, Heisman Trophy, Federal Reserve
  - Nevada Democratic Party used during early caucus voting in 2020





# Beyond FPTP

- Approval

- Voters vote for as many candidates they like in no particular order
- Candidate with most votes wins
- Use in some form dates back to 1294 (Papal conclaves)
- Has been used in Europe and Asia since mid-20<sup>th</sup> century
- Currently used by two (2) cities
- Used by six (6) political parties
- Used by five (5) private organizations



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# Beyond FPTP

Approval Voting Ballot

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Vote for one or more candidates  
The candidate with the most votes wins

**ELEANOR ROOSEVELT**  
Incumbent



**CESAR CHAVEZ**  
Labor Organizer



**WALTER LUM**  
Publisher



**JOHN HANCOCK**  
Physician



**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**  
Minister



**ANNA MAE PICTOU AQUASH**  
Indigenous Rights Organizer



# Beyond FPTP

- Score
  - Voters assign a score to each candidate
  - Candidate with highest total score declared winner
  - History parallels approval voting (often interchangeable terms)
  - No political jurisdictions currently use score voting
  - Score voting used by:
    - Some Olympic events
    - NHL Memorial Trophy
    - Various survey firms
    - Some OSCAR categories
    - Wikimedia and Wikipedia



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# Beyond FPTP

Score Voting Ballot

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Governor Candidates	→	Score <i>each</i> candidate by bubbling a number (0 is worst; 9 is best)
1: Candidate A	→	⓪ ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨
2: Candidate B	→	⓪ ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨
3: Candidate C	→	⓪ ① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ ⑦ ⑧ ⑨

# Beyond FPTP



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- Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR)
  - Voters score each candidate
  - Top two advance to runoff, candidate who voter scored highest receives their vote in runoff
  - First proposed in 2014
  - Used by Independent Party of Oregon and Multnomah County, Oregon Democratic Party

# Beyond FPTP

Score Then Automatic Runoff (STAR) Ballot



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**STAR Voting**  
Score Then Automatic Runoff

	No support 0	1	2	3	4	Max support 5
Allen	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bianca	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Chris	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Desi	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Edith	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Frank	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The two highest scoring candidates are finalists  
The finalist scored higher by more voters wins

# Beyond FPTP



- No primary
  - All candidates run in the general election
  - RCV or separate runoff used to determine winner
  - Mostly used for local non-partisan elections
  - Louisiana Top-Two



# SB 499

- History of bill
- Impact



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# SB 499



- History of bill
  - Applies when only one (1) major party has candidates for a partisan office, no minor party or independent candidate
  - Prior to SB499 these races were conducted as no primary or top-two races similar to non-partisan offices
    - 2015 session – introduced as top-three primary with RCV general
    - LCB input on RCV & amendment
    - Partisan offices elected in primary

# SB 499

- Impact

- 2016

- 4 races
    - Avg turnout - 24.53% (19.61 / 30.66)
    - Avg winning percent of party - 14.90% (12.19 – 16.97)
    - Avg winning percent of district – 6.23% (5.01 – 7.76)

- 2018

- 4 races
    - Avg turnout – 24.39% (18.51 – 31.52)
    - Avg winning percent of party – 14.96% (11.18 – 24.48)
    - Avg winning percent of district – 7.53% (5.46 – 13.60)

- 2020

- 5 races
    - Avg turnout – 36.31% (40.02 – 30.36)
    - Avg winning percent of party – 20.63% (11.62 – 30.22)
    - Avg winning percent of district – 9.47% (5.33 – 15.75)
  
  - Avg turnout – 28.41%
      - Avg winning percent of party – 16.83%
      - Avg winning percent of district – 7.74%



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# Nevada Progress



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- SB103
- AB259
- GCGV
- Local option
- 2020 Dem caucus
- SB121

# Nevada Progress



- SB103
  - 2017 session top-two primary bill introduced by Sen. James Settelmeyer
    - Established top-two open non-partisan primary
    - Reversed SB499
    - Did not get hearing

# Nevada Progress



- AB259
  - 2019 session introduced by Assembly Legislative Operation & Elections Committee
  - Reversed SB499 returning to prior process
  - Passed assembly 30-10
  - Heard but no committee vote in senate

# Nevada Progress



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- Great Choice Greater Voice Initiative
  - Filed by Nevadans for Election Reform in 2018
  - Would impact all elections except presidential
  - Eliminate publicly-funded primary elections
  - General election using RCV
  - Lacked major funding, did not qualify for ballot

# Nevada Progress



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- Local option Bill
  - Gives cities the option of using RCV or similar method
  - Currently implemented in Utah (23 cities)
  - Virginia just passed bill to enact
  - 2019 session sponsor lined up told by speaker bill would not be heard
  - 2021 same sponsor same outcome



# Nevada Progress

- 2020 Democratic presidential caucus
  - Nevada Democratic Party used RCV in early voting portion of caucus



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# Nevada Progress



- SB121
  - 2021 session top-two primary bill introduced by Sen. Ben Kieckhefer
  - Established top-two open non-partisan primary
  - Bill did not get a hearing

# What's Next



- Support growing
- Alaska model

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# What's Next



- Support growing
  - With voter registration trends interest in good governance increasing
  - Non-Partisan voters becoming focus of campaigns
  - National groups expanding support of state & local efforts
  - More local groups coming on board to advance inclusive elections

# What's Next



*Nevada's for Election Reform*  
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- Alaska model
  - Top-four open non-partisan primary
  - RCV in general election
  - Passed by voters in 2020
  - First election August 2022
  - Possible Nevada ballot initiative

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# Nevadans for Election Reform – Contact Info

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