

Civics for Adults Update, Nov 27, 2022

Upcoming

Misinformation, Fake News and Political Propaganda.

Sunday, December 4, 4-5:30 **PST**. Stoughton [MA] Public Library. **Virtual**.

Register: bit.ly/civicsadults1

- Mainstream press and “fake news”
- Social Media posts
- Email clickbait
- Propaganda
- Language / terminology
- Deepfakes
- Survey / poll questions
- Economic data
- Graphs and charts
- Finding good information

Citizen Activism 101—Making Change Happen

Thursday, January 12 [may switch to 19th], 3:00 **PST**. Stoughton Public Library [MASS]. **Virtual**.

Register: TBA

- Historical perspective
- Examples of successful advocacy
- Types of advocacy
- Who makes the rules?
- Tools / strategies for change
- Engaging with government / lobbying for influence
- Tracking civic / political legislation

Selected Civics for Adults Facebook posts:

If you live in Portland, OR, you know we are about to embark on a momentous change to all major aspects of our city government. This will include more City Councilors, with three elected by proportional representation w/ranked-choice voting to each of four geographic districts. A change from a commissioner form of government to a Mayor/Council form, with a City Manager.

The overall transition website is <https://www.portland.gov/transition>

Here's a great little video that explains proportional representation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0dZvZkrrSI&fbclid=IwAR3HmjVMdCnCIDdzlizzx0hWWFdfjlfHghX7d14m2uBCp774cfJ5es96aR4>

Three committees will be set up for the transition. The first, to create the four geographic districts, is accepting applications by Dec 1. https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/portlandor/jobs/3764509/volunteer-non-paid-position-independent-district-commission?fbclid=IwAR3J6wbRX0bNoOKf-cj93_Y3DfX8D-pZCxUZn3qpH6SzOKrS5LjQuCONH60

Deadline, Dec 1st! Now that the voters of Portland have passed a dramatic structural change to their government, it's time to get to work. The city will be recruiting people for three committees during the transitional change. Recruiting for the first committee is happening now:

- The Independent District Commission will work to determine the new Portland districts.
- The Charter Transition Advisory Committee will oversee charter reform implementation.
- The Salary Commission will work to determine the salaries of the 12 council positions.

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“**Curing**” is the process by which election offices let you know if there is something wrong with your ballot that is easily correctable. However, some states DON'T let you know if there was a correctable error on your ballot!

<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/27/1125179062/voting-explainer-in-many-states-theres-a-process-to-fix-an-error-with-your-ballot?fbclid=IwAR1QTW->

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If you heard anyone complaining about **how long it takes to count votes** in some states, here's your answer. **Why Does It Take So Long to Count Mail Ballots in Key States? Blame Legislatures.** Brennan Center. 11/7/22.

"The slow count of mail ballots has been used to cast doubt on election results, but these delays are a deliberate choice by lawmakers in battleground states."

https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/why-does-it-take-so-long-count-mail-ballots-key-states-blame-legislatures?fbclid=IwAR1zkImOlrkLaezPDHx2ee-wgx1GEOb-RN7AXS_Zig-QY3vob5motZjnwE

Times when we've had officially certified results on Election Night



@NatVoterRegDay

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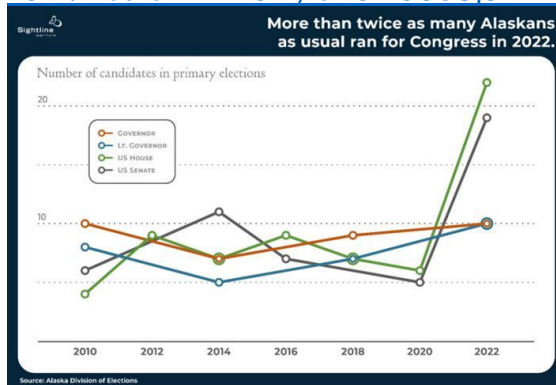
Yay, Alaska. "In Alaska, 2022 was the year of the Independent. Freed by the state's return to open primaries, nearly half of Alaska candidates running for governor, lieutenant governor, US House, and US Senate chose not to identify with either major party. As a result, the pool of candidates in those statewide races actually came close to mirroring Alaska's majority-Independent electorate..."

We hypothesize the new system opened the door to candidates who wouldn't have chosen to run otherwise, **leading to a more diverse candidate cohort and more competitive races"**

Moral of the story - if you want a broader representation of candidates running for office, change the system!

ALASKA PRIMARY VOTERS HAD MORE CHOICE IN 2022. Lee and Lee. Sightline Institute. 11/4/22.

https://www.sightline.org/2022/11/04/alaska-primary-voters-had-more-choice-in-2022/?fbclid=IwAR0myfckr3W5OsGj67HlxIZyc_tmZBwwz_4OvYEwEy_6eUwFf20tRyT9Awc



More at <https://www.facebook.com/Civics-for-Adults-1490728887922036>

Ask your local library or community group to sponsor a workshop! Thanks.

Flyer describing workshops: https://static.s123-cdn.com/uploads/2516289/normal_5fe8c854352d5.pdf