

## Specifics on Ballot Measure 1:



### *Which oil production fields would the ballot initiative affect?*

The ballot initiative would increase taxes on oil production fields that meet all of the following criteria:

- 1) Located above 68 degrees north latitude in Alaska, which is an area known as the North Slope;
- 2) Have a lifetime output of at least 400 million barrels of oil; and,
- 3) Had an output of at least 40,000 barrels per day in the preceding calendar year.

According to Robin Brena, chairperson of the campaign behind the ballot initiative, three oil production fields—Alpine, Kuparuk, and Prudhoe Bay—met those criteria.

### *What would the new taxes be?*

The ballot initiative would tax oil production using an alternative gross minimum tax or an additional production tax, whichever is greater for each month and each field. The alternative gross minimum tax would be 10 percent of the gross value of oil at the point of production where the average per-barrel price for Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude oil for sale on the U.S. West Coast is less than \$50. The additional production tax would be the difference between the average production tax value of oil per month and \$50, multiplied by the volume of taxable oil produced by the producer for that month, and multiplied by 15 percent. The additional production tax formula would also eliminate the per-taxable-barrel credit.

The ballot initiative would also require that filings and information submitted to the Alaska Department of Revenue relating to the initiative's taxes be considered public records.

If implemented, the initiative is likely to bring in an additional \$1 billion dollars to the state general fund.

### *Who is behind the campaigns surrounding the ballot initiative?*

Vote Yes for Alaska's Fair Share is leading the campaign in support of the ballot initiative. Robin Brena, the chair of former Gov. Bill Walker's Transition Subcommittee on Oil and Gas, is chairperson of the campaign. Brena was also the campaign's largest donor, contributing \$463,409. Overall, Vote Yes for Alaska's Fair Share received \$615,171 in contributions, with 70 percent in the form of in-kind services.

OneAlaska is leading the campaign in opposition to the ballot initiative. Chantal Walsh, the chairperson of OneAlaska, also worked in Gov. Walker's administration, serving as the Alaska Oil and Gas Division Director. OneAlaska received \$9.87 million in contributions, with four oil and gas companies—BP Exploration Alaska (\$4.54 million), Conoco Phillips (\$1.79 million), ExxonMobil (\$1.70 million), and Hilcorp Energy (\$1.62 million)—providing 98 percent of the campaign's funds.

## Specifics on Ballot Measure 2:



### *What election policies would this ballot initiative change?*

The ballot initiative would make changes to Alaska's election policies, including:

- requiring persons and entities that contribute more than \$2,000 that were themselves derived from donations, contributions, dues, or gifts to disclose the true sources of the political contributions;
- replacing partisan primaries with open top-four primaries for state executive, state legislative, and congressional offices; and
- establishing ranked-choice voting for general elections, including for presidential elections, in which voters would rank the candidates that succeeded from the primaries.

### *How would top-four primaries and ranked-choice voting work in Alaska?*

Alaska would be the first state to adopt top-four primaries for state executive, state legislative, and congressional offices. Candidates would run in a single primary election, regardless of a candidate's party affiliation. The four candidates that receive the most votes would advance to the general election. As of 2020, California and Washington used a top-two system for primaries.

At the general election, voters would elect state and federal candidates using ranked-choice voting. For state executive, state legislative, and congressional elections, voters would rank the four candidates that advanced from their top-four primaries. A candidate would need a simple majority of the vote (50%+1) to be declared the winner of an election. If no candidate wins a simple majority of the vote, the candidate with the fewest votes would be eliminated. People who voted for that candidate as their first choice would have their votes redistributed to their second choice. The tabulation process would continue as rounds until there are two candidates remaining, and the candidate with the greatest number of votes would be declared the winner.

### *Who is behind the campaigns surrounding the ballot initiative?*

Alaskans for Better Elections is leading the campaign in support of Ballot Measure 2. The campaign's committees had raised \$1.2 million, with contributions from several organizations that seek to change election policies. Unite America was the largest donor, providing \$970,000.00. Action Now Initiative, the second largest donor, provided \$100,000. Former Rep. Jason Grenn is chairperson of the campaign. Bruce Botelho (D), the former mayor of Juneau, Alaska, and Bonnie Jack (R) are co-chairs of the campaign. Grenn described the ballot initiative as "kind of a three-pronged attack on making our elections better."

As of June 2020, there is not an *organized* campaign in opposition to the ballot initiative, however, Glenn Clary and Ann Brown, the chair and vice-chair of the Alaska Republican Party, had both argued against the ballot initiative.