

VOTE NO ON CONSTITUTIONAL INITIATIVES 126 AND 127

Just say NO to Jungle Primaries (CI 126) and Rank Choice Voting (CI 127)

The ballot language (voters summary) for Constitutional Initiatives 126 and 127 is misleading and insufficient to say the least. The full texts which voters will not see at the ballot box paint a picture of how convoluted and dangerous these two initiatives are for the voters, the voter integrity process, and principled candidates.

The PAC, "**Montanans for Election Reform**", is funded predominantly (>98%) by dark money from outside Montana. Over \$4,250,000 of the \$4,348,675 were PACs outside of Montana including \$1.2 million from United America, Denver, CO, and \$2.65 million from Article IV, Arlington, VA.

Constitutional Initiative (CI) 126 Subject: Amends the Montana Constitution to provide a top-four primary election. **Negative points to this include:**

- **Top Four** equates to "**Jungle Primaries**"
- This places all candidates from all Party's (and non-partisan races) along with all other ballot issues on one multi-page ballot that will be more complex and convoluted than the current Primary Ballots that are by individual Party. I.e. Republican, Green, Libertarian, and Democrat Ballots.
- Significantly and needlessly complicates the voting process and the voters themselves

Constitutional Initiative (CI) 126 (Ballot Issue #12)

Subject: Amends the Montana Constitution to provide a top-four primary election. All candidates, regardless of political party, appear on one ballot. The four candidates receiving the most votes advance to the general election. A candidate may list a political party preference, but a candidate isn't required to be nominated by a political party. A candidate's political party preference isn't an endorsement by the political party. The legislature may require candidates gather signatures up to five percent of the votes received by the winning candidate in the last election to appear on the ballot. All voters may vote for one candidate for each covered office. The amendment applies to the elections for governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, state representative, state senator, United State representative, and United States Senator.

Submitter: Rob Cook, Frank Garner, Bruce Tutvedt, Doug Campbell, Ted Kronebusch, and Bruce Grubbs.

Constitutional Initiative 127 Subject: Amends the Montana Constitution to provide that elections for certain offices must be decided by majority vote as determined as provided by law rather than by a plurality or the largest amount of the votes. **Negative points to this include:**

- **Majority, 50%+1** of the votes equates to **Rank Choice Voting (RCV)**
- A candidate who did not initially receive either of the top two percentages of votes in the primary may win the election
- Disenfranchises voters, political parties, and their endorsed / preferred candidates. This will predominantly affect Conservative voters and candidates given that moderate republicans, democrats, greens, and select independents will be inclined to rank these candidates higher than the conservative candidate(s)
- Will lead to some voters having their ballots removed from the final count without them ever knowing their vote was discarded
- Raises the possibility of election tampering
- The overall Montana voting system becomes less secure given the complex counting processes witnessed in Alaska and other States
- **FISCAL NOTE:** Either RCV and additional run-off elections to get one candidate over the 50%+1 will be very time consuming and cost significantly more fiscally

Constitutional Initiative 127 (Ballot Issue #13)

Subject: Amends the Montana Constitution to provide that elections for certain offices must be decided by majority vote as determined as provided by law rather than by a plurality or the largest amount of the votes. If it cannot be determined who received a majority of votes because two or more candidates are tied, then the winner of the election will be determined as provided by law. This act applies to elections for governor and lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, state representative, state senator, United States representative, United States Senator, and other offices as provided by law.

Submitter: Rob Cook, Frank Garner, Bruce Tutvedt, Doug Campbell, Ted Kronebusch, and Bruce Grubbs.