

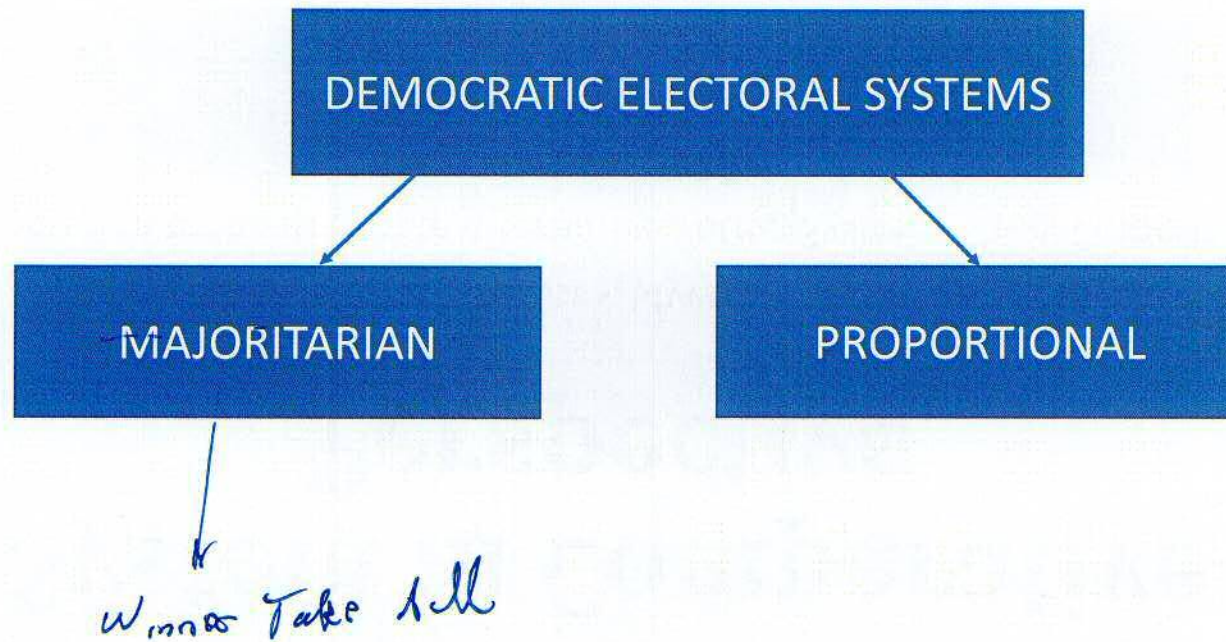
The Rhode Island Electoral System in Comparative Perspective

Adam S. Myers

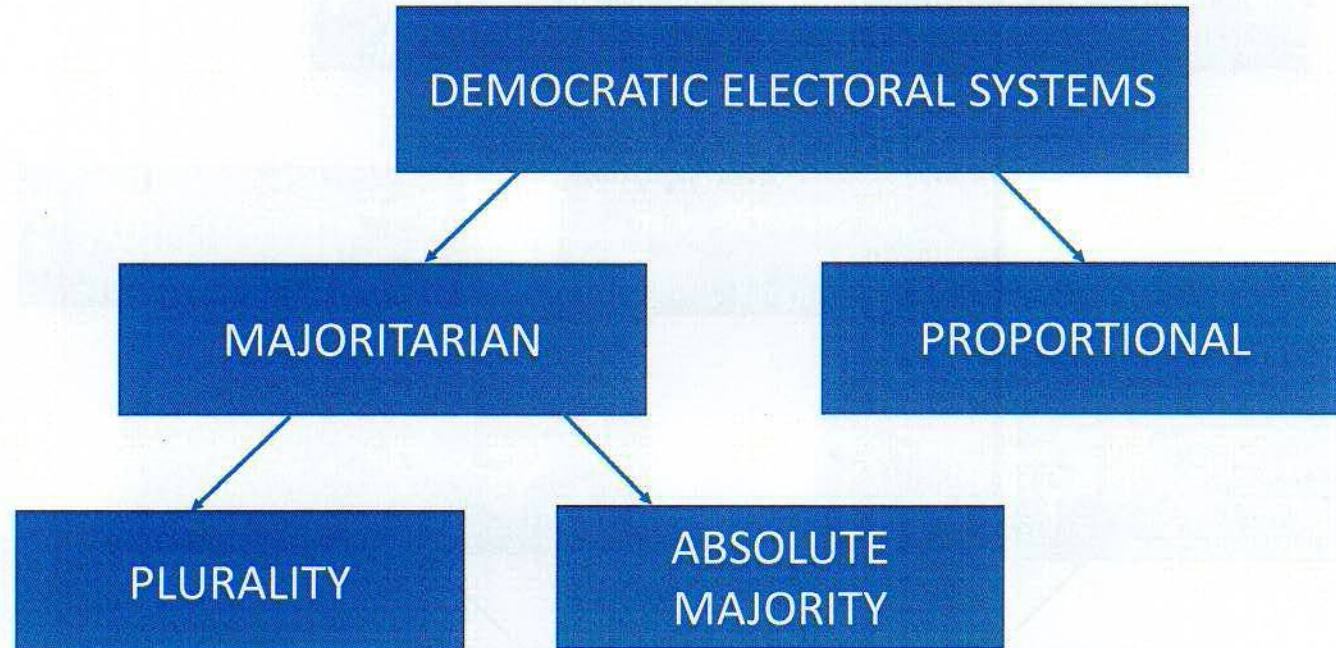
Presentation to the RI Senate Alternative Voting Systems Study Commission

March 1, 2023

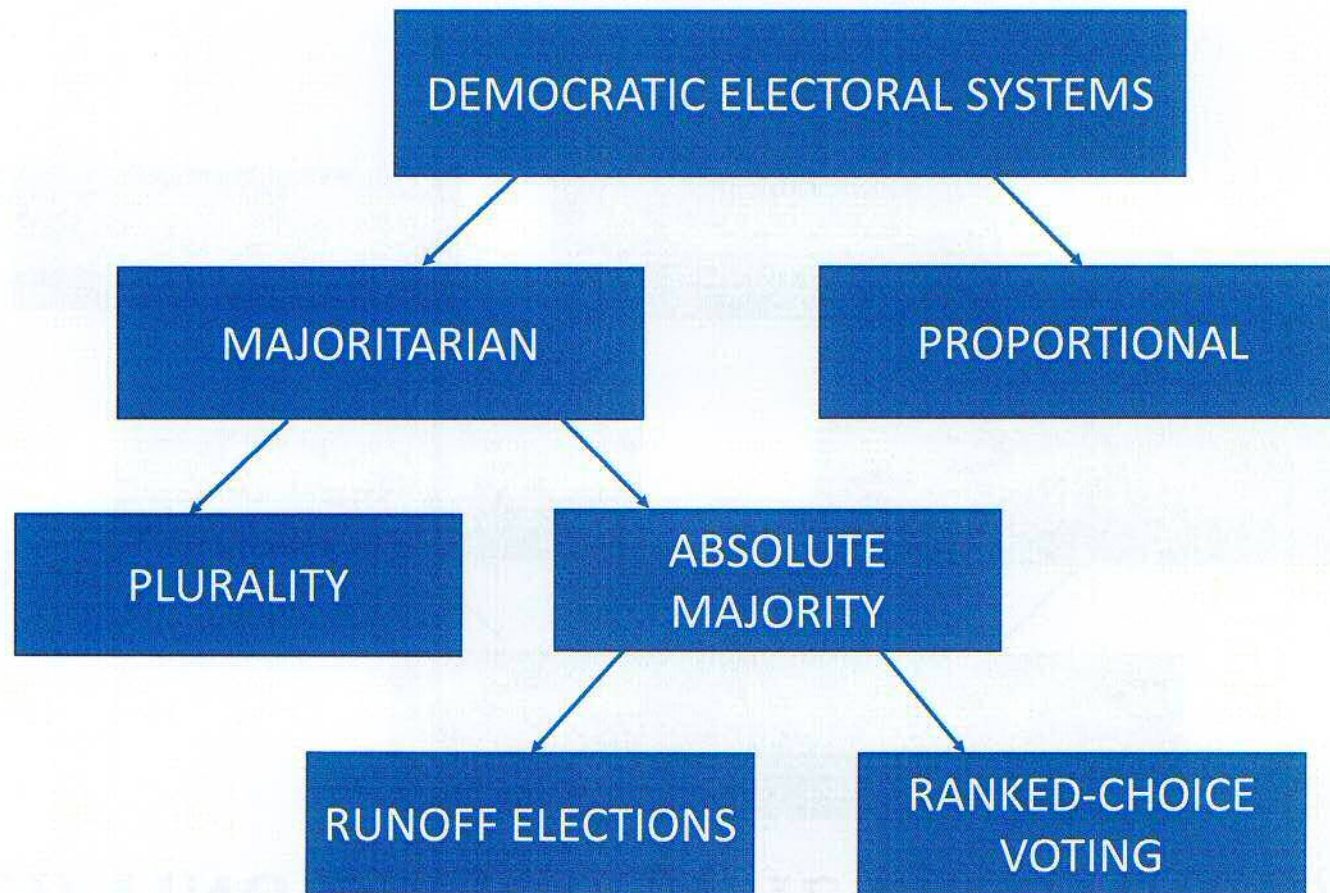
CLASSIFYING DEMOCRATIC ELECTORAL SYSTEMS



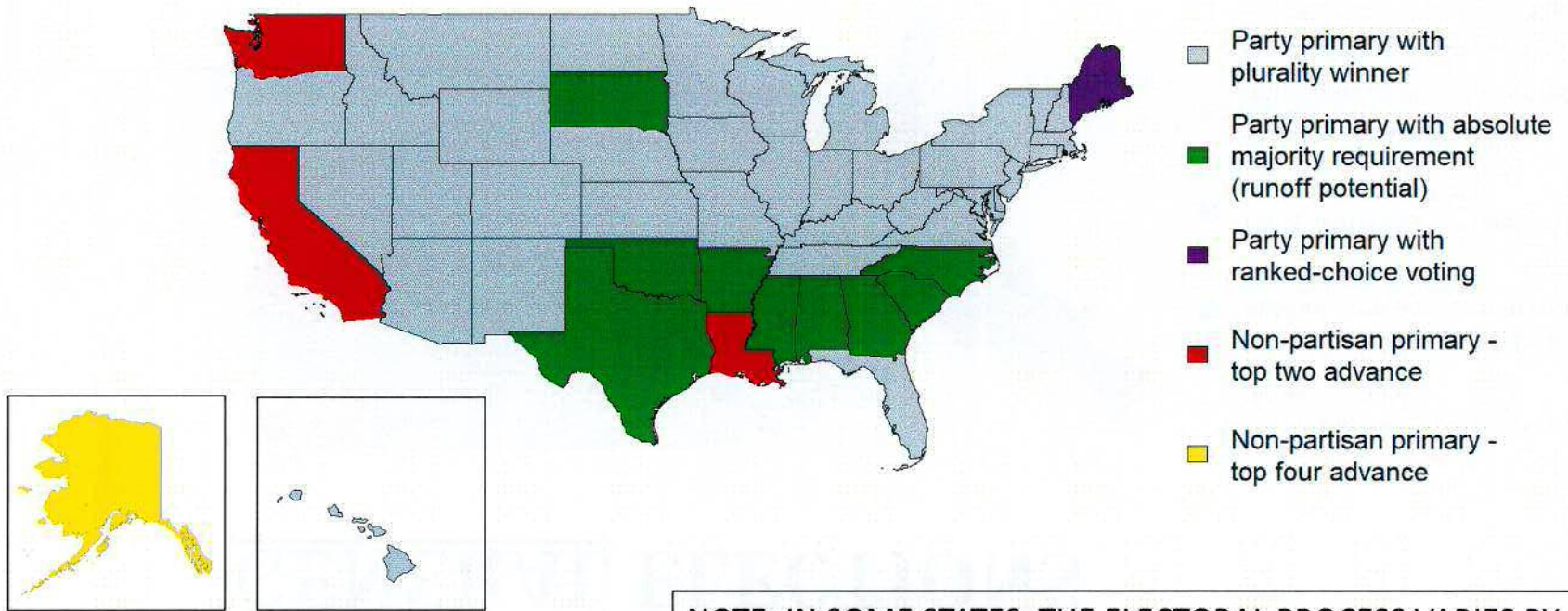
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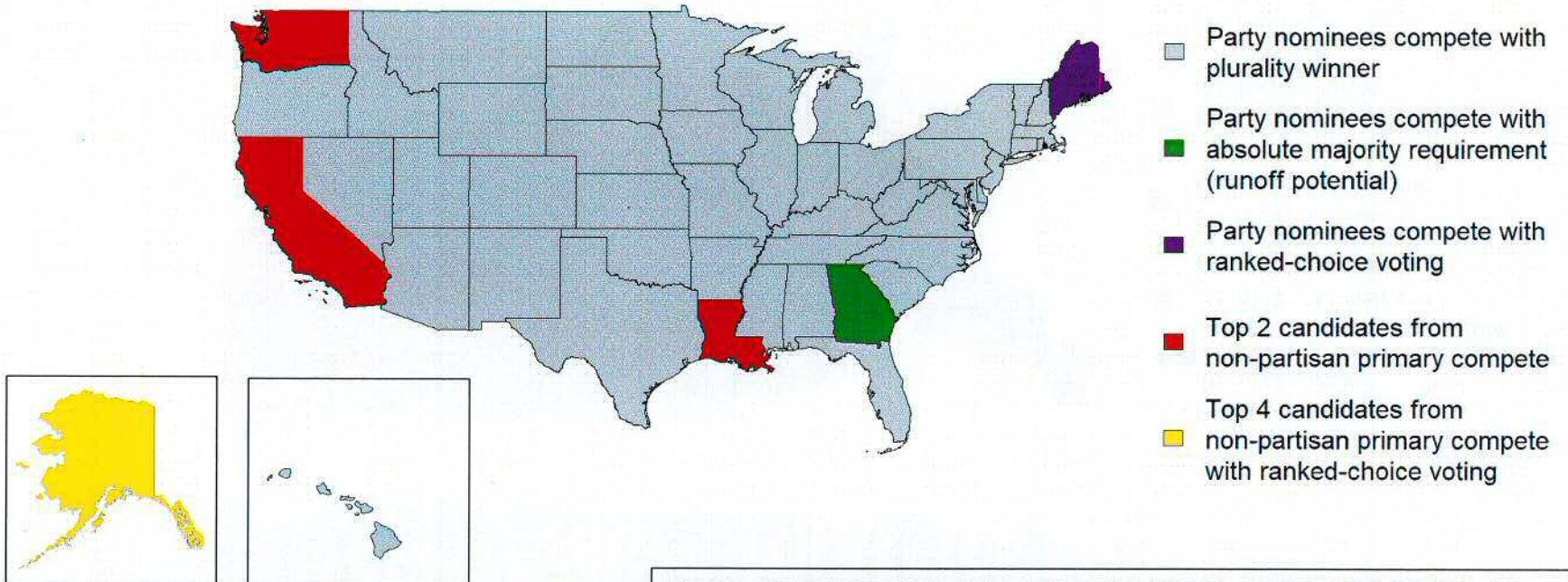


ELECTORAL PROCESS BY STATE: PRIMARY ELECTIONS



NOTE: IN SOME STATES, THE ELECTORAL PROCESS VARIES BY OFFICE. THE MAP ABOVE SHOWS THE PROCESS FOR CONGRESSIONAL RACES.

ELECTORAL PROCESS BY STATE: GENERAL ELECTIONS



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- What is unusual about Rhode Island elections is not our electoral system, but rather the way our electoral system interacts with our party system.



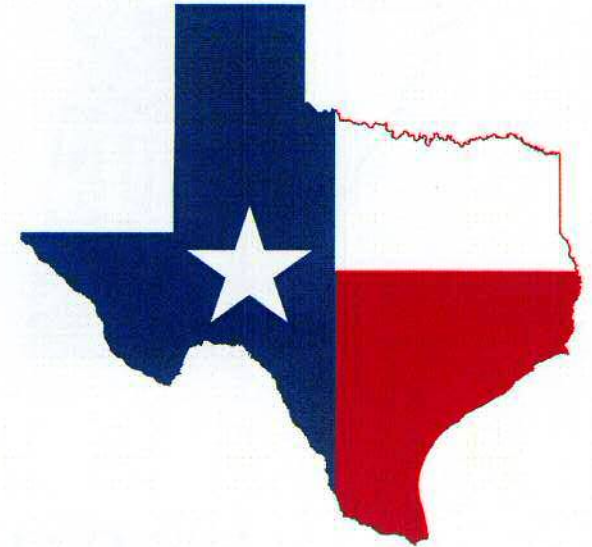
OPTIONS FOR RHODE ISLAND BASED ON WHAT OTHER STATES HAVE DONE

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 - Party primaries and general elections with absolute majority requirement and runoff potential.



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 - Non-partisan primaries followed by top-two general elections



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 - Party primaries and general elections with ranked-choice voting
- The California Model
 - Non-partisan primaries followed by top-two general elections
- **The Alaska Model**
 - Non-partisan primaries followed by top-four general elections with ranked-choice voting



ADDITIONAL OPTIONS BASED ON WHAT SOME MUNICIPALITIES HAVE DONE

- Single transferable vote
(Cambridge, MA)

*MULTI-MEMBER
DISTRICTS*



ADDITIONAL OPTIONS BASED ON WHAT SOME MUNICIPALITIES HAVE DONE

- Single transferable vote
(Cambridge, MA)

- Approval voting plus top-two runoff
(St. Louis, MO)



Issues to Consider in Assessing Voting Systems

Implications for turnout

Voter understanding of the process

Socioeconomic differences in use of new voting methods

Voter faith in the process

Implications for candidate strategy and outcomes in government

Cost of adopting new voting systems

THANK YOU!