



**The Institute
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EXHAUSTED BALLOTS IN FINAL FIVE ELECTIONS

The Data Tells the Truth

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The Institute for Political Innovation is a 501(c)3 organization that contributes theory, scholarship, and strategy to catalyze model, modern political change in America.

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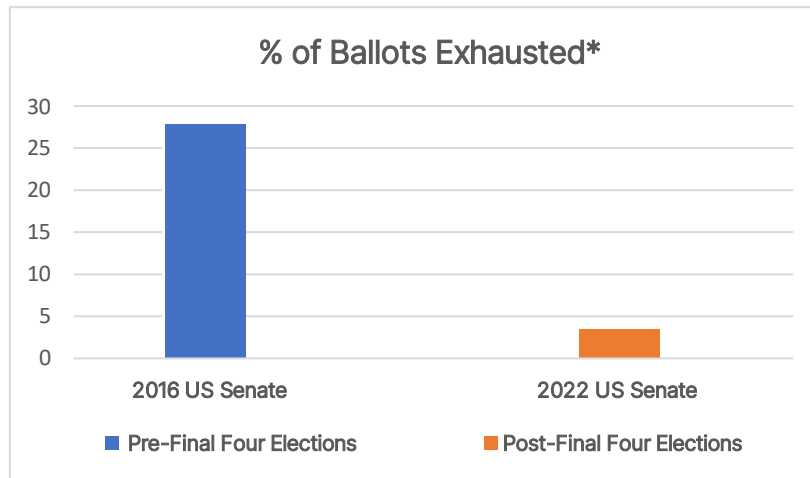


Exhausted Ballots in Final Five Elections: The Data Tells the Truth

Myth: There are rarely exhausted ballots in plurality voting and instant runoffs (as used in Final Five Voting) produce high numbers of exhausted ballots.

What is an “exhausted ballot” in an instant runoff election? A ballot on which the voter did not vote for one of the final two candidates.

What is the mirror situation in plurality voting? A ballot on which the voter did not vote for one of the final two candidates.



2016 US Senate

Total Votes Cast: 311,441 | **Exhausted Ballots*:** 86,934 (27.9%) | **Blank or Error:** 9,830 (3.2%)

Party	Candidate	# of Votes	Vote Percentage
Republican	Lisa Murkowski	138,149	44.4%
Libertarian	Joe Miller	90,825	29.2%
Independent	Margaret Stock	41,149	13.2%
Democratic	Ray Metcalfe	36,200	11.6%
Independent	Breck Craig	2,609	0.8%
Independent	Ted Gianoutsos	1,758	0.6%
N/A	Write-in	706	0.2%

*Denotes ballots not cast for one of the top two candidates.

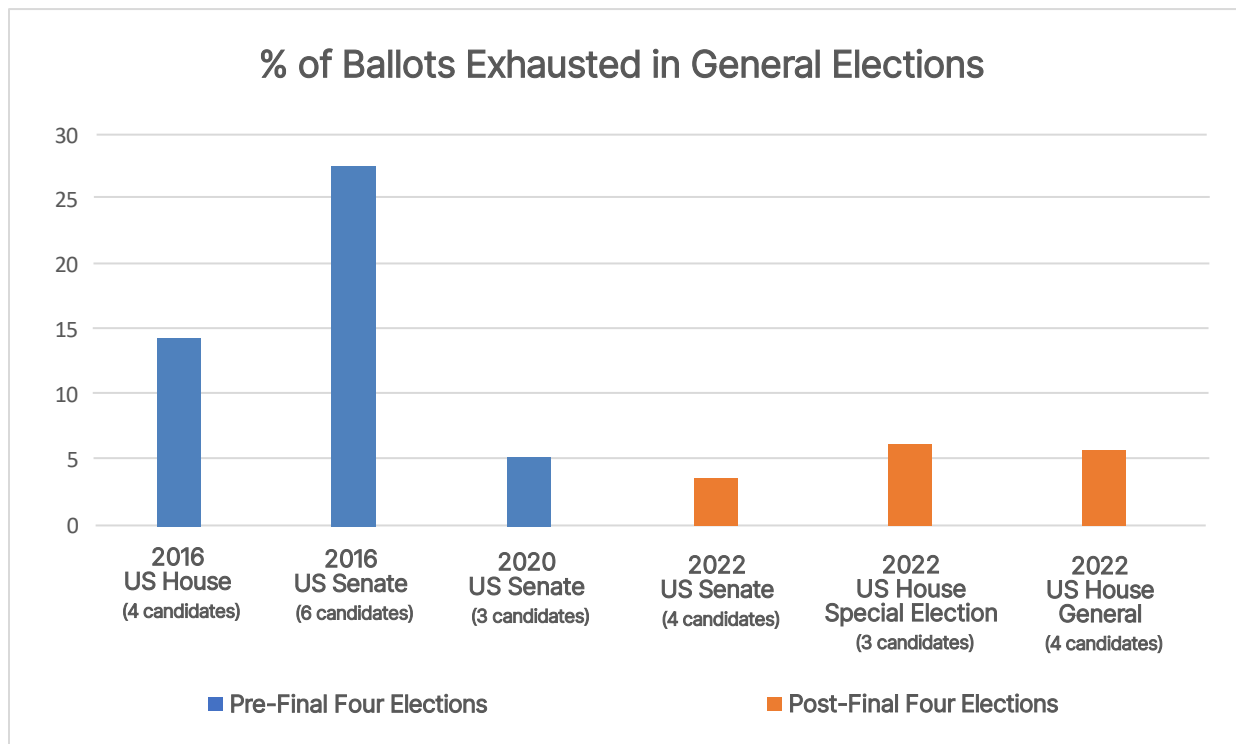


2022 US Senate

Total Votes Cast (First Choice): 261,705 | Exhausted Ballots: 9,107 (3.5%) | Blank or Error: 3,826 (1.5%)

Party	Candidate	First Choice Votes	Round One Runoff	Round Two Runoff	Final Round Runoff
Republican	Lisa Murkowski	43.4% (113,495)	43.4% (114,118)	44.5% (115,759)	53.7% (136,330)
Republican	Kelly Tshibaka	42.6% (111,480)	42.6% (112,101)	44.3% (115,310)	46.3% (117,534)
Democratic	Pat Chesbro	10.4% (27,145)	10.7% (28,233)	11.2% (29,134)	Eliminated
Republican	Buzz Kelley	2.9% (7,557)	3.3% (8,575)	Eliminated	Eliminated
N/A	Write-In	0.8% (2,028)	Eliminated	Eliminated	Eliminated

Additional Races – Pre- and Post-Final Four Elections



Conclusion: In any race with more than two candidates, exhausted ballots are likely to be higher under plurality voting than under Final Five or Final Four Elections.

*Denotes ballots not cast for one of the top two candidates.