TO: Interested Parties
RE: **Senator Sullivan's Path to Victory**
DATE: Friday, November 6, 2026

SUMMARY

Ranked choice tabulation will decide the race between Senator Dan Sullivan and Mary Peltola and that tabulation favors Sullivan. On the ballots counted so far, second and third choices from Gerald Heikes and Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. voters net Sullivan about 950 votes and he wins by about 320.

The Division of Elections has ~20,000 early votes and ~27,000 absentee ballots in hand that we believe will not be counted until Nov. 10, with late mail and questioned ballots still to come. Sullivan needs about 49.5% of the two-way vote in what is left. He has 49.8% of the two-way vote counted so far.

The path, based on the campaign's internal modeling and the belief that votes cast after the New York Times story broke (which is true of all of the remaining early votes) are better for Sullivan than those cast prior to Wednesday's publication, has three steps.

- **Step 1: Win the outstanding early vote.** All 20,116 were cast from Oct. 30 through Election Day, after the New York Times story. 51% of them skipped the August primary, compared to 30% of the early voters already counted, and Mat-Su holds 20.3% of the batch against 17.2% of registered voters. If they vote the way Election Day voters did in their own districts, Sullivan wins the batch 53% to 47%, nets about 1,200 votes and moves ahead on first choices by about 580.
- **Step 2: Hold the absentee vote close.** With Step 1 and the tabulation, Sullivan can lose the uncounted absentee ballots by about 1,700 votes and still win. That is about 47% of the two-way vote. The absentee ballots counted so far went 42.3% for Sullivan, so this is the step where the late vote has to outperform. Of the uncounted, 8,781 arrived Oct. 28 or later, the Oct. 30 to Nov. 1 arrivals are the only window with more Sullivan-modeled than Peltola-modeled voters.
- **Step 3: The tabulation.** Heikes voters who ranked anyone else break for Sullivan 71% to 29%, a net of 1,407 votes on the ballots counted. D.J. Sullivan Jr. voters net Peltola 453, and 657 of his ballots move to Heikes first and then mostly to Sullivan. Together the transfers move the race about 950 votes toward Sullivan on the ballots counted and about 130 more on the ballots still out, assuming existing trends on ranking behavior hold.
- **Overvotes could be worth a further 90.** 233 ballots were voided at rank 1 because two ovals were filled. 145 paired Dan Sullivan with his namesake, Heikes or a write-in, and 55 did the same with Peltola. If those overvotes are corrected, Sullivan nets 90.
- **To be clear, no one will know how these votes break until they are counted.**

WHAT EACH SCENARIO PRODUCES

Each row adds the outstanding early vote and the uncounted absentee ballots to the current count, then applies the transfer rates from the Division's cast vote record.

Scenario	Outstanding early vote (20,116)	Uncounted absentee (27,081)	First-choice margin	Peltola % of first choices	After tabulation
Ballots counted today	n/a	n/a	Peltola +637	48.2%	Sullivan +320
Both batches break like Election Day	Sullivan +1,220	Sullivan +625	Sullivan +1,210	47.9%	Sullivan +2,300
The viable path: early vote like Election Day, absentee at 47%	**Sullivan +1,220**	**Peltola +1,670**	**Peltola +1,090**	**48.4%**	**Even**

Transfers assume the outstanding ballots rank the way the counted ballots did. Not included: ballots that could still be in the mail (18,256 were out on Nov. 1), in-person absentee votes cast Nov. 2 and 3, questioned ballots and the 90-vote overvote correction.

HOW THE TABULATION PLAYS OUT ON THE BALLOTS ALREADY COUNTED

The Division eliminates the last-place candidate each round and moves those ballots to the voter's next choice still in the race. Peltola never reaches 50% of continuing ballots: 48.2% in round 1, 49.0% in round 2 and 49.9% in the final round.

Round	Sullivan	Peltola	Heikes	D.J. Sullivan Jr.	Exhausted	Margin
1. First choices	102,075	102,701	4,821	3,583	0	Peltola +626
2. D.J. Sullivan Jr. eliminated	102,661	103,740	5,478		1,301	Peltola +1,079
3. Heikes eliminated (final)	**105,037**	**104,709**			**3,434**	**Sullivan +328**

The Division's Nov. 4, 2:11 PM update added 553 first-choice votes and moved Peltola's lead from 626 to 637, which puts the tabulated margin near Sullivan +320. Transfer behavior comes from the Division's cast vote record, which covers 204,530 of the ballots counted; 10,805 hand-counted rural ballots are not in it.

WHERE THE OUTSTANDING BALLOTS ARE

Mat-Su is over-represented in the outstanding early vote and is our best region in both batches. If Anchorage absentee votes that have not yet been counted are more favorable to Sullivan than those that have already been counted, the pathway is viable.

Region	% of registered voters	% of outstanding early vote	Sullivan %, early vote at Election Day behavior	% of uncounted absentee
Mat-Su	**17.2%**	**20.3%**	**72%**	**11.3%**
Anchorage	39.6%	41.7%	47%	48.5%
Fairbanks	12.3%	13.1%	54%	3.7%
Southeast	10.5%	12.4%	36%	17.6%
Kenai	8.8%	9.3%	67%	8.0%
Rural	11.6%	3.2%	36%	10.7%

WHAT TO WATCH

- **Tuesday, November 10:** The Division's next count, which should include nearly all of the early vote and a large batch of absentee ballots. The benchmarks are Sullivan at 53% of the two-way early vote and 47% of the two-way absentee vote. If Peltola's first-choice lead is under about 1,100 once those are in, Sullivan is on track to win the tabulation.
- **Wednesday, November 18:** The last day for overseas ballots to arrive. The Division releases the final unofficial count and runs the official ranked choice tabulation.