TO: Interested Parties
RE: **State of the Race: Senator Sullivan Wins Once Ranked Choice Votes Are Counted**
DATE: Wednesday, November 4, 2026

BOTTOM LINE

If the ranked choice voting tabulation took place today of the votes that we have in hand right now, Senator Dan Sullivan would defeat Mary Peltola **105,037 to 104,709**, a margin of 328 votes.

Senator Sullivan is in that position despite the biggest election cheating scandal in the history of Alaska. He is also in this position despite a bloodbath for Republicans everywhere else in the country. As the Senator said last night, Alaska is different.

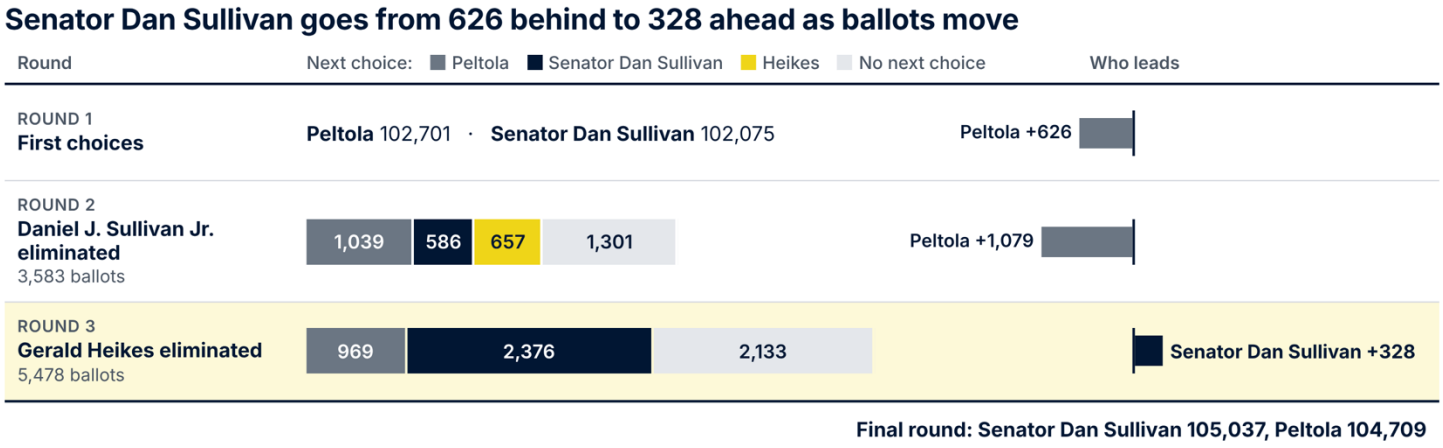
THE COUNT

No candidate has 50% of first choice votes so ranked choice voting decides this race and that will be how Dan wins.

Peltola leads on first choices by 626 votes, but first choices are not the result. The 8,404 ballots for the two candidates who cannot win, Gerald Heikes and Daniel J. Sullivan Jr., are eliminated and their second and third choices are added to the totals of Senator Sullivan and Peltola. Heikes voters who ranked anyone else break for Dan 71% to 29%, and that round decides the race.

Last night, Alaska's Division of Elections released a file with full data for how people ranked candidates. This means we know who people ranked first, second, and third.

For these votes, we know what would happen if the ranked choice voting tabulation took place today: Dan wins this election.



Note: The Division of Elections did not include 10,805 votes in this raw file from rural precincts in Alaska, where many communities do not have machines that count votes and votes are counted by hand.

VOTES THAT HAVE YET TO BE COUNTED

There are tens of thousands of votes outstanding. A big chunk of what remains is absentee and early votes from Friday, October 30th through Monday, November 2nd, votes cast AFTER the bombshell New York Times story dropped. We are confident these votes will benefit Dan.

DOCUMENTED VOTER CONFUSION ALREADY

Seventy voters mistakenly put both Dan Sullivans first. No matter how you slice it, they were clearly confused. That spoiled their ballots: under Alaska law, an overvote and all lower rankings do not count, so their votes in this race didn't count.

Sixty-three voters ranked both Dan and the other spoiler candidate, Republican Gerald Heikes. A super PAC implicated in the New York Times story spent millions of dollars promoting Heikes in an effort to weaken Dan's vote share.

There is clear confusion here, and while these numbers may seem small, it is the tip of the iceberg as it relates to illustrating clear voter confusion and the result of a clear, concerted effort to disenfranchise Alaska voters.

WHAT'S NEXT

This race will not be decided today. Votes will continue to trickle in over the next two weeks, and the margin will move with each update. Election night results typically represent only about **70%** of the total vote, so no single update should be read as the final word.

Here is what to watch:

- **Monday, November 10:** The Division of Elections' next scheduled update, which should include nearly all early votes and a large batch of absentee ballots.
- **Friday, November 13**: Another scheduled update and the last day for mailed ballots from within the U.S. to arrive. Nearly all ballots should be counted by this point.
- **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.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN DIVING DEEP INTO THE NUMBERS

Transfer behavior comes from the Division's cast vote record, which covers every scanned ballot (204,530 of the 215,335 counted).

WHERE THE COUNT STANDS

Four candidates split 213,180 first-choice votes. Peltola's edge is 0.3 points, and 8,404 ballots (3.9%) sit with two candidates who cannot win and will be redistributed.

Candidate	First choices	Share
Mary Peltola (D)	102,701	48.2%
Dan S. Sullivan (R)	102,075	47.9%
Gerald Heikes (R)	4,821	2.3%
Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. (no party)	3,583	1.7%

HOW RCV TABULATION PLAYS OUT

The Division eliminates the last-place candidate each round and moves those ballots to the voter's next choice still in the race. Applying the second and third choices marked on the cast vote record to the totals above, Sullivan overtakes Peltola 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	P +626
2. D.J. Sullivan Jr. eliminated	102,661	103,740	5,478		1,301	P +1,079
3. Heikes eliminated (final)	**105,037**	**104,709**			**3,434**	**S +328**

Final round: Sullivan 50.08%, Peltola 49.92% of the 209,746 ballots still ranking a continuing candidate. The 3,434 exhausted ballots ranked neither finalist and drop out of the denominator.

WHY THE TRANSFERS FAVOR SENATOR DAN SULLIVAN

- **Heikes voters are Republicans.** Of Heikes ballots that rank anyone else, 71% go to Sullivan and 29% to Peltola. On the full count that is 2,376 votes to Sullivan against 969 to Peltola, a net of 1,407. This is the round that decides the race.
- **The other Sullivan does less for Peltola than it looks.** Daniel J. Sullivan Jr. voters' next choices split Peltola 1,039, Heikes 657, Dan Sullivan 586, with 36% ranking no one else. Her net gain is 453 in round 2, but 657 of those ballots land on Heikes and most of them then flow to Dan Sullivan in round 3.
- **Peltola's first-choice lead is not enough to win and she doesn't get there in the second round either.** She needs 50% plus one of continuing ballots and never reaches it: 48.2% in round 1, 49.0% in round 2, 49.9% in the final round. Sullivan gains share every round.

OVERVOTES THAT READ AS SENATOR SULLIVAN VOTES

233 ballots were voided at rank 1 because two ovals were filled. Who was paired, and the rest of the ballot, show the intent.

Rank-1 overvote	Ballots
Dan Sullivan paired only with his namesake, Heikes or a write-in (no Peltola mark)	145
Peltola paired only with the namesake, Heikes or a write-in (no Dan Sullivan mark)	55
Both Dan Sullivan and Peltola marked	27
Net margin for Dan Sullivan if overvotes are corrected	**90**

OUTSTANDING ABSENTEE AND EARLY VOTES

Outstanding ballots	Ballots	When cast	How we get the number
Early votes, Fri Oct 30 through Election Day	~17,800	Oct 30 to Nov 3, after the Oct 28 New York Times report	Division of Elections early-vote total of 67,935 (Nov 3, 12:26 PM) sub 50,112 counted election night