

# Plurality in Utah

## Election Methodologies

### **OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND GENERAL COUNSEL**

---

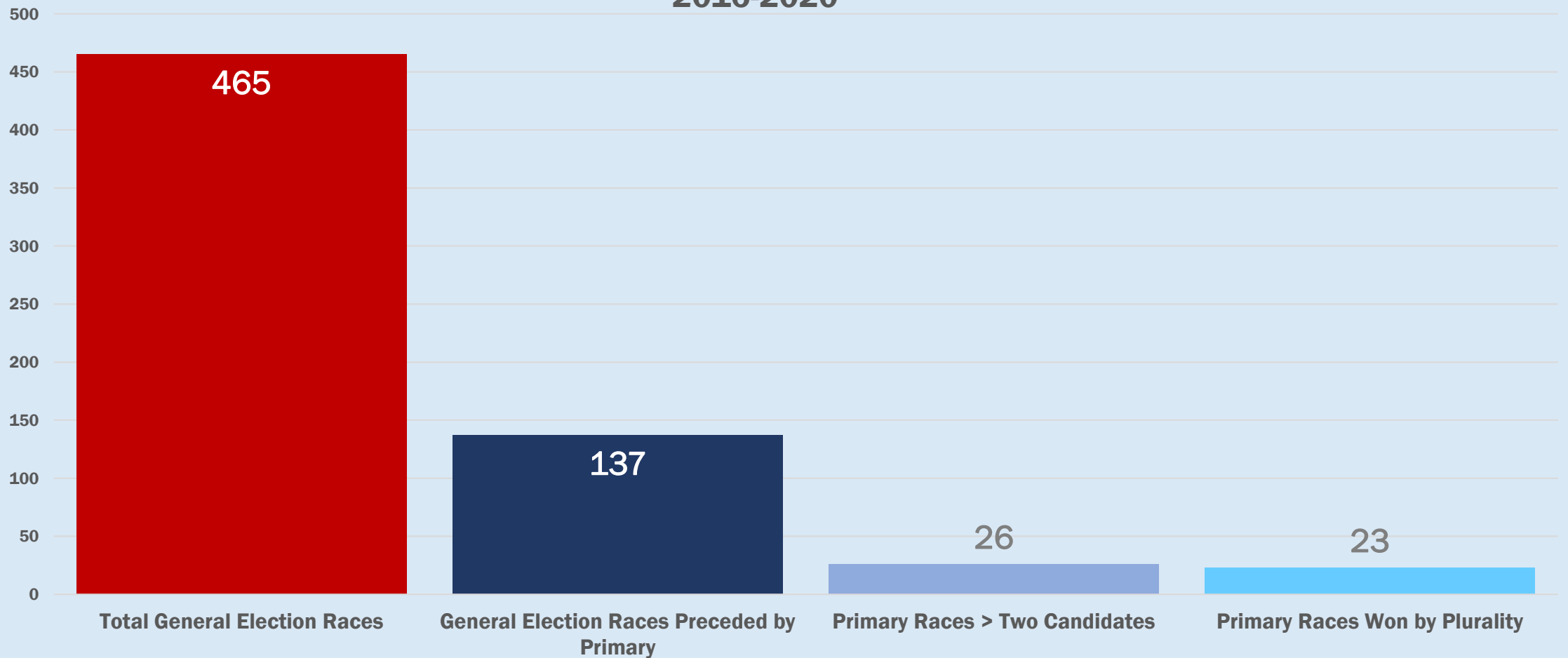
Government Operations Interim Committee

May 18, 2021



# Partisan Races in Utah

Partisan Races in Utah  
2016-2020





# Votes Received by Winner

**45% Three-Candidate Races**

**38% Four-Candidate Races**



# Options to Consider

- **Traditional**
- **Runoff Election**
- **Top-Two Primary Election**
- **Ranked-Choice Voting**
- **Approval Voting**



# Traditional Voting

- **“First-past-the-post”**
- **Most common**
- **Used by 34 states**



# Runoff Election

- **Used by 10 states**
- **Ensures candidate wins with a majority of the votes**
- **Can be as expensive as the original primary**
- **Decreased voter participation**
- **Timing**



# Top-Two Primary

- **All candidates on same ballot**
- **Increased likelihood of moderate candidates**
- **May reduce voter choice**
- **Concerns for minor parties**
- **Used by 4 states**

# Ranked-Choice Voting

- **Instant Runoff Voting**
- **Voters rank candidates by preference**
- **Provides more choices to voters**
- **Learning curve**
- **Used by 2 states, 23 Utah municipalities, and 26 cities outside of Utah**



## Your Ranked-Choice Ballot

Rank up to 4 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>



# Approval Voting

- **Voters vote for as many candidates as they want**
- **Third parties won't take away votes from major parties**
- **May result in a preferred candidate losing to a candidate without a single first choice supporter**
- **Not widely used**





**OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH AND GENERAL COUNSEL**

---

Utah State Capitol Complex | W210 House Building | P.O. Box 145210 | Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 - 5210 | O: (801) 538-1032 | F: (801) 538-1712