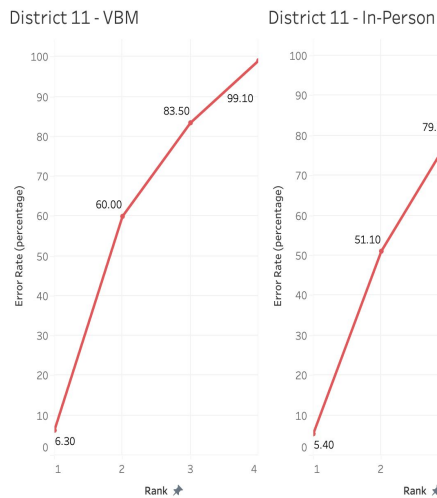
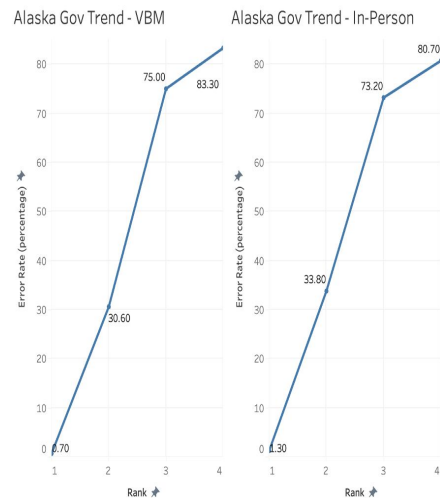
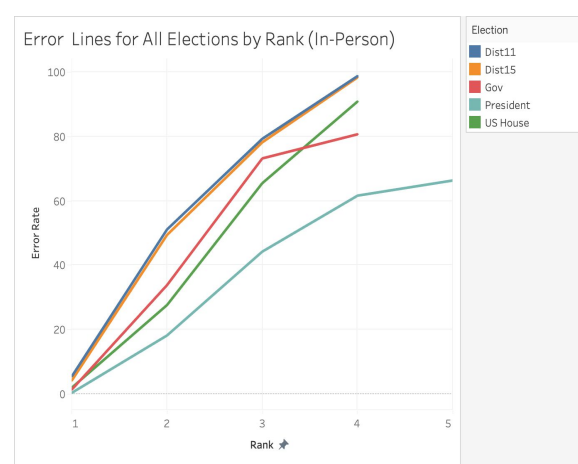
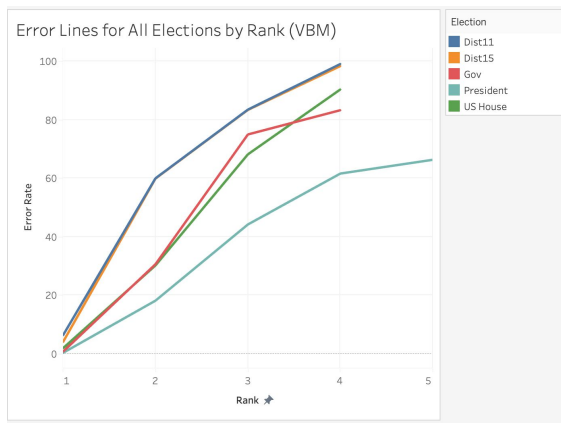


# Does Vote-By-Mail Help Ranked Choice Voting?

**Intro:** Can vote-by-mail mitigate the error problems associated with ranked-choice voting? Implementation of ranked-choice voting across the United States has been applied in various states and localities. Many of these places also permit vote-by-mail, which in combination with ranked-choice voting could ameliorate many of the problems voters have in making errors. Various studies have found that error rates - defined here as overvotes (giving one preference to multiple candidates) and internal skips (when a rank gets skipped) - are much higher with ranked choice voting.



## Data and Methods:

- Constituency voting records (CVRs) from four different elections in 2020-2022 in Alaska (US House, Governor, two state house races).
- H1: Individuals who vote by mail will be *less* likely to make errors when voting
- H2: Individuals who vote in-person will be *more* likely to make errors when voting
- H3: Error rates will be *higher* at lower salience elections (state house races)
- H4: Error rates will be *lower* at higher salience elections (US House and Governor)

Results: No significant differences at the rank skips or overvotes between vote methods (H1 and H2), but modest support for H3 and H4 - especially seen in Rank 1 differences