

New State Started Out Democratically Hefty

FAIRBANKS — In the election of 1958, Alaskans voted overwhelmingly for Democratic party candidates, and the new state began its political career with all the appearances of a one-party state.

Since 1958, however, the Republican and Democratic parties in Alaska have become increasingly competitive, and the balance has recently tipped in favor of the Republicans.

These and other voting trends in Alaska since statehood are analyzed in a new publication of the University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, "An Electoral Profile of Alaska: Interparty Competition Between 1958 and 1972." Authors are Thomas A. Morehouse and Gordon S. Harrison.

Basing their analysis on district-level voting returns from every regular election between 1958 and 1972, the authors show, among other things:

- Anchorage and Fairbanks

are more Republican than both the state as a whole and their respective regions.

- Smaller towns of 1,000 or more, Native and non-Native, are more Democratic than both the state as a whole and their respective regions.

- Democrats receive their largest percentage electoral majorities in the Bethel, Wade Hampton, Barrow, Kotzebue, and other "bush" election districts.

- Republicans find their greatest strength in Anchorage, several smaller districts in the southcentral region, most notably in the Palmer-Wasilla district, and Fairbanks.

- Alaskans show greater Republican preference in voting for President than in voting for Alaska statewide offices.

Copies of "An Electoral Profile of Alaska" may be obtained for \$2 from the editor, Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.