

UNDERSTANDING RANKED CHOICE VOTING

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked Choice Voting is also referred to as RCV. It is also known as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). Instead of voting for one candidate, you are asked (not required) to rank all candidates on the ballot.

How does Ranked Choice Voting Work?

All candidates will appear on a single ballot.

When you go vote, you are asked (not required) to rank all candidates whether it's three or 35 candidates.

| Rep To Congress District X | 1st Choice | 2nd Choice | 3rd Choice | 4th Choice | 5th Choice |
|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Bear, Smokey Municipality Party | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Duck, Donald Municipality Party | ○ | ○ | ○ | ● | ○ |
| Mouse, Mickey Municipality Party | ○ | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ |
| Woman, Wonder Municipality Party | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Write-In | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

The votes are counted. If a candidate wins by greater than 50% + 1, that candidate wins.

However, if there is not a majority, the candidate(s) with the least votes is eliminated.

BUT those eliminated candidate's second place choices are redistributed to all the candidates. This process continues with leftover votes until one candidate wins a "roun" with a majority in that round.

What is an Exhausted Ballot?

An exhausted ballot occurs when a voter overvotes, undervotes, or ranks only candidates that are eliminated from contention.

Because these votes are not tabulated in the final round, that ballot does not influence the election after it becomes exhausted.

For example, if a ballot becomes exhausted in round four of an election that necessitates 20 rounds of tabulation, the voter's ballot is not included in the final tally; it is as if they never showed up on Election Day.

Overvote

An overvote occurs when a voter marks two candidates in a single column/rank. For example, if a voter marked both Janie Smith and Aaron Jones as his first choice, his ballot would not count in the election.

Likewise, if a voter correctly ranked his first choice but marked two candidates in the following column, only the first choice would be tabulated.

Undervote

An undervote occurs when a voter skips two or more columns or rankings. For example, if a voter picked Janie Smith as his first choice, skipped his second and third choice and selected another candidate as his fourth choice, his ballot would not count in the election after the first round.

Exhausted Choices

An exhausted choice occurs when a voter ranks only candidates that are eliminated from contention.

For example, a voter may only rank Janie Smith and Polly Williams, even if they are eventually eliminated after round one of tabulation.

THIS IS NOT PARTISAN! VOTE "NO"



Common Critiques of Ranked Choice Voting

It's too complicated

It's too expensive

*The person with the most votes can lose
Your vote might not count if it's "exhausted"*

It delays the results

It violates "one person, one vote"

**Save Our Vote!
One Person - One Vote**

The least democratic thing about RCV is that more ballots will be thrown out. If no one wins the first round with a 50+ 1%, subsequent rounds of redistribution and exhausted ballots further diminish the people's true preferred choice.

PROBLEMS WITH RANKED CHOICE VOTING

WHAT IS YOUR VOTE WORTH?

1 VOTE  1 VOTE

RANK CHOICE VALUE?



RANK CHOICE STINKS!

RCV SOLVES NO CURRENT PROBLEM WITH TRADITIONAL SYSTEM

There is no compelling reason to change our simple, straight forward voting system in Oregon.

RCV IS INTENTIONALLY COMPLICATED & CONFUSING

Ranked Choice Voting has been found to frustrate voters, particularly the elderly, the disengaged and marginalized by its complicated instructions. Further, the amount of research that must be done for each candidate to be ranked can be overwhelming and too time consuming. The fact that some voters' votes will be exhausted (thrown out) because of failure to execute the RCV ballot properly creates doubt about its value.

Currently primaries narrow down choices for the general election. If, as in Portland, candidates who desire to run and special interests participate, a large slate of candidates would need to be ranked by each voter. It is much easier to cast an informative vote after a primary for one choice than it is to rank a large slate of candidates whose ideology is not known. Voting should not be confusing or hard.

REASONS TO VOTE NO!

RCV VOTING MACHINES ARE EXPENSIVE, UNRELIABLE, AND HAVE NO STATE OVERSIGHT

The current machines can be programmed for additional software expense for up to three rankings. A report is produced for manual calculation. These voting machines don't alert to ballot errors which could result in more spoiled ballots. Currently the Secretary of State does not consider RCV in its certifications of equipment, nor its election rules.

Some votes may count more than once, not under the traditional method. If rankings come out a certain way, the voters ballot could be re-distributed (counted) more than once in various rounds.

RCV DOES NOT SAVE TAXPAYER MONEY

It is estimated by researchers that if a primary is necessary every two years, it cost the city around \$100,000. Portland hosts elections in off/odd numbered years. Savings would be offset by the costs of complex calculations, additional city, staff, ongoing voter education, voting machine certification, independent audits, and possibly challenged ballots.



RCV VERY RARELY REFLECTS THE TRUE MAJORITY OF VOTES

RCV creates a false majority since it may take several rounds of vote redistribution to reach a majority to win. That means the winner wins by a lesser percentage of total votes cast.

THE ALASKA EXPERIENCE:

- The total cost for implementing RCV, along with regular and special election cost was \$11,093,006.41, which was 328% of the election costs from 2010 - 2020.
- Most expensive election in Alaska's History, the state spent 20x what was budgeted for voter education related to RCV.
- Alaska had the lowest voter turnout in history using RCV and jungle primary for the first time.
- A Democrat received the lowest percentage of the vote in a U.S. Senate race in Alaska's history.
- 3rd Party candidates went from five 3rd party candidates in 2020 for a U.S. Senate general election to zero 3rd party candidates in 2022.
- Nearly 60% of the state voted for a Republican in the U.S. House race multiple times and yet a Democrat won the election, every election.
- The number of candidates increased by 700% when switching from a closed primary system to a jungle primary system.