

# What's Ranked Choice Voting?

# Plurality Elections



## **Single-Round Plurality Elections**

- In a plurality election with more than two candidates, a winner can be declared with less than majority of the vote.
- Recently, we have seen candidates elected with as little as 30% of the vote to win an election.

Ranked Choice Voting is...

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**As easy as 1,  
2, 3!**

# 1. Vote!

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Voters to rank as many candidates as they want in order of choice.  
First, second, third, and so on.

	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## 2. Count!

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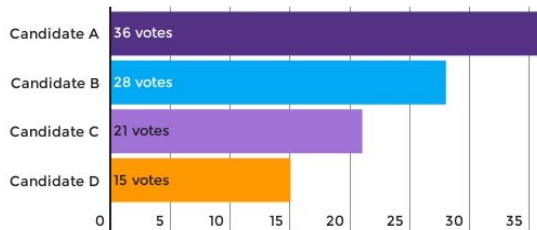
All first choices are counted, and if a candidate has a majority, then they win just like any other election.



## 2. Elect!

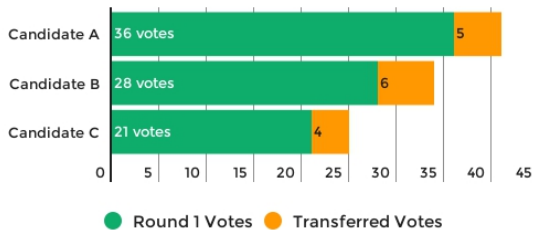
If nobody has a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. If your favorite is eliminated, your ballot counts for you next choice. This process continues until a candidate receives a majority of votes, and is declared the winner.

Round 1 Vote Share



FairVote

Round 2 Vote Share



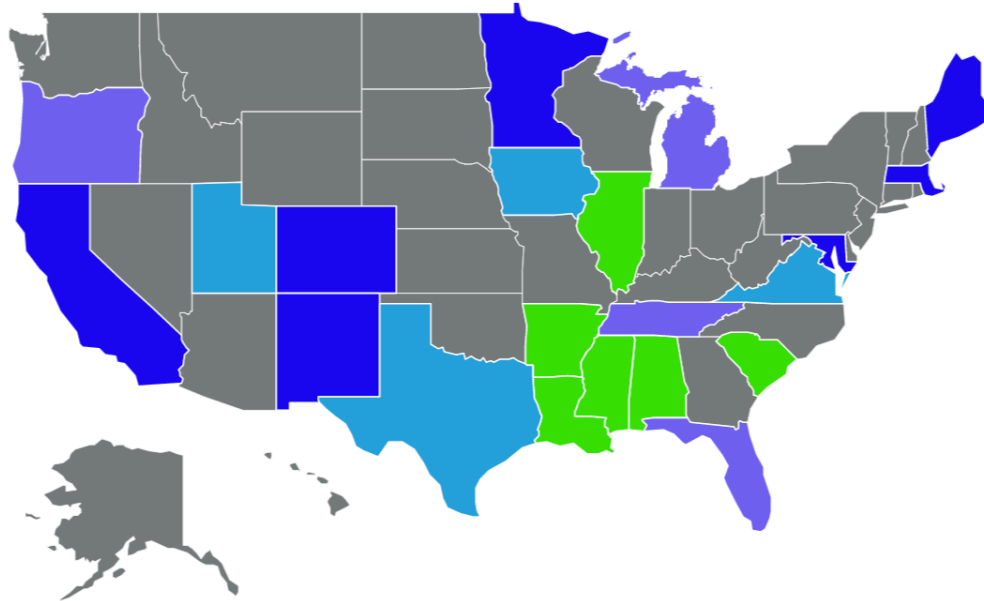
FairVote

Round 3 Vote Share



FairVote

# Where is Ranked Choice Voting Used?



● Military & Overseas ● Cities Using RCV ● Locality Awaiting Implementation ● Party Use

# Benefits of Ranked Choice Voting

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- No more vote splitting or “spoiler” candidates
- No more “wasted” votes
- Increase in voter turnout
- Voters don’t have to guess who *might* make the runoff. They can simply vote their conscience.
- It can be used easily on modern voting equipment or with workarounds on older equipment.





# Continued: Benefits of Ranked Choice Voting

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- Candidates do best when they reach out positively instead of attacking opponents
- Candidates need to earn back-up support to win, not just first choices.
- A study has shown that voters in cities where RCV is used said they observed less negative campaigning.



# The Impact of Ranked Choice Voting on Representation 2016 Study

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- The introduction of RCV was associated with an increase in the probability of female candidates winning local office
- Women of color were not only more likely to run for office after RCV was introduced, but also were more likely to win
- RCV was also associated with an increase in the percentage of candidates of color running for city council races, but had no impact on the chances of candidates of color winning



Pictured: Denise Simmons (Mayor of Cambridge), Libby Schaff ( Mayor of Oakland), Eric Mar (Former San Francisco Supervisor) Alondra Cano (Minneapolis City Councilor)