

AMENDMENT

1 Adopted

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE LEDOUX

TO: CSHB 200(), Draft Version "U"

1 Page 11, line 15:

2 Delete "to"

3 Insert "Except as provided in AS 15.25.100(d), only"

4

5 Page 11, line 17, following "office":

6 Insert "shall advance to the general election"

7

8 Page 13, line 29:

9 Delete "(b) and (c)"

10 ~~Insert "(b) - (g)"~~

11

12 Page 14, lines 4 - 6:

13 Delete "place on the general election ballot the name of only one of the candidates
14 who tied for that office, to be determined by lot under AS 15.20.530"

15 Insert "determine under (g) of this section which candidate's name shall appear on the
16 general election ballot"

17

18 Page 14, line 7:

19 Delete "For"

20 Insert "Subject to (d) and (e) of this section, for"

21

22 Page 14, following line 17:

23 Insert new subsections to read:

1 "(d) If a candidate whose name is placed on the general election ballot under
2 this section dies, withdraws, resigns, becomes disqualified from holding the office for
3 which the candidate is nominated, or is certified as being incapacitated under (f) of
4 this section after the primary election and 64 days or more before the general election,
5 the director may not place the candidate's name on the general election ballot and shall
6 instead place the name of the candidate, in order of priority, who

7 (1) tied in having the second greatest number of votes at the primary
8 election; or

9 (2) received the third greatest number of votes for the office at the
10 primary election.

11 (e) If a candidate for governor or lieutenant governor is replaced under (d) of
12 this section, the candidate for governor who received the greatest number of votes in
13 the primary election may choose which of the eligible candidates for lieutenant
14 governor to run with jointly. The director shall place on the general election ballot the
15 name of the candidate for governor who received the greatest number of votes with the
16 name of the candidate for lieutenant governor selected by that candidate for governor,
17 and shall place the name of the other eligible candidate for lieutenant governor with
18 ~~the name of the other eligible candidate for governor.~~

19 (f) For a candidate to be certified as incapacitated under (d) of this section, a
20 panel of three licensed physicians, not more than two of whom may be of the same
21 party, shall provide the director with a sworn statement that the candidate is physically
22 or mentally incapacitated to an extent that would, in the panel's judgment, prevent the
23 candidate from active service during the term of office if elected.

24 (g) If the director is unable to make a determination under this section because
25 the candidates received an equal number of votes, the determination may be made by
26 lot under AS 15.20.530."

27
28 Page 22, line 29, following "election.":

29 Insert "However, if one of the two candidates who received the most votes for an
30 office at the primary election died, withdrew, resigned, was disqualified, or was certified as
31 incapacitated 64 days or more before the general election, the candidate who received the

1 third most votes for the office advanced to the general election."

2

3 Page 23, line 19, following "election.":

4 Insert "However, if, after the primary election and 64 days or more before the general
5 election, one of the two candidates who received the most votes for an office at the primary
6 election dies, withdraws, resigns, is disqualified, or is certified as incapacitated, the candidate
7 who received the third most votes for the office will advance to the general election."

8

9 Page 23, line 30, following "election.":

10 Insert "However, if, after the special primary election and 64 days or more before the
11 special election, one of the two candidates who received the most votes for a state office or
12 United States senator at the primary election dies, withdraws, resigns, is disqualified, or is
13 certified as incapacitated, the candidate who received the third most votes for the office will
14 advance to the general election."

AMENDMENT

#2 Withdrawn

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE

BY REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN

TO: CSHB 200(), Draft Version "U"

1 Page 1, line 1, following "**nonpartisan**":

2 Insert "**ranked-choice**"

3

4 Page 6, line 9, following "**nonpartisan**":

5 Insert "**ranked-choice**"

6

7 Page 7, following line 12:

8 Insert a new paragraph to read:

9 "(16) The director shall design the primary or special primary election
10 ~~ballot to accommodate ranked-choice voting for candidates for the offices of governor~~
11 and lieutenant governor, for candidates for the legislature, and for candidates for the
12 United States Congress. The ballot shall direct the voter to mark candidates in order of
13 preference and to mark as many choices as the voter wishes, but not to assign a
14 particular ranking to more than one candidate in the same race."

15

16 Page 7, following line 20:

17 Insert new bill sections to read:

18 "* **Sec. 12.** AS 15.15.350 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

19 (c) When counting primary or special primary election ranked-choice voting
20 ballots, the election board shall initially count each ballot as one vote for the highest-
21 ranked continuing candidate on the ballot or as an exhausted ballot. The election
22 threshold shall be calculated. Tabulation shall then proceed sequentially as follows:

23 (1) if the number of continuing candidates whose vote totals exceed

1 the election threshold is equal to two, those two candidates are nominated, and the
 2 tabulation is complete; if the number of continuing candidates is equal to or less than
 3 two, then those continuing candidates are nominated, and the tabulation is complete;
 4 otherwise, the tabulation continues to (2) of this subsection;

5 (2) if no candidate has a vote total that exceeds the election threshold,
 6 the tabulation continues to (3) of this subsection; if at least one continuing candidate
 7 has a vote total that exceeds the election threshold, then the continuing candidate with
 8 the highest vote total is nominated, the number of surplus votes for the candidate shall
 9 be calculated, and the surplus fraction for the candidate shall be calculated; the new
 10 transfer value of each vote cast for the candidate shall be calculated; votes for the
 11 candidate shall be added, at their new transfer values, to the totals of each ballot's
 12 highest-ranked continuing candidates or counted as exhausted ballots, and a new
 13 round begins under (1) of this subsection; in all subsequent rounds, candidates elected
 14 under this paragraph have vote totals equal to the election threshold;

15 (3) the candidate with the fewest votes is defeated; then, if the number
 16 of continuing candidates is equal to two, all continuing candidates are elected, and the
 17 tabulation is complete; otherwise, votes for the defeated candidate shall cease to be
 18 ~~counted for the defeated candidate and shall be added, at their current transfer values,~~
 19 to the total of the next-ranked continuing candidate on each ballot or counted as
 20 exhausted ballots, and a new round begins under (1) of this subsection.

21 (d) When counting primary or special primary ranked-choice election ballots,

22 (1) a ballot assigning a particular ranking to more than one candidate
 23 for an office shall be declared invalid when the double ranking is reached;

24 (2) if a ballot skips a ranking, then the election board shall count the
 25 next ranking; and

26 (3) if there is a tie vote between continuing candidates, the procedures
 27 in AS 15.15.460 and AS 15.20.430 - 15.20.530 shall be followed.

28 (e) In this section,

29 (1) "continuing candidate" means a candidate that has not been
 30 defeated or nominated;

31 (2) "election threshold" means the number of votes sufficient for a

1 candidate to be nominated; the election threshold is calculated by dividing the total
2 number of votes for continuing candidates in the first round by three and rounding up
3 to four decimal places;

4 (3) "exhausted ballot" means a ballot that is not counted for a
5 continuing candidate for one or more of the following reasons:

6 (A) it does not rank a continuing candidate;

7 (B) its highest continuing ranking contains an overvote; or

8 (C) it includes two or more consecutive skipped rankings
9 before its highest continuing ranking;

10 (4) "highest continuing ranking" means the highest ranking for a
11 continuing candidate;

12 (5) "overvote" means the assignment by a voter of the same ranking to
13 more than one candidate;

14 (6) "ranking" means the number assigned by a voter to a candidate to
15 express the voter's choice for that candidate; a ranking of "1" is the highest ranking,
16 followed by "2," and then "3," and so on;

17 (7) "round" means an instance of the sequence of voting tabulation in a
18 primary or special primary election;

19 (8) "skipped ranking" means a ranking blank on a ballot on which a
20 voter has ranked another candidate at a subsequent ranking;

21 (9) "surplus" means a positive difference between a candidate's vote
22 total and the election threshold;

23 (10) "surplus fraction" means the number equal to a candidate's surplus
24 divided by the candidate's vote total, calculated to four decimal places and ignoring
25 any remainder;

26 (11) "transfer value" means the proportion of a vote that a ballot will
27 contribute to its highest continuing ranking; each ballot begins with a transfer value of
28 one; if a ballot transfers from a nominated candidate with a surplus, the ballot receives
29 a new transfer value that is calculated by multiplying the surplus fraction of the
30 nominated candidate by the current transfer value of the ballot, calculated to four
31 decimal places and ignoring any remainder.

1 * **Sec. 13.** AS 15.15.360(a)(1) is amended to read:

2 (1) A voter may mark a ballot only by filling in, making "X" marks,
3 diagonal, horizontal, or vertical marks, solid marks, stars, circles, asterisks, checks, or
4 plus signs that are clearly spaced in the oval opposite the name of the candidate,
5 proposition, or question that the voter desires to designate. **In addition, a voter may**
6 **mark a ballot at a primary or special primary election by the use of roman or**
7 **Arabic numerals that are clearly spaced in one of the squares opposite the name**
8 **of the candidate that the voter desires to rank.**

9 * **Sec. 14.** AS 15.15.360(a)(4) is amended to read:

10 (4) **Except as provided in AS 15.15.350(c) for primary and special**
11 **primary election ballots, if** [IF] a voter marks more names than there are persons to
12 be elected to the office, the votes for candidates for that office may not be counted.

13 * **Sec. 15.** AS 15.15.370 is amended to read:

14 **Sec. 15.15.370. Completion of ballot count; certificate.** When the count of
15 ballots is completed, and in no event later than the day after the election, the election
16 board shall make a certificate in duplicate of the results. The certificate includes the
17 number of votes cast for each candidate, **including the number of votes at each**
18 **round of the primary or special primary ranked-choice voting tabulation process**
19 **under AS 15.15.350(c), and the number of votes** for and against each proposition,
20 yes or no on each question, and any additional information prescribed by the director.
21 The election board shall, immediately upon completion of the certificate or as soon
22 thereafter as the local mail service permits, send in one sealed package to the director
23 one copy of the certificate and the register. In addition, all ballots properly cast shall
24 be mailed to the director in a separate, sealed package. Both packages, in addition to
25 an address on the outside, shall clearly indicate the precinct from which they come.
26 Each board shall, immediately upon completion of the certification and as soon
27 thereafter as the local mail service permits, send the duplicate certificate to the
28 respective election supervisor. The director may authorize election boards in precincts
29 in those areas of the state where distance and weather make mail communication
30 unreliable to forward their election results by telephone, telegram, or radio. The
31 director may authorize the unofficial totaling of votes on a regional basis by election

1 supervisors, tallying the votes as indicated on duplicate certificates. To assure
 2 adequate protection, the director shall prescribe the manner in which the ballots,
 3 registers, and all other election records and materials are thereafter preserved,
 4 transferred, and destroyed.

5 * **Sec. 16.** AS 15.15.450 is amended to read:

6 **Sec. 15.15.450. Certification of state ballot counting review.** Upon
 7 completion of the state ballot counting review for a primary or special primary
 8 election, the director shall certify the two persons receiving the greatest majority
 9 and the second greatest majority of votes for the office for which those persons
 10 were candidates as nominated to the general election ballot, and, for a general
 11 election, the director shall certify the person receiving the largest number of votes for
 12 the office for which that person was a candidate as elected to that office and shall
 13 certify the approval of a justice or judge not rejected by a majority of the voters voting
 14 on the question. The director shall issue to the elected candidates and approved
 15 justices and judges a certificate of their election or approval. The director shall also
 16 certify the results of a proposition and other question except that the lieutenant
 17 governor shall certify the results of an initiative, referendum, or constitutional
 18 amendment."

19
 20 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

21
 22 Page 11, line 16:

23 Delete "number of votes and the second greatest number"

24 Insert "majority of votes and the second greatest majority"

25
 26 Page 13, line 13. following "ballots.":

27 Insert "(a)"

28
 29 Page 13, following line 23:

30 Insert a new subsection to read:

31 "(b) The director shall include instructions on primary and special primary

1 election ballots directing the voter to rank candidates for an office in order of
2 preference and to rank as many choices as the voter wishes, but not to assign the same
3 ranking to more than one candidate."
4

5 Page 13, line 28:

6 Delete "number of votes and the second greatest number"

7 Insert "majority of votes and the second greatest majority"
8

9 Page 13, line 31:

10 Delete "number"

11 Insert "majority"
12

13 Page 14, line 3:

14 Delete "number"

15 Insert "majority"
16

17 Page 14, line 9:

18 ~~Delete "number"~~

19 Insert "majority"
20

21 Page 14, line 10:

22 Delete "number"

23 Insert "majority"
24

25 Page 14, line 11:

26 Delete "number"

27 Insert "majority"
28

29 Page 14, line 13:

30 Delete "number"

31 Insert "majority"

1

2 Page 14, line 14:

3 Delete "number"

4 Insert "majority"

5

6 Page 14, line 15:

7 Delete "number"

8 Insert "majority"

9

10 Page 14, line 17:

11 Delete "number"

12 Insert "majority"

13

14 Page 22, line 28:

15 Delete "most"

16 Insert "greatest majority and second greatest majority of"

17

18 Page 23, line 16:

19 Delete "may vote for any candidate listed"

20 Insert "must rank the candidates in the numerical order of your preference, ranking as
21 many candidates as you wish. Your second, third, and subsequent ranked choices will be
22 counted only if the candidate you ranked first does not receive enough votes to continue on to
23 the next round of counting, so ranking a second, third, or subsequent choice will not hurt your
24 first-choice candidate. Your ballot will be counted regardless of whether you choose to rank
25 one, two, or more candidates for each office, but it will not be counted if you assign the same
26 ranking to more than one candidate for the same office"

27

28 Page 23, line 17:

29 Delete "most"

30 Insert "greatest majority and second greatest majority of"

31

1 Page 23, line 28:

2 Delete "may vote for any candidate listed"

3 Insert "must rank the candidates in the numerical order of your preference, ranking as
4 many candidates as you wish. Your second, third, and subsequent ranked choices will be
5 counted only if the candidate you ranked first does not receive enough votes to continue on to
6 the next round of counting, so ranking a second, third, or subsequent choice will not hurt your
7 first-choice candidate. Your ballot will be counted regardless of whether you choose to rank
8 one, two, or more candidates for each office, but it will not be counted if you assign the same
9 ranking to more than one candidate for the same office"

10

11 Page 23, line 29:

12 Delete "most"

13 Insert "greatest majority and second greatest majority of"

14

15 Page 25, following line 23:

16 Insert a new bill section to read:

17 **** Sec. 59.** AS 15.80.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

18 ~~(46) "ranked-choice voting" means the method of casting and~~
19 tabulating votes at a primary or special primary election in which voters rank
20 candidates in order of preference and in which tabulation proceeds in sequential
21 rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated and the candidates with the greatest
22 majority of votes and the second greatest majority of votes are nominated to appear on
23 the general election ballot."

24

25 Page 26, line 9, following "NONPARTISAN":

26 Insert "RANKED-CHOICE OPEN"

27

28 Renumber the following bill sections accordingly.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

April 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Top two nonpartisan ranked-choice open primary election system for elective state executive and state and national legislative offices (CSHB 200(JUD); Amendment 30-LS0038\U.2)

TO: Representative David Eastman

FROM: Alpheus Bullard *AB*
Legislative Counsel

This memorandum accompanies the amendment described above. I have a few comments.

You originally requested an amendment to CSHB 200(JUD) that would make all state elections "ranked-choice" elections.¹ CSHB 200(JUD) establishes a top two nonpartisan primary election system for elective state executive and state and national legislative offices.² The state cannot have both a top two election system and a ranked-choice election system.

In a telephone conversation late yesterday, you clarified that it was not your desire to replace the top two election system established by CSHB 200(JUD) with a ranked-choice system, but instead, within the confines of that bill's top two nonpartisan primary election

¹ Ranked-choice voting is a method of casting and tabulating votes at an election in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, tabulation proceeds in sequential rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated and the candidate with the greatest majority (election to a single office) or candidates with the greatest majorities of votes (election to two or more offices) are elected.

² Under the system established by CSHB 200(JUD), the state's primary ballot would no longer select parties' nominees, but identify each candidate by the candidate's own self-identified party preference. Voters could vote for any candidate. The top two vote getters for each office in the primary election, regardless of party preference, would advance to the general election and each special election would be preceded by a special primary election that would function in the same manner. Write-in votes would continue to be permitted for general and special election ballots.

Representative David Eastman
April 14, 2017
Page 2

system, implement ranked-choice voting.³ Accordingly, if this amendment were adopted, CSHB 200(JUD) would establish a top two nonpartisan ranked-choice open primary election system for elective state executive and state and national legislative offices. This is a novel use of ranked-choice voting.⁴

Under this system, a voter would rank candidates running in a primary or special primary election for an elective state executive or state or national legislative office in the order of the voter's preference, and the two candidates who received the greatest majority and the second greatest majority of votes for an office at that primary or special primary election would appear on the general or special election ballot. At the subsequent general or special election, ranked-choice voting would not be used and the candidate for an office that received the greatest number of votes would be elected.

Because you provided an article relating to the adoption of ranked-choice voting in the state of Maine,⁵ I employed a model for a "multi-winner" ranked-choice election system for your amendment (necessary because under a top two primary, two candidates advance to the general election) provided by Fairvote, a 501(c)(3) organization⁶ that may have been the source of the language for the "single winner" ranked-choice voting system

³ Note that there are numerous forms of "ranked-choice," "preferential," or "instant runoff" elections systems. Wikipedia provides a good summary. See "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instant-runoff_voting" and "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranked_voting."

⁴ Interestingly, using ranked-choice voting only at the state's primary election is likely the only constitutional means of implementing ranked-choice voting for state executive office in Alaska. Article III, sec. 3 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska provides that "[t]he candidate receiving the *greatest number of votes* shall be governor." Emphasis added. The discussion of this provision in the minutes of the constitutional convention for January 13, 1956, suggests that the framers considered and rejected the possibility of requiring a majority vote. See *Legislative Affairs Agency, Minutes to the Proceedings of the Alaska Constitutional Convention, 1955-56* at 2065-66 (Juneau, 1965). Accordingly, a constitutional amendment would likely be required if ranked-choice voting was to be used to elect the Governor and Lieutenant Governor at the general election.

⁵ Note that ranked-choice voting is not scheduled to be implemented in Maine until 2018 and that a ranked-choice system may be unconstitutional under Maine's state constitution. The Maine Supreme Court heard arguments on the constitutionality of the state's ranked-choice election system yesterday (April 13, 2017). See Michael Shepherd, *High court hints it will have to rule on Maine ranked-choice vote legality*, Bangor Dailey April 14, 2017. Available on April 14, 2017 at "<http://bangordailynews.com/2017/04/13/politics/high-court-hints-action-now-needed-on-maine-ranked-choice-vote-legality/>"

⁶ Information about the Fairvote organization and their draft model bills were available on April 14, 2017 respectively at "<http://www.fairvote.org/about>" and "http://www.fairvote.org/rcv#rcv_resources_and_links."

Representative David Eastman
April 14, 2017
Page 3

enacted by initiative in Maine.⁷ Note that the language required to implement a "multi-winner" ranked-choice system defies simplification. Given the time allotted, I used the language of Fairvote's multi-winner ranked-choice system, modifying it only as necessary or as appropriate to a "two-winner" system.

Accompanying your amendment and this memorandum is an explanation and example of how a multi-winner ranked-choice election works.⁸

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

TLAB:dls
17-338.dls

Attachment

⁷ The "single winner" provision in Fairvote's model bill is identical to the "single winner" provision in the Maine initiative. See "<https://fairvote.app.box.com/v/Model-Single-Multi-RCV>" and "<https://fairvote.app.box.com/v/Maine-Citizen-Initiative>."

⁸ Available on Fairvote's internet website on April 14, 2017. at "http://www.fairvote.org/multi_winner_rcv_example."

Solutions (/solutions) / Ranked Choice Voting / Instant Runoff (/rcv)
 / Multi-Winner Ranked Choice Voting

Multi-Winner Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked choice voting in multi-winner elections (also commonly known as "single transferable vote" or simply "choice voting") maximizes the effectiveness of every vote to ensure that as many voters as possible will help elect a candidate they rank highly. It minimizes wasted votes and the impact of tactical voting, allows voters to have more choices, and encourages positive campaigning and coalition-building. It upholds both minority representation and the principle of majority rule. Because of its proven history, its emphasis on candidates rather than parties, and its ability to allow voters to express their full, honest preferences on their ballots, ranked choice voting is the form of fair representation voting (proportional_representation) best suited for use in U.S. elections.

To Vote

Under ranked choice voting, voters rank candidates in order of choice. They mark their favorite candidate as first choice and then indicate their second and additional back-up choices in order of choice. Voters may rank as many candidates as they want, knowing that indicating a later choice candidate will never hurt a more preferred candidate.

To Determine Winners

To find out who wins, we first need to know how many votes are enough to guarantee victory, which we call the election threshold. That threshold is the number of votes that mathematically guarantees that the candidate cannot lose. For example, if three candidates will be elected, the threshold is 25% of votes. That's because if one candidate has more than 25% of the vote, it is impossible for three other candidates to get more votes than them (because that would add up to more than 100% of votes). If four candidates will be elected, the threshold is 20% of votes. If five candidates will be elected, it is about 17% of votes.

After counting first choices, candidates with more votes than the election threshold are elected. Then, each elected candidate's "surplus" are added to the totals of their voters' next choices. For example, if a candidate has 10% more votes than the election threshold, every one of their voters will have 10% of their vote count for their second choice. That way, voters aren't punished for honestly ranking a very popular candidate first.

After the surplus has been counted, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. When a voter's top choice is eliminated, their vote instantly counts for their next choice. That way, voters aren't punished for honestly ranking their favorite candidate first, even if that candidate cannot win.

The process of counting surplus votes and eliminating last-place candidates repeats until all seats are filled. This method of counting is performed by hand in many places, though it can also be quickly administered using existing voting machines (http://www.fairvote.org/rcv_administration).

Example

The chart below shows the results of a partisan race using ranked choice voting. Six candidates are running for three seats in a hypothetical district with 1,000 voters. Candidates Perez, Chan, and Jackson are Democrats, while candidates Lorenzo, Murphy, and Smith are Republicans. The district is majority Democratic; the Democratic candidates collectively earn 60% of first choices. However, there are a substantial number of voters who prefer the Republicans.

In this simulation, Jackson is the most mainstream Democratic candidate, while Perez and Chan have support among Democrats, Independents, and even some Republicans. Similarly, Murphy and Smith are both mainstream Republicans, while Lorenzo has support among Republicans, Independents, and some Democrats.

With 1,000 voters, the election threshold is 250 votes (25% of 1,000).

Multi-Winner RCV Example

Candidate	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5
	Perez has more than the threshold and is elected.	Perez's surplus is added to his voters' next choices. Smith is in last place and is eliminated.	Smith's votes are added to his voters' next choices. Jackson is in last place and is eliminated.	Jackson's votes are added to his voters' next choices. Chan has more votes than the threshold and is elected.	Chan's surplus is added to his voters' second choices. Lorenzo has more votes than the threshold and is elected.
Chan (D)	175	+10 = 185	+10 = 195	+150 = 345 (elected)	-95 = 250
Perez (D)	270 (elected)	-20 = 250	--	--	--
Jackson (D)	155	+7 = 162	+6 = 168 (eliminated)	-168 = 0	--
Lorenzo (R)	130	+2 = 132	+75 = 207	+15 = 222	+45 = 267 (elected)
Murphy (R)	150	+0 = 150	+30 = 180	+3 = 183	+5 = 188
Smith (R)	120	+1 = 121 (eliminated)	-121 = 0	--	--

FairVote

ES Shana

A count of first choices elects the most popular Democratic candidate, Perez. Perez has 20 more votes than the threshold, so every voter who ranked Perez highest will have 8% of their vote (20 divided by 250) count for their next choice, so 20 votes will be added to other candidates in the next round. More than half of Perez voters ranked Chan second, with a smaller number ranking Jackson or one of the Republicans next.

Rounds two through four resolve vote splitting among the three Republicans and the two remaining Democrats. Round two eliminates the weakest Republican candidate, while round three eliminates the weakest Democrat. When the one remaining Democrat passes the threshold and is elected, most of her surplus goes to Lorenzo, who comfortably wins the third seat. Note that in the final round, 45 ballots are "exhausted" because some of Chan's voters were indifferent to the two remaining Republican candidates and so did not rank either of them.

The winners are Perez (D), Chan (D), and Lorenzo (R). If this were a single winner election, the most mainstream Democrat (Perez) easily would have won, leaving all others unrepresented. Instead, two additional candidates are elected, both of whom are rewarded by coalition-building among the district's remaining center-left and center-right populations. In the end, 96% of voters can point to a candidate who they supported and helped elect.

Had these three seats been elected by bloc voting, in which every voter casts three votes for the three candidates they support, the Democrats would have almost certainly swept all three seats, because each Democratic voter could vote for all three Democratic candidates. In fact, even if the three seats were elected by the single vote system

(/fair_representation#other_fair_voting_methods), a weaker form of fair representation voting, Democrats still would have swept all three seats due to the Republican vote being split among three candidates.

Had these three seats been filled by dividing the district into three single-winner districts, the outcome would depend on how the district lines were drawn. The districts could have been drawn to elect two Democrats and one Republican, or they could have been gerrymandered to over-represent either party. Regardless, the district elections would probably not be competitive, and each district's primary election would likely weed out the candidates who won by coalition-building.

By using ranked choice voting to elect three seats, the election results fairly represent the district's diversity after a competitive election without any opportunity for partisan gerrymandering.

Share this:

f FACEBOOK (HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHARER/SHARER.PHP?L=HTTP://WWW.FAIRVOTE.ORG/MULTI_

t TWITTER (HTTP://TWITTER.COM/HOME?STATUS=%20HTTP://WWW.FAIRVOTE.ORG/MULTI_WINNER_RCV_E

✉ EMAIL (MAILTO:?SUBJECT=MULTI-WINNER RANKED CHOICE VOTING&BODY=HTTP://WWW.FAIRVOTE.ORG/M

2 Comments FairVote

SHOW COMMENTS

Login

FAIRVOTE ♥ DEMOCRACY

We need your support. Help us spread the love by pitching in \$5 today!

DONATE (/DONATE)

JOIN US TODAY TO HELP CREATE A MORE PERFECT UNION

Enter your email

Zip code



FOR A MORE PERFECT UNION

- HOME (/)
- PROBLEMS (/PROBLEMS)
- SOLUTIONS (/SOLUTIONS)
- ADVOCACY (/ADVOCACY)
- RESOURCES (/RESOURCES)
- WHAT'S NEW (/BLOG_HUB)
- ABOUT US (/ABOUT)

4/14/2017

Multi-Winner Ranked Choice Voting - FairVote

6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 240 • Takoma Park, MD 20912 • 301-270-4616 • info@fairvote.org (mailto:info@fairvote.org) •
[Contact us \(/contact_us\)](#)

[Privacy Policy \(/privacy_policy\)](#) • [Terms of Service \(/terms_of_service\)](#)

Built by **Veracity Media** (<http://www.veracitymedia.com>) on NationBuilder (<http://www.nationbuilder.com>)