

PROVIDING LOCAL OPTIONS FOR RANKED CHOICE VOTING ALLOWS COUNTIES, CITIES, TOWNS, AND DISTRICTS TO ELIMINATE COSTLY PRIMARY

Gives control to jurisdictions seeking to adopt ranked choice voting for local elections. This proposal offers two options:

- ✓ A jurisdiction may eliminate the state-mandated, low-turnout primary in favor of a single, general election conducted with ranked choice voting.
- ✓ Alternatively, a jurisdiction may choose to hold a primary that winnows candidates to a list of FIVE candidates for a ranked-choice general election.

WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING?

RCV gives voters the power to rank candidates in the order they prefer:
1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on.

RANK CANDIDATES IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE.
FILL IN ONE CIRCLE PER CANDIDATE AND ONE
CIRCLE PER CHOICE.

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

WHAT ARE THE CIVIC BENEFITS OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING?

- ✓ Gives voters **more choices**. Since candidates don't need to worry about vote-splitting, more people are encouraged to run.
- ✓ Incentivizes **civil, issues-focused campaigns** by eliminating the effectiveness of negative campaigning.
- ✓ Lets people **vote sincerely**, for their true values, without fear of wasting their vote. If your favorite can't win, your vote still counts for your next choice.
- ✓ Ensures that winners have **majority support**. Under our current system, in crowded fields of candidates, "vote-splitting" can cause unpopular candidates to get through the top-two primary or even win election.
- ✓ Gives voters a **stronger voice**. Your vote stays in play even if your first choice gets eliminated.
- ✓ Adopting ranked choice voting can **save local jurisdictions money**. Primary elections are expensive and see very low voter turnout. By using ranked choice voting, a municipality or district can eliminate their primary and instead run a single, high-turnout general election.

see reverse side for more information.

IMPACTS OF THIS LEGISLATION

- ✓ Allows ranked choice voting for code and home rule charter jurisdictions, partisan and nonpartisan elections.
- ✓ Allows ranked choice voting for single-winner offices (also called instant runoff voting).
- ✓ Allows jurisdictions to opt-in to running elections for multiple identical positions, like city councilors, in a pool instead of by arbitrary "Position Numbers" that artificially constrain choices.
- ✓ Directs the Secretary of State to adopt rules with guidance from county auditors to ensure uniform implementation and that elections administrators have sufficient support.
- ✓ A jurisdiction adopting ranked choice voting must implement it no later than two years after adoption, and no earlier than 2022.
- ✓ Cross-county jurisdictions may adopt ranked choice voting only if another jurisdiction entirely within each county has also adopted it (unless ordered as a remedy under the Washington Voting Rights Act).

PIERCE COUNTY ADOPTED RANKED CHOICE VOTING BUT REPEALED IT IN 2009 AFTER USING IT ONLY TWICE. WHY?

Significant resources exist today that had not been developed when Pierce County led the way to adopt ranked choice voting ten years ago. Pierce County officials ran into high costs and complex logistics. Some who were involved then still have bad memories of ranked choice voting.

But today, nearly 4 million Americans in a dozen cities and the entire state of Maine use ranked choice voting, and six states use it for overseas and military voters. Problems that Pierce County experienced have been addressed: the state of Maine implemented ranked choice voting for **less than one-tenth the cost** Pierce County incurred in their experiment, voting technology upgrades and research have drastically improved ballot design, and ranked choice results can now be tabulated within 24 hours.

HOW ARE BALLOTS COUNTED IN A RANKED CHOICE ELECTION?

If a candidate gets enough votes to win – a majority of the votes, for a single-winner race – that candidate wins and the election is over.

But if no candidate gets enough to win, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated. Voters who initially voted for the eliminated candidate have their votes transferred to their next choice. This process repeats until a candidate has enough votes to win.

FairVote Washington

A nonpartisan champion of electoral reforms that give voters more choices, a stronger voice, and a more representative democracy. We are a 501(c)(4) in Washington state.

Please visit fairvotewa.org for more information.

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