

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING vs APPROVAL VOTING

Approval voting makes a lot of promises, but ultimately, it doesn't deliver. Voters in Seattle deserve a tested, proven election method that provides better representation and boosts voter engagement. Ranked-choice voting is that method.

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

Tested, Proven

RCV has over a century of use worldwide, and it is used in over 50 places across the US. The millions of voters who have gotten to try it overwhelmingly like it and want to keep using it.

Track record on representation

RCV has a proven track record of boosting representation for previously underrepresented communities. Until NYC had its first RCV election, women had never held more than 18 seats on the City Council. After they used RCV in 2021, women won 31 of the 51 seats.

Robust local and statewide support

RCV advocates have been on the ground in Washington and Seattle for years educating voters and building grassroots support. We are ready to work to support the adoption of RCV.

Voters engage with the system

Voters like RCV and use their option to rank multiple candidates. Research shows that, across hundreds of RCV elections to date in the US, 71% of voters ranked multiple candidates.

More choices for voters

More candidates, particularly women and people of color, run and win in RCV elections.

APPROVAL VOTING

Limited use

AV is used in only 2 places, St. Louis, MO and Fargo, ND by less than half a million voters.

No record on representation

There is no evidence that AV brings better representation to underrepresented communities. That's why racial justice organizations in Seattle are opposed to the AV initiative.

Limited local support

The AV effort in Seattle is almost entirely funded by a California think tank. There is no broad base of experienced local advocates.

AV devolves to bullet voting

Voters know that "approving" of multiple candidates dilutes support for their favorite candidate, so they frequently just vote for one.

No evidence for more choices

There's no evidence that more candidates run in AV elections.