



Toolkit: Hosting a Ranked-Choice Voting House Party

Hosting a house party is a great way you can help educate Washington voters about ranked-choice voting. Organizing relies on relationships, and you are the best person to educate your friends and family about the issues you are passionate about.

Interested in hosting your own? This toolkit will help you host your own successful ranked-choice voting house party. If you have any questions, reach out to info@fairvotewa.org.

1. Create the guest list

Come up with a list of 15-30 friends, colleagues, and family to invite to your house party. These events tend to be most successful when they aren't very big. That way, everyone has a chance to ask their questions and be part of the conversation.

Think about people who you talk to about politics or elections. Maybe they've made contributions to candidates and later felt frustrated that roadblock prevented progress on the issues they care about. Or maybe they've disengaged from politics because they dislike negative campaigning and polarization. If in doubt, include someone on the list; ranked-choice voting has wide appeal, so everyone is a potential future volunteer!

2. Pick a date

Brainstorm dates that would work well for you. Then, reach out to some of your guests individually to check their availability on those dates. You'll want to avoid nights when the local school is hosting a play, or when a lot of people are travelling. If you find a consensus date, go ahead and send an invite to your list.

3. Create the program

This is a great time to connect with FairVote Washington. Some of our suggested activities that you can mix and match include:

- An interactive ranked-choice election where participants physically move around the room with each successive round of voting (Instructions in Appendix A).
- "What's for Dinner," an interactive exercise that illustrates both the mechanics and the improved outcomes that result from proportional ranked-choice voting elections.

- A screening of one of the following:
 - [Majority Rules 101](#) (34 minutes), a documentary explaining ranked-choice voting and following Cathy Giessel during Alaska's 2022 election.
 - [The Choice](#) (25 minutes), a documentary about Portland's first use of proportional ranked-choice voting in 2024. The filmmakers follow two candidates: one is a progressive, and the other is a former police officer. This is a good pick for an audience that is already familiar with single-winner ranked-choice voting and is ready to dive deeper.
- A discussion where participants share their thoughts on what's broken in politics and how ranked-choice voting can address those concerns.
- A guest speaker from FairVote Washington to describe our strategies to bring ranked-choice voting to Washington and how volunteers help make that strategy happen..

No matter what direction you choose to go, be sure to leave plenty of time for guest's questions.

4. Gather supplies

People are more likely to attend events where they get fed! Provide appetizers or dinner, depending on the time of day. You could make the event a potluck to reduce your workload and try your friends' favorite recipes.

You will also want name tags and a Sharpie to fill them out, a sign-in sheet to capture attendees and their contact information, and a sign-up for an upcoming volunteer opportunity.

5. Host a great event!

Follow the plan, and have a great night with your friends! Remember, this is a house *party*; the atmosphere should be fun and social.

Be sure to capture the names and contact information of attendees on a sign-in sheet that you can share with FairVote Washington afterwards. And, we encourage asking participants to sign up for an upcoming volunteer event while they are motivated to take action. Look on our [Mobilize page](#) for upcoming events nearby. You can make the sign-up available on a laptop or a separate printed form.

6. Follow up

Send an email to all of your guests the day after the event thanking them for attending and providing resources to stay connected, including a link to the video (if you showed one), the FairVote Washington website, and the [Mobilize page](#).

Separately, connect with FairVote Washington to debrief, including identifying any enthusiastic potential volunteers or donors.

Appendix A: Interactive ranked-choice voting exercise guide

1. Hand out paper ballots with a QR code. [RCV123.org](https://rcv123.org) has a “Print ballot” feature, with an option to automatically include a QR code on each one. Each participant should fill out their paper and online ballots with the same selections; both will be used during the demonstration.
2. Have the people stand in groups according to their first choice vote. Total up the first round votes. If any choice has a majority, that is the winner. If not, have them move to their next choice (they can use their paper ballot as a reminder if needed).
3. Continue step 2 until one selection has a majority of all the votes.
4. Close the online ballot and describe the final results on screen. They should be the same as the group process!
5. Explain that RCV is just like the stand-in-groups exercise. It is not mysterious or weird math anymore.
6. Let everyone ask questions until they understand the results and the voting procedure.