

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

A **ranked-choice voting** system (RCV) is when voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots.

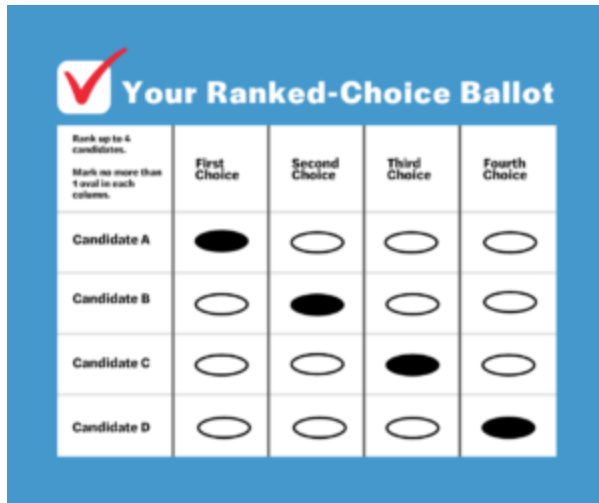
If a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, he or she is declared the winner.

If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. First-preference votes cast for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the next-preference choices indicated on those ballots. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of the adjusted votes.

The process is repeated until a candidate wins an outright majority.

How does ranked-choice voting work?

1. Voters rank the candidates for a given office by preference on their ballots.
2. If a candidate wins 50% or more votes of first preference votes they will be declared the winner.
3. If no candidate wins 50% or more votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated.
4. All first-preference votes for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the next-preference choices indicated on those ballots.
5. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won an outright majority of the adjusted voters.
6. The process is repeated until a candidate wins 50% or more votes.



References:

<https://www.commoncause.org/democracy-wire/ranked-choice-voting-how-does-it-work/>

<https://www.rollingstone.com/politics/politics-news/ranked-choice-voting-explained-with-ice-cream-1185609/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P10PFuBFVL8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oHRPMJmzBBw>

Which states have implemented Ranked Choice Voting?

Alaska and Maine are states that currently use Ranked Choice Voting in full capacity.

Ranked choice voting is used in local elections in more than 20 US cities including:

- Cambridge, Massachusetts
- San Francisco, California
- Oakland, California
- Takoma Park, Maryland
- Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Santa Fe, New Mexico
- St. Louis Park, Minnesota
- New York, New York

Ranked choice voting does

- Increase voter participation because there are more options for voters
- Decreases the power of the 2 biggest parties.
- Decreases political extremism because candidates need to appeal to more people across the political spectrum.

Ranked choice voting does not

- Lessen the power of your vote or make your vote “not matter”.