

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 179

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING; AMENDING CHAPTER 9, TITLE 34, IDAHO CODE,
2 BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 34-903B, IDAHO CODE, TO PROHIBIT RANKED
3 CHOICE VOTING AND INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING, TO DEFINE TERMS, AND TO DECLARE
4 VOID ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE IN CONFLICT WITH THIS SECTION; AND
5 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Chapter 9, Title 34, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
9 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
10 ignated as Section 34-903B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

11 34-903B. RANKED CHOICE VOTING PROHIBITED. (1) No county elections of-
12 fice shall use ranked choice voting or instant runoff voting to conduct an
13 election or nomination of any candidate in this state for any local govern-
14 ment, statewide, or federal elective office.

15 (2) For the purpose of this section:

16 (a) "Local government" means any municipality, county, school dis-
17 trict, special taxing district, or any other regional or local district
18 or unit of government that is governed by one (1) or more elected offi-
19 cials.

20 (b) "Ranked choice voting" or "instant runoff voting" means a method of
21 casting and tabulating votes in which:

22 (i) Voters rank candidates in order of preference;

23 (ii) Tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round either
24 a candidate or candidates are elected or the last-place candidate
25 is defeated;

26 (iii) Votes are transferred from elected or defeated candidates to
27 the voters' next ranked candidate or candidates in order of pref-
28 erence; and

29 (iv) Tabulation ends when a candidate receives the majority of
30 votes cast or the number of candidates elected equals the number of
31 offices to be filled.

32 (3) Any local government ordinance in conflict with this section is
33 void.

34 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
35 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
36 July 1, 2023.