FGA The Truth About Ranked-Choice Voting

What is Ranked-Choice Voting and why is it being pushed now?

Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) is a radical voting system that is being pushed by the progressive Left to elect candidates they support. By changing how Americans vote, they can manipulate who wins elections.

American elections are traditionally and almost universally run using the "one-person, one-vote" system. When voters cast their ballots, they pick a single candidate in each race, and the candidate with the highest number of votes wins.

Under RCV, voters are forced to rank the candidates. If no candidate wins a majority, the race goes into multiple rounds of what is referred to as "instant run-off voting" until one candidate receives more than 50 percent of the remaining votes. It is anything but "instant" though, it is a complex process that has taken days or weeks in some cases. Using RCV, candidates who lost in the first round can win the election after multiple rounds of tabulation.

The Left has successfully pushed RCV in Maine and Alaska through ballot initiatives and implemented RCV in cities across the country, including New York, San Francisco, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. The RCV movement is gaining momentum and without an explicit ban, every state is vulnerable.

What's wrong with Ranked-Choice Voting?

With RCV, every vote does not count.

One of the greatest problems with RCV is "ballot exhaustion"—when a ballot is cast but does not count toward the end election result. This occurs when a voter overvotes, undervotes, or only ranks candidates that are no longer in contention on their ballot.

Ballot exhaustion leaves voters and voices uncounted—ballots are literally thrown in the trash because the RCV voting process renders their votes meaningless.

RCV diminishes voter confidence.

RCV is overly complicated and confusing. Additionally, it requires voters to make decisions about all the candidates on the ballot, forcing them to cast their vote for candidates that they disapprove of or lack sufficient information about.

RCV threatens fast and accurate ballot counting.

With multiple runoffs and choice rankings, the RCV process leads to slower election results and increased irregularities.

Ranked-choice voting undermines voter confidence and leads to slower election results and increased irregularities.

BOTTOM LINE — **State lawmakers should prohibit RCV statewide and pre-empt local jurisdictions from adopting RCV for local elections.**

Attachment 2

Standard Voting Ballot *How Voting Works in Most States*

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

To vote for a person whose name is printed on the ballot, fill in the oval ⬤ to the right of the name of that person.

To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write or stick his or her name in the blank space provided and fill in the oval ⬤ to the right of the write-in line.

For United States President and Vice President
(vote for one)

⭕	Candidate #1	Democrat
⬤	Candidate #2	Republican
⭕	Candidate #3	Libertarian
⭕	Candidate #4	n

Ranked-Choice Voting Ballot *Instant Run-Off Voting*

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

To vote, fill in the oval like this ⬤

To rank your candidate choices, fill in the oval:

- In the 1st column for your 1st choice candidate.
- In the 2nd column for your 2nd choice candidate, and so on.

Continue until you have ranked as many or as few candidates as you like.

Fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.

To rank a write-in candidate, write the person's name in the write-in space and fill in the oval for the ranking of your choice.

United State President and Vice President		1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice	7th Choice
Candidate #1	Democrat	⭕	⬤	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕
Candidate #2	Republican	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕	⬤	⭕
Candidate #3	Libertarian	⭕	⭕	⬤	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕
Candidate #4	Green	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕	⬤	⭕	⭕
Candidate #5	Socialism/Libertarian	⬤	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕	⭕
Candidate #6	Socialist Workers	⭕	⭕	⭕	⬤	⭕	⭕	⭕
Write-in								

BANS ON RCV ARE TRENDING

In 2022, Florida and Tennessee lawmakers enacted bills that ban ranked-choice voting for all elections.

REAL-LIFE EXAMPLES

Maine's 2018 Second Congressional District Election

In this state race, **8,253 ballots were exhausted**.

Bruce Poliquin (R) received 46.33 percent of the vote ahead of Jared Golden's (D) 45.58 percent. But since Poliquin didn't receive 50 percent of the vote, there was a second round of tabulation. The secretary of state threw out the 8,253 exhausted ballots.

Golden was declared the winner with 50.62% of the remaining ballots **or 49.2 percent of the total ballots cast**.

Oakland, California's 2010 Mayoral Election

Here the candidate that received the most votes in the first round lost in the 10th round due to second and third place votes.

Plus, **28 percent of voters did not cast ballots** ranking three candidates in the race.

New York City's 2021 Democratic Mayoral Primary

RCV mandates the central counting of votes and involves a complicated counting process. In 2021, it took **15 days** to announce a winner in this primary!

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EXAMPLE

Assume that there are four candidates for mayor in a hypothetical city. The table below presents the raw first-preference vote totals for each candidate.

Candidates	First-preference votes	Percentage
Candidate A	475	46.34%
Candidate B	300	29.27%
Candidate C	175	17.07%
Candidate D	75	7.32%

In the above scenario, no candidate won an outright majority of first-preference votes. As a result, the candidate (Candidate D) with the smallest number of first-preference votes is eliminated. The ballots that listed candidate D as the first preference are adjusted, raising their second-preference candidates. Assume that, of the 75 first-preference votes for Candidate D, 50 listed Candidate A as their second preference and 25 listed Candidate B. The adjusted vote totals would be as follows:

Adjusted Vote Tallies

Candidates	First-preference votes	Percentage
Candidate A	525	51.22%
Candidate B	325	31.71%
Candidate C	175	17.07%

On the second tally, Candidate A secured 51.22 percent of the vote, thereby winning the election.

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