

## WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING (RCV)?

RCV has numerous variations but, in general, the process is:

- For each office, voters choose 3 candidates in the order of the voter's preference (1,2, and 3) rather than voting only for their first choice.
- The candidates with the least number of first place votes are eliminated and those ballots are recounted using the voters 2nd choice candidate.
- The candidates with the lowest number of votes after tallying the 2nd choices will be eliminated.
- This continues until one candidate receives 50.01% of the vote.

## DOES THIS MAKE SENSE?

**NO!**

- Let's tally the votes as we always have—the candidate with the most votes wins.
- In a tie, hold a real runoff election where voters know who the top candidates are when voting.

## RANKED CHOICE VOTING IS...

- CONFUSING
- EXPENSIVE
- MANIPULATIVE
- COMPLICATED TO TALLY
- INTIMIDATING FOR SOME VOTERS

## RANKED CHOICE VOTING LEADS TO ...

- DIS-ENFRANCHISED VOTERS
- COMPLEX AND LENGTHY BALLOTS
- NOT VOTING ON "DOWN BALLOT" LOCAL RACES
- LONGER WAITING IN LINE TO VOTE
- DELAYS IN CERTIFYING ELECTION RESULTS
- VOTER MISTRUST OF ELECTION RESULTS
- LOWER VOTER TURNOUT
- VOTE SPLITTING

## WHY RANKED CHOICE VOTING IS WRONG FOR MARYLAND:

- In Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), a voter's choices can be discarded.
- Other voters will have 2 or 3 bites at the apple in deciding who is elected.
- Minority Party candidates will be put at a greater disadvantage.
- Majority Party will likely put up multiple candidates so they will almost always win. Maybe not their first choice, but always their Party.
- Voters may be discouraged from voting in "down-ballot" races for local offices due to the extra time required to make 3 choices for each race (15 or more offices in gubernatorial years).

**The Fiscal Note for the 2024 proposal (HB0423) estimates a cost of \$1.1 million to implement RCV in Montgomery County alone.**

- Equal and fair voting is to vote once for your favorite candidate. The person with the most votes wins! Every vote carries the same weight -- has the same impact.
- RCV has been repealed in some jurisdictions that adopted it:

Burlington, VT - Pierce County, WA - Aspen, CO

## RESOURCES:

From:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/instant-runoff\\_voting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/instant-runoff_voting)

- Article by Gordon Well for Central Maine.com in 2015 argued that RCV runs counter to the democratic process:  
*“If we want decisions guaranteed to be made by a majority, then a runoff is a better idea, because it allows voters to make a clear choice rather than the muddled, computer-run outcome of ranked-choice voting.”*
- “Instant-runoff voting in the United States” Maine 2018 Congressional Election.”  
Republican incumbent Bruce Poliquin led in the first round of votes for the 2nd Congressional District by 2,171 votes, but Democratic candidate Jared Golden won the final round by gaining a majority of the 3,509 votes transferred from two independent candidates. Poliquin became the first incumbent to lose this district since 1916.
- uTube video: “How does ranked-choice voting work?” presented by MPRNews

## RCV GAMBLES WITH OUR VOTES.



IT'S NOT BROKEN!  
DON'T FIX IT!

DON'T “FIX” THE  
ELECTION RESULTS.

Prepared by:



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## RANKED CHOICE VOTING



REALLY  
CONFUSES  
VOTERS