

WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING (RCV)?

- On their ballot, voters rank the candidates for a given office by preference (e.g. 1st, 2nd, 3rd).
- If a candidate wins a majority of 1st-preference votes (50% plus 1), that candidate is the winner.
- If, on the other hand, no candidate wins a majority of 1st-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest 1st-preference votes is eliminated.
- All 1st-preference votes for the failed candidate are removed from the count.
- The 2nd-preference choices for those ballots are then counted as though 1st-preference choices.
- A new tally is conducted to determine whether a candidate has won a majority of the votes.
- The process is repeated until one candidate wins a majority of the votes cast.

DOES THIS MAKE SENSE?

NO!

CONCERNS WITH RANKED CHOICE VOTING

- RCV's complexity and delays counting the ballots can be detrimental to voters' confidence in the integrity of the election result.
- It is not majority rule. The final result (the candidate winning a majority) is not a majority of all votes originally cast -- it is a majority of only those votes counted in the final round.
- Multiple rounds tabulating results will delay election results. The count cannot proceed until all ballot receipt deadlines have passed (absentee, overseas, military ballots).
- RCV tabulation requires that all ballot data be centralized, creating both security and logistical concerns.
- Any voting system that tosses out votes and voters is wholly undemocratic.
- RCV provides voters with an incentive to falsify their preferences so that their real choice survives to the next round and can win in the end.

WHY RANKED CHOICE VOTING IS WRONG FOR MARYLAND:

- A fair election is "one person, one vote" -- a fair election is "one office, one candidate" -- a fair election is voting only for one's preferred candidate. Every voter has an equal opportunity to impact the election -- every vote carries the same weight.
- The majority party could run multiple candidates to increase the likelihood that a member of their party will win -- maybe not their preferred candidate but at least their party.
- In-person voting will take longer as voters make multiple choices for each race (15 or more offices in MD in gubernatorial years).
- Voters may skip down ballot races rather than take the time to learn about the candidates in those races.

The Fiscal Note for HB1094 (MGA Session 2025) estimated there would be an additional \$1.5 million cost to implement RCV in Montgomery County alone.

STATUS of RCV in the states

Ranked choice voting is currently prohibited in 17 states:

AL, AR, FL, IA, ID, KS, KY, LA, MO,
MS, MT, ND, OK, SD, TN, WV, WY

As of October 2025, 52 American jurisdictions across 23 states and Washington DC use RCV in public elections:

- Alaska and Maine use RCV for statewide and federal elections -- both efforts passed after intense pressure and bankrolling from out-of-state special interest groups
- RCV is used in some localities in 14 states (39 cities and 3 counties) for local elections
- 1 state uses RCV for special elections
- 6 states and 1 city use RCV ballots for military and overseas voters in runoff elections
- Aspen CO used RCV for the first time in 2009 in its election for mayor and city council and repealed RCV in 2010 (Referendum 2B) with 65.28% of the vote

RCV legislation was rejected in the 2024 election in 7 states:

AZ, CO, ID, MO, MT, NV, OR

RCV GAMBLIES WITH YOUR VOTE



*What "problem" is
RANKED CHOICE VOTING
intended to fix?*

**IF IT'S NOT BROKEN,
DON'T FIX IT!**

Prepared by:



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RANKED CHOICE VOTING



**REALLY
CONFUSES
VOTERS**