

## THE PROBLEM

An effective government depends on collaborative and civil leadership whose focus is on doing the most good for the greatest number of individuals.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a reform that empowers voters to hold representatives accountable, elect leaders who will build consensus by speaking to all voters in all communities, and incentivize positive, issues based campaigns. RCV can pave a path to more inclusive and effective governance.

## A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION

RCV is a method of voting where the voter can rank more than one candidate in order of preference on the ballot (1st Choice, 2nd Choice etc.). If a candidate receives more than half of the first choices, that candidate wins just like in our current voting system. If there is no majority winner after counting first choices, the race is decided by "instant runoff." The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and voters who picked that losing candidate have their vote counted for the next choice. This process continues until two candidates remain, and the majority candidate with consensus support of the majority wins.

Our current "pick one" elections is a voting method that eliminates nuanced choice and polarizes both candidates and voters. The lack of competitive elections and low participation in party primaries, combined with the overwhelming number of unaffiliated voters left out of candidate selection, translates into too many of our state's voters who have little say in the choice of representation.

Connecticut law does not now allow the political parties to decide for themselves whether they want to use RCV in their party primaries and does not allow communities to decide for themselves whether they want to use RCV in local elections for Mayor or First Selectman. Legislation to give them the freedom to choose has bi-partisan support in the General Assembly and the support of Governor Lamont.

1 Ranked  
2 Choice  
3 Voting



## Fast Facts

- ❖ **RCV empowers voters to choose the candidates they like the best.** With more choice, voters have a stronger voice in the outcome of elections and greater confidence their vote will make a difference.
- ❖ **RCV encourages electoral competition and voter choice.** RCV elections are proven to level the playing field and help women, BIPOC, and first time candidates. In RCV, no vote for any candidate is ever "wasted" and no candidate is ever a "spoiler."
- ❖ **RCV encourages positive campaigning.** Candidates do best when they appeal to a broader range of voters. Negative attacks may alienate voters and lose crucial 2nd and 3rd choice support the candidate needs to win in an RCV election.

**RCV improves voter engagement and satisfaction.** When more viable candidates are on the ballot, voters will more likely participate in our electoral process. Voters who have used RCV prefer it!

## MORE INFORMATION

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