

To the Editor July 27, 2020

## Rank Choice Voting

Ranked voting is any election voting system in which voters use a ranked ballot to rank choices in a sequence: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. There are multiple ways in which the rankings can be counted to determine which candidate is elected. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranked\\_voting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranked_voting)

Ranked-choice voting is not a new concept. The system was first invented in the 1850s and was used in European elections, and later used in state-level elections in Australia. U.S. cities started implementing it in the early 1900s. As the name suggests, ranked-choice voting is a system that allows voters to tally their preferred candidates and rank them according to their first choice, second choice, and so on.

The process could include multiple rounds to narrow down the candidate pool, unless a candidate wins the majority with more than 50% of the vote in the first round.

If no one wins a majority, the candidate tallied with the fewest votes is eliminated from the race. In that case, any votes that were cast for the eliminated candidate would then be re-allocated to a voter's second choice candidate. The process continues until one candidate reaches the majority threshold, making them the winner of the race.

According to advocates, not only does this system ensure that every vote counts, it also keeps candidates and voters engaged with one another and opens up the political race.

As of this year, cities in 21 states have adopted a ranked-choice voting system in some form, including for military and overseas voters to participate in runoff elections, like in Alabama and Arkansas. It has been used in local elections in cities in Colorado, Florida, and California; and in congressional and state-level elections in Maine.

In 2016, Maine residents voted in favor of installing the system, which it implemented in June 2018. That fall, the U.S. saw the first ever ranked-choice federal election in Maine's Second Congressional District in the 2018 midterms.

Iowa's Democratic Party in February [proposed](#) using ranked-choice voting for people who cannot attend the caucus in person, which the state will implement next year. Meanwhile Nevada, Hawaii, and Alaska all proposed integrating the same system into their [delegate allocation](#) processes.

<https://fortune.com/2019/05/07/ranked-choice-voting-explained/>

In the Constitutional Congress, direct election lost by one vote. The Electoral College kludge was then invented to pacify small and slave owning states. It is now untenable that small populations of people have the same number of votes as the larger overall population. It is simply un-American.

While it won't be possible to implement this system nationwide before the start of the 2020 Democratic primaries next year, advocates are laying the groundwork now for what could be a significant change to the election process.

Ranked-choice voting is not so much an overhaul, but an addendum to the ballot. Voters can still do what they do now, but they get more power.

*"Wherever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government."*

Thomas Jefferson – Paris – 1789

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B081MV71TR/ref=atv\\_wl\\_hom\\_c\\_unkc\\_1\\_2](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B081MV71TR/ref=atv_wl_hom_c_unkc_1_2)