

Ranked Choice Voting Primer

1st District Delegates,

As you may know, we have a three-way race for Chairman of the RPV and I'm proud of the fact that the two challengers to the incumbent chairman came from the 1st District! The chairman's race will be decided by Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), which provides for an "instant run-off" if one candidate does not achieve a majority when the votes are counted.

Here's how RCV works:

Voters pick a first-choice candidate and have the option to **rank backup candidates in order of their choice: second, third in this case**. If a candidate receives more than half of the first choices, that candidate wins, just like in any other election. However, if there is no majority winner after counting first choices, the race is decided by an "instant runoff." **The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who picked that candidate as 'number 1' will have their votes count for their next choice**. This process continues until a candidate wins with more than half of the votes.

To ensure your vote counts in an "instant runoff" in the chairman's race, it is imperative that **you rank choice all three candidates**. If you only vote for one candidate, your ballot **may not be counted** in the "instant runoff" round of counting depending upon who you picked and which candidate was eliminated.

Examples:

Candidates Smith, Jones, and Johnson are running for election.

Scenario 1: You want Johnson, so you rank choice Johnson as your #1 pick, followed by Smith, and then Jones. After the votes are counted, no candidate has a majority, and Johnson comes in 3rd. He is eliminated from the race. On the second round of counting the ballots, your #2 pick Smith is now counted as your vote.

Scenario 2: You want Johnson, so you rank choice Johnson as your #1 pick without listing a #2 and #3 choice. After the votes are counted, no candidate has a majority, and Johnson comes in 3rd. He is eliminated from the race. Since you did not list a #2 candidate, you no longer have a vote in the "instant runoff." Your least favorite candidate Jones is now in a runoff with Smith. The delegates who listed Jones as #1 or #2 still have their votes in play, which is an advantage over delegates whose votes are no longer being counted because they only selected one candidate.

So if you don't rank choice at least your first two choices, you risk "losing your vote" during the "instant runoff" if your first choice is eliminated. This can give your least favorite candidate an advantage in the "instant runoff" process.

For more information and a video that explains RCV, please go to this website:

https://www.fairvote.org/rcv#how_rcv_works

See you at the convention!

Bob Watson
Chairman, 1st District