

Presentation to the
West St. Paul City Council
September 28, 2020



What is Ranked Choice Voting?

- **Simple change to the ballot that lets voters rank candidates on the ballot in order of their preference.**
- **The rankings are used to conduct an “instant runoff” to ensure winners with a majority of support in a single, decisive election.**



Sample Ballot

Fill in the ovals by ranking candidates
in order of preference

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
 Candidate A	①	②	③
 Candidate B	①	②	③
 Candidate C	①	②	③

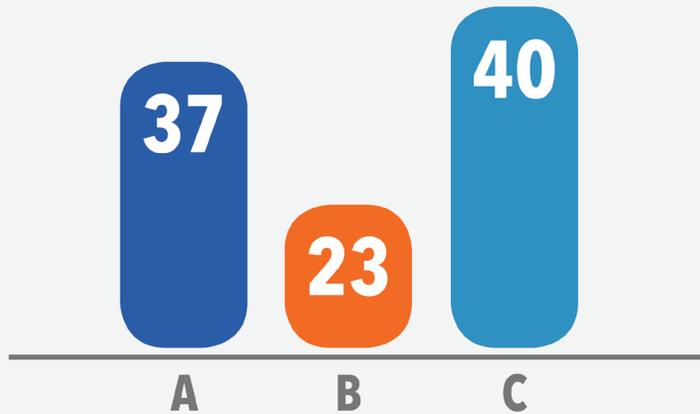
How Your Vote Counts

Number of voters: 100

Winning threshold: $100/2 + 1 = 51$ votes



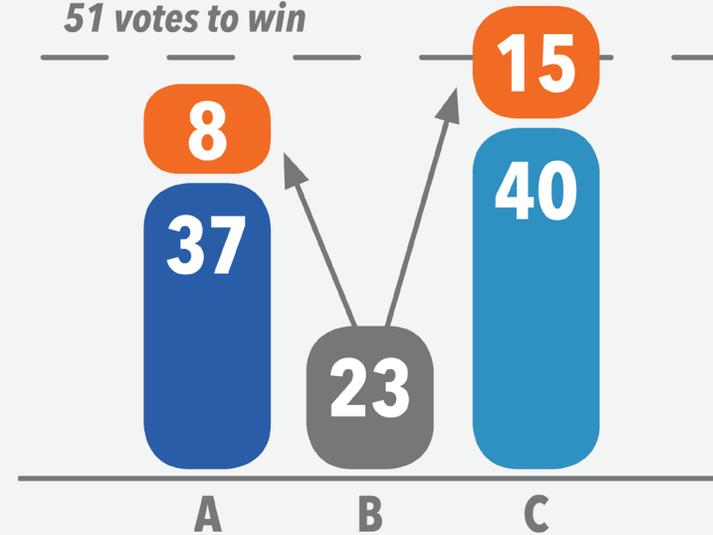
51 votes to win



Tally Round 1

No candidate reached the winning threshold. Candidate B has the fewest votes and will be eliminated in Tally Round 2.

51 votes to win



Tally Round 2

Candidate B's votes are reallocated based on those voters' 2nd choices. After Tally Round 2, Candidate C reaches the 51 votes threshold and wins.





How RCV is Helpful to Municipalities

- ✓ Eliminates the need for low-turnout local primaries when there are more than two candidates running.
- ✓ Allows all the candidates on the ballot in a single, decisive election in November.



Primary vs General Election Participation in West St. Paul

Year/Election	Primary	General
2012 (W3)	19%	65%
2016 (Mayor)	20%	74%
2016 (W1)	14%	61%
2018 (W3)	40%	74%
2020 (Mayor)	27%	

Other Benefits

- ✓ Gives voters more choice and more voice
- ✓ Winners earn a majority of support
- ✓ Fosters more civil campaigns
- ✓ Increases voter participation
- ✓ Eliminate spoiler and wasted vote dynamics

What Voters Say About RCV



Ranked Choice Voting is Successful

88%

**OF MINNEAPOLIS
VOTERS RANKED
THEIR BALLOTS
FOR MAYOR**

99.96%
VALID BALLOT RATE

92%
THINK RANKED
CHOICE VOTING
IS SIMPLE

84%
WANT TO KEEP
USING RANKED
CHOICE VOTING



RCV Around the Country

CITIES/COUNTIES:

- **Colorado:** Basalt, Carbondale, Telluride
- **California:** San Francisco, Berkeley, San Leandro, Oakland, Palm Desert
- **Michigan:** Eastpointe
- **New Mexico:** Santa Fe, Las Cruces
- **Maine:** Portland
- **Massachusetts:** Cambridge, Amherst, East Hampton
- **Minnesota:** Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park
- **Maryland:** Takoma Park
- **New York :** New York City
- **Oregon:** Benton County
- **Utah:** Payson, Vineyard

STATES:

Maine: For all state and federal primaries and federal general election including president.

Alaska and Massachusetts:
2020 ballot measures

2020 POTUS PRIMARIES:

Alaska, Nevada, Hawaii, Kansas, Wyoming

FOR MILITARY & OVERSEAS:

Arkansas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina
Springfield (IL)



2020 Ballot Measures

CITIES

- Bloomington and Minnetonka, MN
- Boulder, CO
- Eureka and Albany , CA

STATES

- Alaska
- Massachusetts

How Charter Cities Can Adopt RCV

**Unanimous
Vote of the
City Council**

**Ballot
Measure**

Administrative Questions

1. Ballot conformity in even-year elections
2. Voting equipment
 - WSP has Dominion equipment, which is used for RCV elections in New Mexico and California
3. RCV software options



RCV Local Options bill

- Give the choice to all **cities, school districts and counties** to adopt Ranked Choice Voting if they wish.
- Reduces administrative barriers for cities that hold elections in even years concurrently with state and federal elections
- Endorsed by League of MN Cities



THANK YOU!

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