



The Ranked Choice Voting Act

Sponsors: Sen. Peter Welch (D-Vt.), Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD-07), Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-08)

Background:

Communities across America have adopted ranked choice voting in elections to discourage negative campaigning, reduce polarization, promote consensus, and empower voters. Ranked choice voting is already being used across the country and in a wide range of jurisdictions. As of February 2024, [50 jurisdictions](#) have ranked choice voting in place for all voters in public elections, reaching approximately 13 million voters. This includes two states (Maine and Alaska), three counties, and 45 cities. Many more jurisdictions are on the path to implementing ranked choice voting, including Utah, which in 2018 authorized a pilot program to allow cities to use this system in local elections.

Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives more than half of the votes on the first ballot, the candidate wins. If there are more than two candidates, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, each vote cast on a ballot for the eliminated candidate will be counted for the next-ranked candidate on the ballot, and a new round of voting begins. Ranked choice voting ensures that winners are elected with majority popular support but without time-consuming and expensive runoff elections which have been proven to generate lower turnout.

Legislation:

The *Ranked Choice Voting Act* would require ranked choice voting in all primary and general elections for Congress, beginning in 2028. It would also authorize federal funding to help states implement this change, including adapting equipment if necessary and conducting voter education.

At a moment of intense polarization and widespread voter apathy, the *Ranked Choice Voting Act* aims to turn down the temperature of political rhetoric and ramp up civic engagement. This pro-democracy bill will help ensure that candidates who are elected to Congress are those who have most successfully assembled a majority of voters.

Endorsing Organizations:

Campaign Legal Center, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), FairVote Action, Public Citizen, Divided We Fall, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, People Power United, Rank the Vote, RepresentUs, RepresentWomen, Secure Elections Network, Third Way, American Sustainable Business Council Business for Democracy, Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice, United Church of Christ, Better Ballot Arizona, Better Ballot Georgia, Better Ballot North Carolina, Better Ballot SC, Cal RCV, Clean Elections Texas, Connecticut Voters First, Electoral Innovation Lab, Equal Justice Society, FairVote Illinois, Fair Vote Washington, Fix Democracy First, Get Money Out – Maryland, MassVOTE, NH Ranked Choice Voting, Ocean State RCV, Rank My Vote Florida, Rank the Vote Kentucky, Rank the Vote Ohio, Ranked Choice Boston, Ranked Choice Voting Maryland, Represent.Us of New Jersey, RoxVOTE Coalition, SC Small Business Chamber of Commerce, UpVote Virginia, Vote Nevada, Voter Choice Arizona, Voter Choice MA, and Voter Choice New Jersey.