

Hello Legislators,

This article reprinted with permission is exactly why RSV should NOT happen. I am in favor of SB 63.

"One Person - One Vote" is the cornerstone of our USA Elections. Rank Choice Voting "RCV" seeks to change that.

By Sandie Zimmerman March 26,2023

Rank Choice Voting "RCV" (also known as Instant Runoff Voting "IRV") is creeping into many states through the backdoor, by rolling into cities - towns and villages, using Local Elections to try out "RCV" then bring it to the entire state. Recently Ohio has been targeted for this complex method of voting.

Honest Elections <https://www.honestelections.org/> explains how the Rank Choice Voting "RCV" process fundamentally changes elections.

- * Under "RCV", voters are asked to rank multiple candidates rather than vote for a single person.

- * If no candidate wins a clear majority, the one with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated, his or her choice second-place votes are counted. If a voter did not list a second choice, that ballot is labeled "exhausted" and is thrown out. Thus the term "Trash-Can Ballots".

- * The ballots thrown out are eliminated from the final count. For example: 100,000 voter's ballots are tallied in the first round. If there's no clear winner, the tabulation goes to a second round. If 10,000 voters choose only one candidate to rank on the ballot, that ballot is thrown out "Exhausted". Then the total ballot count is adjusted down to 90,000 ballots.

- * This process continues until a single candidate wins a majority of the remaining votes.

"RCV" is more costly than the traditional voting method:

- * Longer hours & more poll workers necessary to complete the intricate task of multiple tabulations.

- * Extra cost of Educating the public, on this new form of voting. Alaska spent Millions educating their citizens, but still had "Spoiled Ballots" from errors, those ballots were tossed out before the first tabulation, thereby never counted.

- * More detailed complex Algorithms must be written & implemented to calculate multiple Ballot Tabulations. Which will also increase the need for expensive Voting Machines, that voters already have low confidence in using. "RCV" increases the risk of election tampering because it requires a complicated, centralized counting process that can take up to several weeks to complete

"RCV" would increase the possibility of errors, the more involved the process the greater possibility of errors.

This method of voting would make a Recount or Auditing the vote virtually impossible. In

our current environment Voters are clamoring for a more transparent and simplistic means of voting, where Citizen Oversight is easily implemented.

Voter confusion is more likely with "RCV", in which the voting process is more intricate and involved, leading to ballots not filled out properly.

The process of several Tabulations, which takes longer to count and delays the declaration of a winner, has many times taken weeks to complete.

The leading activist group for "RCV" nationally has been "FairVote", a nonprofit based in Takoma Park, Maryland. Political activists, educators, and former government officials launched the group in 1992 in Cincinnati, Ohio, originally calling it Citizens for Proportional Representation. It changed its name to "FairVote" in 2004. "FairVote" is one of the biggest proponents of "RCV" and can be found visiting Conservative groups throughout the US, speaking on the benefits of using this method of voting. Although "FairVote" claims to be non-partisan, their organization is funded by various Leftist groups.

According to research on [InfluenceWatch.com](https://www.influencewatch.com), some of the "FairVote" donors found are listed below:

- * Election Reformers Network

The Election Reformers Network (ERN) is a pressure group which pushes for changes to the way that elections are conducted in the United States. While the organization describes itself as nonpartisan, it identifies itself as a "proud" member of the Bridge Alliance, a collective of more than 100 activists.

- * Action Now Initiative

The Action Now Initiative is a center-left advocacy nonprofit created by liberal donors John and Laura Arnold in 2012. 1 It is closely associated with two more grantmaking organizations

- * Laura and John Arnold Foundation

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation is a private foundation based in Houston, Texas. The foundation was founded in 2008 by hedge fund manager John Arnold and his wife, Laura.

- * Democracy Fund.

Also see Democracy Fund Voice (Non-profit). The Democracy Fund is a public policy-oriented foundation chaired and principally funded by eBay founder and former chairman Pierre Omidyar

- * Tides Foundation

Also see Tides Nexus. The Tides Foundation is a major center-left grantmaking organization and a major pass-through funder to numerous left-leaning nonprofits.

According to <https://lawyersdemocracyfund.org/> some jurisdictions have repealed "RCV".

A handful of jurisdictions have adopted, tested, and subsequently repealed "RCV".

These jurisdictions are

identified below. In addition, there have been multiple efforts in Maine to overturn or amend its "RCV" system.

- * Burlington, Vermont

- * Ann Arbor, Michigan

- * State of North Carolina
- * Aspen, Colorado
- * Pierce County, Washington

It is clear that voters in these jurisdictions felt that their traditional voting method, whatever it may have been, was superior to "RCV". To learn more on the details of these jurisdictions rejecting "RCV", refer to <https://lawyersdemocracyfund.org/other-issues/ranked-choice-voting>

In addition, San Diego, the eighth largest city in the country, recently considered "RCV" at the city level. However, the city council rejected the idea, arguing that instituting "RCV" "would confuse voters, increase election costs, and possibly have unintended consequences.

At a time when voter confidence is at it's all time low, introducing a more complex less transparent process of voting could be disastrous. "RCV" goes against the very principal of "One person one vote".

For more information on "RCV" links are listed below:

1 - Alaska Policy Forum and Maine Heritage Institute, The Failed Experiment of RCV; alaskapolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-APF-Ranked-Choice-Voting-Report.pdf

2 - Foundation for Government Accountability, A Disaster in Disguise; thefga.org/research/ranked-choice-voting-a-disaster-in-disguise/

3 - A good explanation of how RCV works: https://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_%28RCV%29#Background

4 - www.keepvotingsimple.com - many case studies on RCV repeals etc.

5 - State Legislation pasted banning RCV
<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2022/524/BillText/er/PDF>

6 - Freedom Foundation of Minnesota, "Ranked choice voting: A risk voters shouldn't take," Freedom Foundation of Minnesota (2021), <https://freedomfoundationofminnesota.com/ranked-choice-voting/>.

7 - Jason McDaniel, "Ranked choice voting likely means lower turnout, more errors," Cato Unbound (2016), <https://www.cato-unbound.org/2016/12/13/jason-mcdaniel/ranked-choice-voting-likely-means-lower-turnout-more-errors/>.

8 - Katie Glueck, "New York mayor's race in chaos after election board counts 135,000 test ballots," New York Times (2021), <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/29/nyregion/adams-garcia-wiley-mayor-ranked-choice.html>.