



NYS and Ranked Choice Voting

February 2023



Agenda

- What we ask of your League by March 1st
- Why? What benefits does RCV offer?
- What is RCV?
- League history with RCV
- NYS is a special case
- What we need to do to get RCV for NYS



RCV Task Force Goal & Milestones

4. NYS concurrence with NYC position on RCV at the June Convention
3. Which will benefit from being part of “recommended program” as of May
2. Which needs local League input on NYS Program Planning Survey, due March 1st
1. Your League to respond to Question #4



**NYS Program
Recommendations
2013-2025
Due March 1st**

**LWVNYS PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
2023-2025**

RECOMMENDATION(S) SUBMITTED BY LWV OF:

NAME:

TITLE:

TELEPHONE:

E-MAIL:

1. Number of members participating in program-making meeting(s)?
2. Does your League wish to update any item(s) in the current program?
Please specify:
3. Does your League wish to drop any item(s) in the current program? _____
Please specify: _____

4. Does your League wish to propose a new program for study or concurrence?

We propose adopting a NYS position on RCV by concurrence with the LWV of NYC's position, adjusted to be state-wide.



Why seek a RCV position for NYS?

US Position Supports fair elections

- Encourage voter turnout/participation
- Encourage underrepresented voters
- Promote sincere voting
- Maximize effective votes,
minimize wasted votes
- Verifiable and auditable
- Compatible with usual ballot-casting
measures


Benefits

- Eliminates run-offs
- Reduces negative campaigning and
polarization
- More voters satisfied with winners
- More diverse representatives
elected

What is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)?

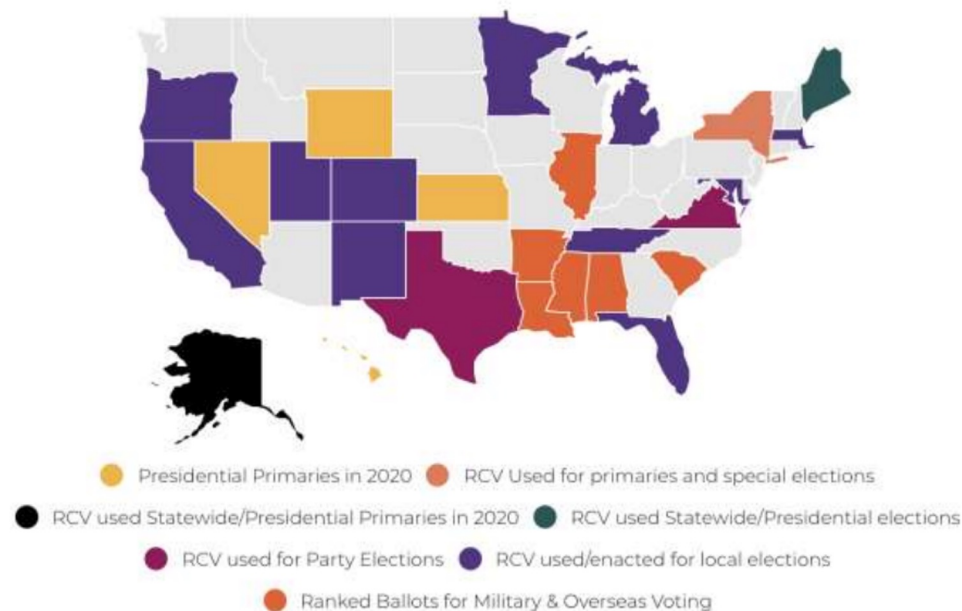
- In most elections you can only choose one candidate (single choice voting)
- With RCV you rank up to five candidates in order of preference

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| CANDIDATE A | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| CANDIDATE B | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| CANDIDATE C | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| CANDIDATE D | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> |
| CANDIDATE E | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input checked="" type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |



Who uses RCV?

- Over 20 cities, including Berkeley & Oakland CA, Cambridge MA, St. Paul MN, and now NYC and Boulder CO
- States: Maine and Alaska
- Countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Malta, and Scotland



FairVote

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

LWW
LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
Port Washington/Manhasset

RCV usage around the world



Australia
100 years!



Ireland
100 years!



Canada



Scotland



New Zealand

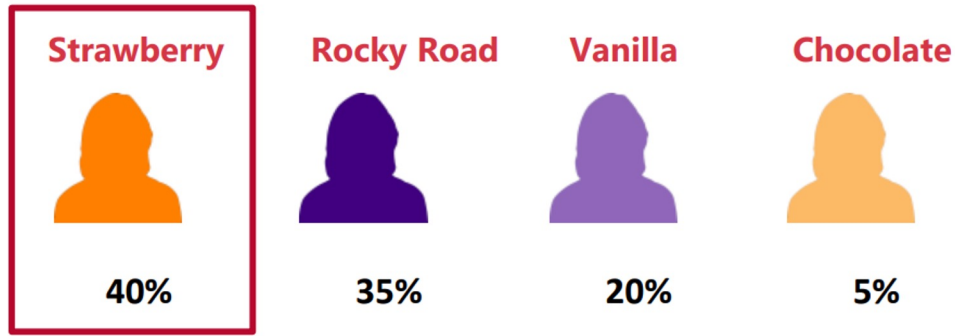
SPOILERS

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

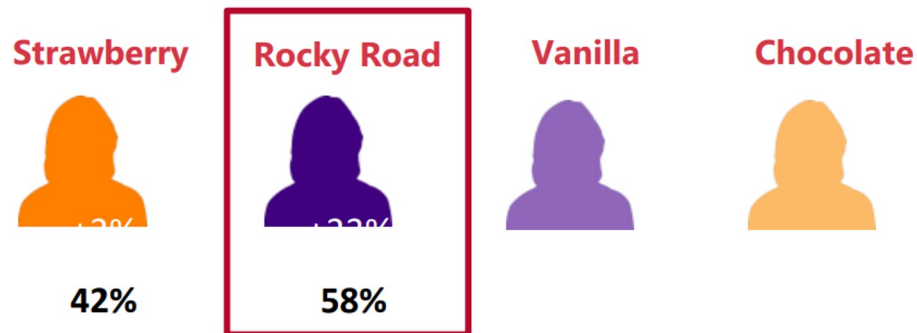


What is a Spoiler?

Current System



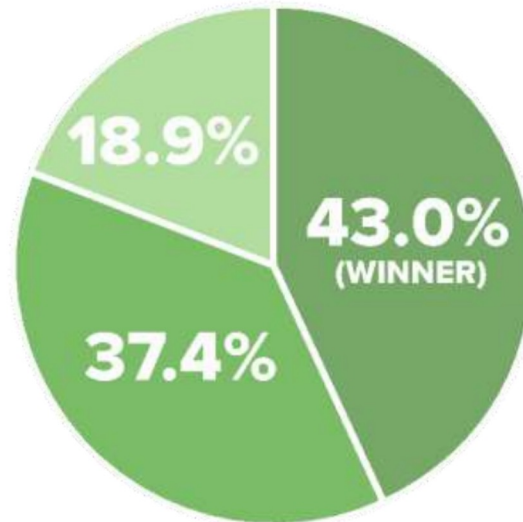
Ranked Choice



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ELECTION OF 1992

PEROT



CLINTON

BUSH

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GEORGE BUSH

AL GORE

RALPH NADER

48.85%
2,912,790

48.84%
2,912,253

1.64%
97,488

537 vote difference

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Exit Polls of Nader Voters

45% preferred Gore

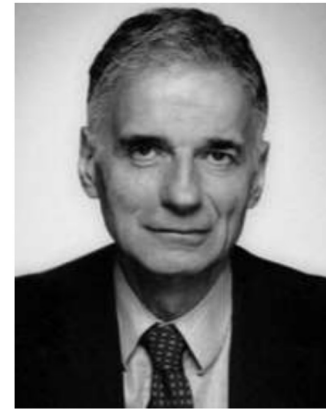
27% preferred Bush

28% would not have voted

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U.S. Presidential Election in Florida, 2000







Nader called “spoiler”

New York SPOILERS

| Year | Race | Winner | Runner-Up | “Spoiler(s)” | Majority winner? |
|------|------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1970 | US Senate | (Con) James Buckley 38.8% | (D) Richard Ottinger 36.8% | (R/Liberal) Charles Goodell 24.3% | ✗ |
| 1980 | US President | (R) Reagan 46.7% | (D) Carter 44.0% | (Liberal) John Anderson 7.5% | ✗ |
| 1994 | NY Governor | (R) George Pataki 48.8% | (D) Mario Cuomo 45.5% | (IND) Golisano (RTL) Walsh 5.5% | ✗ |
| 2004 | NYS Senate District 49 | (D) David Valesky 44.7% | (R) Nancy Hoffman 44.1% | (IND) Thomas Dadey 11.2% | ✗ |



New York SPOILERS

| Year | Race | Winner | Runner-Up | "Spoiler(s)" | Majority winner? |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| 2010 | NYS Assembly | (R) John Ceretto 45.9% | (D) John Accardo 32.9% | (WOR) Francine DelMonte 21.2% |  |
| 2010 | US House of Representatives NY-23 | (D) Bill Owens 47.5% | (R) Matthew Doheny 46.4% | (Con) Doug Hoffman 6.1% |  |
| 2014 | NYS Senate District 60 | (D) Marc Panepinto 32.7% | (R) Kevin Stocker 30.9% | (IND) Grisanti (Con) Gallagher 36.4% |  |
| 2014 | US House of Representatives NY-18 | (D) Sean Patrick Maloney 49.7% | (R) Nan Hayworth 47.9% | (Libertarian) Scott Smith 2.4% |  |

The *plurality system* is the **SPOILER**

- **Splits** coalitions
- **Fails** to eliminate the spoiler effect
- **Scares** voters away from voting their conscience
- **Fails** to guarantee majority winners
- **Discourages** candidates from running
- **Limits our choice** in the voting booth



League History with RCV

- 14 State Leagues have positions that favor RCV
- League of NYC position, adopted in 2009, was instrumental in bringing RCV to NYC's primaries
- 2020 LWWUS Impact on Issues has a position that favors alternatives to plurality voting like RCV



NYS works a certain way...

- No ballot referendum process outside the Legislature
- For LWVNYS to advocate Legislators, we require a LWVNYS position
- The parties control election administration, so we must be open to limiting RCV's use to primaries (with aspirations for more)



What we can do?



- Make concurrence with LWV of NYC's position a Program recommendation for Convention (June 2-4). (This is not a commitment to vote in favor, rather it puts discussing RCV on the Convention Agenda)
 1. Ask your League President to answer NYS's Program Survey Q4 by including adopting LWV NYC's RCV position
 2. If you already support RCV, have your LL hold education sessions that lead to LL concurrence with NYC's position.
- What's your effort worth? Making our democracy work better