Why rank? The problem of tactical voting

It's neck and neck

Lib Dem 41%

Con 48%

Lab 7%

Can't win here

Only the Lib Dems can beat the Conservatives
RCV in Australia – all preferences marked
HOW YOUR VOTE FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS COUNTED

Candidates for the House of Representatives are elected using the preferential voting system. This system has been used in federal elections since 1918.

Candidates for the House of Representatives stand for a particular electoral Division. To be elected, a candidate must get more than half the formal votes cast for that electoral Division.

THE FIRST PREFERENCES
First, all of the number “1” votes are counted for each candidate. If a candidate gets more than half the total of the formal first preference votes, that candidate will be elected.

SECOND PREFERENCE
If, however, no candidate has more than half of the votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded. The candidate’s votes are then transferred to the other candidates according to the second preferences shown by voters on their ballot papers.

FURTHER PREFERENCES
If still no candidate has more than half the votes, the candidate who now has the fewest votes is excluded and the votes are transferred according to the next preference shown. This process continues until one candidate has more than half the total votes and is declared elected.
### RCV in Maine – choices optional

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governor</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd Choice</th>
<th>4th Choice</th>
<th>5th Choice</th>
<th>6th Choice</th>
<th>7th Choice</th>
<th>8th Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cote, Adam Roland</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanford</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dion, Donna J.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biddeford</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dion, Mark N.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eves, Mark W.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Berwick</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mills, Janet T.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmington</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell, Diane Marie</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet, Elizabeth A.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hallowell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write-in</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why RCV?

- Promoting majority victories – or at least, a majority of votes in the count;
- Nullifying ‘vote-splitting’ between aligned but competing candidates or parties;
- Providing incentives for political collaboration between aligned parties and candidates;
- Delivering potential cost savings in cases where two rounds of voting were used;
- Encouraging more consensual campaigning in some circumstances;
- Delivering more centrist outcomes, if median voter/single-peaked prefs
Some theory...
Go basically, if my first choice doesn’t win, my second choice gets counted as my first choice, and so on.

But since my second choice won anyway, what was the point of putting a minor party first?

Ah!

CORRECT.

FIRSTLY,
A minor party can win seats if enough people vote for them. Since you lose nothing by voting “1” for whichever you like most, why wouldn’t you?

SECONDLY,
this might happen:

Looks like I won because of preferences from “Nice Party” voters... I should try to appeal to them by adopting some Nice policies.

I’ll look into this... “hugs”.

THIRDLY,
if a candidate gets at least 4% of first preferences (“1” votes), they’ll receive election funding for each of those votes, which will help their next campaign!

*About $2.31 in 2010.*

This is AUSTRALIA, not America.

YOU CAN’T “WASTE YOUR VOTE”!

Hello Australia. It’s me, your good friend Dennis the Election Koala. It’s that time again, so let’s meet the candidates hoping to represent your electorate in the Federal Parliament...

--- MAJOR PARTIES ---

**BEREMY SCUMBUM**
Total Bastards Party
- Policies -
  - Murder infants
  - Mince the poor

--- MINOR PARTIES ---

**WAKKUN**
Nice Party
- Policies -
  - Hugs
  - A cup of tea
  - Smash the state

--- MAJOR PARTIES ---

**PLOM MCFARTLE**
Partial Bastards Party
- Policies -
  - Put newborns to work!
  - Chastise the poor

--- MINOR PARTIES ---

**GRUNTWARD**
PLRFBP'THTP
Australia Australia Australia Party
- Policies -
  - Guns for babies
  - Mandatory incest

For more and better information, go to the source:
www.aec.gov.au

Get hi-res and PDF versions of this comic for printing and distribution:
www.chickennation.com

wp.me/pAQWw-96

Your vote really matters. Vote thoughtfully!
Preferential Voting Explained

To win a seat, a candidate must end up with an absolute majority—that is, over 50% of the total votes. Let's say your electorate has 100 voters; 51 votes are needed to win.

First the "1" votes are counted. But look—no one has 51 votes or more! So the loser, Gruntward, is eliminated. But the six people who voted "1" for Gruntward now have their "2" votes (second preferences) counted and transferred to those candidates.

Still no-one has an absolute majority of 51 or more! So Wakkun is eliminated, and his votes transferred according to the next preferences.

A surprise victory for Plom!
# How it works – Corangamite 1919

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidates</th>
<th>First count</th>
<th>Second count (Leaper excluded)</th>
<th>Third count (Coldham excluded)</th>
<th>Fourth and final count (Knox excluded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scullin (ALP)</td>
<td>10 630</td>
<td>10 732 (42.9%)</td>
<td>10 767 (43.0%)</td>
<td>10 944 (43.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gibson (VFU)</td>
<td>6 604</td>
<td>6 814 (27.2%)</td>
<td>7 418 (29.6%)</td>
<td>14 096 (56.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox (Nat)</td>
<td>5 737</td>
<td>6 208 (24.8%)</td>
<td>6 855 (27.4%)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coldham (Ind Nat)</td>
<td>1 174</td>
<td>1 286 (5.1%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaper (RSN)</td>
<td>895</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 040</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 040</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 040</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 040</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Gibson elected*
How it works today

Australian Greens

Exclusive: Greens to preference Labor in more than 90% of seats, including marginals

Party will also preference Labor ahead of Coalition in every Senate seat, saying it wants to prevent a conservative government

Gareth Hutchens
@ghutchens
Mon 13 Jun 2016 06.00 AEST

3,266

491
Major parties’ gains from preferences at federal elections (%) 1946–2016
Benefits and pitfalls

Benefits

• Winners can claim a genuine **majority mandate**, and need to govern accordingly.
• In most cases, preferences are used to **aggregate** common interests to achieve such a majority.
• RCV facilitates **coalition arrangements** such as that between the Liberal and National parties, and works to the advantage of **centre** candidates and parties.
• This has the effect of encouraging **moderate policy positions** and a **search for the middle ground** of any policy space.

Pitfalls

• How-to-vote cards from parties – most voters follow these
• Compulsory preference marking -- adds complexity, forces voters to express choices they don’t have
• Ticket voting in Senate – parties rather than voters choose where preferences are allocated
HOW TO VOTE

STEP 1
NUMBER EVERY SQUARE AS SHOWN BELOW.
SMALL GREEN BALLOT PAPER

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ELECTORAL DIVISION OF GOLDSTEIN

2 Hercus, Cheryl
5 Bishop, Trevor
3 Chellappah, Naren
4 Kavanagh, Lee
6 Wilson, Tim
Coote, Matthew Ross
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

STEP 2
PLACE THE NUMBER 1 IN ‘GROUP D’
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

THEN PLACE:
2 in ‘Group AL’ Australian Sex Party
3 in ‘Group A’ Derryn Hinch’s Justice Party
4 in ‘Group M’ Renewable Energy Party
5 in ‘Group AK’ The Greens
6 in ‘Group E’ Science Party/Australian Cyclists Party

SENATE

D Labor
1 AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY

REMEMBER: YOU MUST NUMBER AT LEAST 6 BOXES ABOVE THE LINE

Matthew Coote
& Bill Shorten
WE’LL PUT PEOPLE FIRST

Authorised by N Carroll for the ALP, 438 Docklands Drive, Docklands.
Printed by Rosella Printing, 10 Rocklea Drive, Port Melbourne.
PLEASE RETURN THIS HOW TO VOTE FOR REUSE
How to Vote Liberal in Goldstein

Stand up for families. Stand up for real action.

Andrew Robb
Member for Goldstein

House of Representatives (green ballot paper)

On the green ballot paper, you must number every box.

Electoral Division of GOLDSTEIN

4. EDEN, N
2. FORSTER, A
1. ROBB, Andrew Liberal
3. PILLING, N

Place the number 1 in box “O” as shown,

START HERE AND NUMBER EVERY BOX

Senate (white ballot paper)

Simply place a number 1 in the box “above the line” as shown.

PLACE THE NUMBER 1 IN BOX “O”

LIBERAL
THE NATIONALS

No need to complete the “below the line” section.

Authorised by T. Nutt, 104 Exhibition St, Melbourne 3000, for the Liberal Party of Australia. Printed by Melbourne Mailing, 160 Fulham Rd, Fairfield 3078
How to Vote
Dr Bill Glasson for Griffith

Division of GRIFFITH
11  LAWRENCE, Timothy
10  EBBS, Geoff
  9  WILLIAMS, Christopher David
  8  BOELE, Karel
  7  ACKROYD, Anthony
  6  REID, Anne
  5  BUTLER, Terri
  4  THOMAS, Melanie Rose
  3  WINDSOR, Travis James
  2  SAWYER, Ray
  1  GLASSON, Bill

Remember, you must number every box to make your vote count.

Start here and number every box.

Your strong local voice for Griffith
Simpler is better...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2016</th>
<th>ELECCIÓN PRESIDENCIAL 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rank candidates in order of choice.</td>
<td>1st Choice Opción</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DOUGH</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RASPBERRY LEMON SORBET</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHERRY ALMOND CHUNK</td>
<td>○</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Write-In Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

○ ○ ○ ○
Ballot design matters ...

San Francisco Elections: Nov. 6, 2012

How to fill out your Ranked Choice (RCV) Ballot: Mark a Different candidate for Each Choice

NOTE: Connect only 1 Arrow for each Column

First Choice (Connect 1 Arrow)
- DIEGO RIVERA
- BRUCE LEE
- SHIRLEY HORN
- BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Second Choice (Connect 1 Arrow)
- DIEGO RIVERA
- BRUCE LEE
- SHIRLEY HORN
- BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

Third Choice (Connect 1 Arrow)
- DIEGO RIVERA
- BRUCE LEE
- SHIRLEY HORN
- BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

How to Vote: Rank your favorite 1st choice, then your 'compromise' 2nd & 3rd choices. Ranking 2nd & 3rd choices does NOT hurt your 1st choice. Ranking candidates twice does NOT help them.

How Count Works: if no candidate has a 1st count majority, a series of rounds eliminates last-place finishers. In each round, your vote counts only for your most preferred candidate still in the running.
Counting the votes: man vs machine