

# It's Time For Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Maine

## Examples of U.S. state and local governments using RCV

- **Arkansas** (only overseas voters in runoffs): Adopted in 2005, used since 2006
- **Alabama** (only overseas voters in primary runoff): By agreement with a federal court, used in special election for U.S. House, 2013
- **California**: Adopted in *Berkeley* in 2004 and first used in 2010 in elections for mayor, city council and other city offices. Adopted in *Oakland* in 2006 and first used in 2010 for 18 offices, including mayor and city council. Adopted in *San Francisco* in 2012, first used in 2004 and used every November election since then for Board of Supervisors, mayor and four six other citywide offices. Adopted in San Leandro in 2000 charter amendment and first used in 2010 and every two years since for mayor and city council.
- **Colorado**: Adopted in *Telluride* in 2008 and first used in 2011 for mayoral elections. Adopted in *Basalt* in 2002 and to be used in any mayoral election with more than three candidates.
- **Louisiana** (only overseas and out-of-state military voters in federal and state general election elections): Adopted and used since the 1990s
- **Maine**: Adopted in *Portland* in 2010 and used in 2011 for mayoral election
- **Maryland**: Adopted in *Takoma Park* in 2006 and first used in 2007, with elections every two years for mayor and city council.
- **Minnesota**: Adopted in *Minneapolis* in 2006 and first used in 2009 in elections for 22 offices, including mayor and city council. *St. Paul* in 2009, first used in 2011 and to be used every two years mayor and city council
- **South Carolina** (only for overseas voters in federal and state primary runoffs): Adopted and first used in 2006 in federal and state primary elections.

## Examples of international governments using RCV

- **Australia**, to elect its House of Representatives since 1919 and to elect most state and territory lower houses.
- **The Republic of Ireland**, to elect its president since 1922.
- **United Kingdom**: Used to elect mayor of *London* since 2000 (with voters limited to two rankings) and several other city mayors. Used in vacancy elections in *Northern Ireland* and in local elections in *Scotland*
- **New Zealand**: Used to elect mayor of several cities, including the capital city of *Wellington* since 2003.

## The Portland Experience with RCV

In 2011, voters in Portland (ME) elected their mayor with **ranked choice voting**. The system allowed voters to rank candidates in order of their preferences: first, second third, etc. The *Portland Press Herald* wrote an editorial on November 13, 2011 that praised the system and included: "The result was an interesting conversation about Portland and its future that would not have happened in a 'turn-out-your base' election. The debate helped clarify the job description for Portland's mayor, and it will make life easier for [Mayor] Brennan."

- ✓ Turnout was 50% higher than election officials had projected.
- ✓ Of 20,212 ballots cast, 20,180 (99.8%) were valid.
- ✓ Michael Brennan was elected with 56% of the final round vote.
- ✓ An exit survey found that: 41% of respondents experienced less negative campaigning and only 9% percent more; 45% felt more inclined to vote for their preferred candidate and only 1% percent less; and 39% said they gathered more information about candidates than in past elections and only 9% said less.

## Ranked Choice Voting has key benefits:

- ✓ Upholds the value of majority rule
- ✓ Helps voter turnout by giving voters more choice and avoiding runoffs
- ✓ Promotes more positive, issue-based campaigns because candidates will reach out to more voters to be a backup choice
- ✓ Avoids 'vote-splitting' problems – voters can rank their favorite candidate and still help defeat their least favorite candidate
- ✓ Avoids the added taxpayers costs and campaign demands of runoff elections

## Elections: Ranked Choice Voting

- Complete the ovals like this ● Fill in the 1st oval next to your first choice, then your 2nd oval next to your 2nd choice and so on until you have ranked all your choices.
- Pick a *different* candidate for each choice.
- You may rank as many choices or as few choices as you wish.
- Fill in no more than **one oval per candidate** and fill in no more than **one oval per column**.

(Rank Candidates in order of choice. One oval per candidate. One oval per choice).

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Roosevelt, Ted	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks, Rosa	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Anthony, Susan B.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Washington, George	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
(Write In)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Advice for Voting:** Mark your favorite as your top-ranked candidate, followed by your compromise choices. Ranking a compromise does NOT hurt your favorites

**How Count Works:** If no candidate has majority of first choices, the instant runoff begins. Last place candidates lose and their ballots are added to the totals of candidates ranked next. Counting continues until the winner earns a majority. Your lower rankings count **ONLY** if your 1st choice loses.