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 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

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd Choice</th>
<th>4th Choice</th>
<th>5th Choice</th>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

How to Count: 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.