

# Why do we need Ranked Choice Voting?

More and more people are getting involved in the political process by running for office, and voters are faced with more choices than ever - which is a good thing! But our traditional "first past the post" elections aren't built to fully reflect the will of the voters on a crowded ballot.

- 1. RCV ensures winners with majority support.** In a crowded field, traditional plurality elections often result in a winner with only 20-30% of the vote, which means that 70-80% of voters voted for someone else! RCV allows voters to express support for multiple candidates and tabulates votes until a candidate reaches the 50%+ threshold.
- 2. RCV rewards candidates who build consensus.** Candidates are required to appeal to a broader coalition of voters, beyond just their base. They will need a combination of deep and broad support to win so they must reach out and attract new supporters.
- 3. RCV diminishes negative campaigning.** Candidates are disincentivized from mudslinging, since they will need second or third place votes from supporters of their opponents if they're going to win. Negative campaigning alienates voters and makes it much harder to build that coalition needed for victory.
- 4. RCV eliminates the "spoiler effect."** Because you get to rank more than one preference, there's no possibility of vote-splitting. Voters don't have to be pundits - they can vote for the person they truly support without worrying that they're siphoning votes away from anyone else. No candidate is told to "wait their turn," which allows more candidates to get in the race.
- 5. RCV benefits more "non-traditional" candidates.** For a variety of reasons, RCV has been shown to elect more candidates who are BIPOC, women, or are less politically established. Without the spoiler effect, more women and people of color run for office. And because there's no vote-splitting, there's no electoral disadvantage to more than one person running from a particular demographic.
- 6. Easy to understand.** Consistently, polls show that the vast majority of voters who use RCV understand and like it. From New York City to Alaska, voters who use RCV overwhelmingly agree that it's a better way to elect their representatives.

## Where is RCV used?

