

Ranked Choice Voting In Arlington

WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING (RCV)?

Ranked choice voting is a voting method in which voters rank candidates in order of preference (1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice).

If your 1st choice candidate is eliminated during tabulation, your vote is transferred to your 2nd choice candidate. If your 2nd choice candidate is eliminated, your vote is transferred to your 3rd choice candidate.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RCV?

- Ranking multiple candidates allows you to still have a voice in who gets elected even if your top choice does not win.
- Encourages positive campaigning among candidates.
- Ensures candidates with the broadest support win the election.
- Encourages more diverse candidates to run.

WHO IS ELECTED USING RCV?

Currently, RCV is only being used for the office of County Board in the Democratic Primary Election being held on June 20, 2023.

WHY IS ARLINGTON USING RCV?

The Arlington County Board unanimously approved the use of RCV for the June Democratic primary election in December 2022.

HOW ARE VOTES TABULATED WITH RCV?*

All 1st choice votes are counted. If no candidate has reached the threshold to win, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Votes from the eliminated candidate are then transferred to 2nd choice candidates. This process continues until the required number of candidates to be elected reach the threshold to win.

HOW IS THE THRESHOLD TO WIN DETERMINED?

The number of seats in a race determines the threshold of votes needed to win. The following formula is used to determine the threshold:

$$\frac{\text{Number of ballots cast for office}}{\text{Number of seats to be filled} + 1} + 1 = \text{Threshold}$$

*Per Virginia Code § 24.2-673.1