

City Of Portland, Maine

Ranked Choice Voting



How our Mayor will be chosen using Ranked Choice voting:

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) also known as Instant run-off voting (IRV) allows a voter to rank multiple candidates for a single office. This November the City of Portland will use RCV to elect our Mayor.

How does ranked-choice voting work?

To start, every voter's first choice vote is counted. If any candidate receives a majority (50% +1) of first choice votes, that candidate is declared the winner. If no candidate receives a majority, a process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes begins.

First, the candidate who received the fewest number of first choice votes is eliminated from the race.

Second, voters who selected the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their vote transferred to their second choice.

Third, all the votes are recounted.

Fourth, if any candidate has a majority after the recount, that candidate is declared the winner. If no candidate has a majority of the votes, the process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes is repeated until one candidate has a majority.

Proper Procedure:

The voter selects one candidate in each ranking column, rank as many or as few as you wish.

	Choice				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Write-in:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Common mistakes:

Skipped Ranking:

Is when a voter skips a ranking column. In the example below the voter ranked candidate E. as their first choice, if that candidate is eliminated the voter's fourth ranked candidate (A.), becomes their second choice.

	Choice				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
E	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-in:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Multiple Ranking:

Is when a voter chooses a single candidate in more than one ranking column. Below, the voter chose candidate A. as their first three ranked choices. The vote only counts once for that candidate. If that candidate is eliminated, the voter's fourth ranked candidate (D.) becomes their second choice.

	Choice				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-in:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Over-vote:

Is when a voter chooses more than one candidate in any ranking column. The ballot becomes invalid when the over-vote occurs, in accordance with Maine Statute 21-A. Below, the voter ranked candidate C. as their first ranked choice. If that candidate is eliminated the ballot would be invalidated.

	Choice				
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Write-in:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

For more information

Stop by:

Portland City Clerk
389 Congress St. Room 203
Portland, ME 04101

Website: www.portlandmaine.gov/voter/voter.asp