

Domenic DeLuca

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Good morning esteemed members of the committee,

My name is Domenic, and I am here as a registered voter in Connecticut to express my strong support for the introduction of ranked choice voting (RCV) in our state.

Ranked choice voting is an innovative, yet straightforward approach to elections that benefits both voters and candidates. It empowers voters to express their preferences and eliminates the need for strategic voting. Overall, it allows us to vote for who we truly believe in. This method promotes a diversity of thought in voting and is a more democratic process giving people the ability to express more than a de facto binary in their aspirations from their government.

Moreover, RCV can lead to more civil and issue-focused campaigns. Candidates can run on more nuanced ideas, even if their campaign only leads to coming in 3rd or 4th. Effectively, this acts as a poll on what people want. In an age where polling conducted by private institutions only samples a tenth of a percent of voters, allowing people to truly demonstrate what they want can act as a direct sample of the voting population. These votes toward special interests can allow the eventual governing parties to change and guide their own platforms and agenda.

When candidates recognize the need to be the second or third choice of their opponents' supporters, they are more likely to engage in constructive discourse and less likely to resort to negative campaigning. This ultimately enriches the quality of political debate and strengthens our democracy.

Importantly, ranked choice voting also reduces the problem of "vote splitting," where similar candidates divide the support base, inadvertently helping a less popular candidate win. This ensures a more accurate reflection of voter preferences and helps elect leaders who have true majority support.

Other states and cities have successfully implemented ranked choice voting, showing that it not only works but is appreciated by voters for its fairness and simplicity.

Most notably, the state of Maine allows for ranked choice voting in all their elections, including the president. Since implementation, voter turnout in Maine has increased from 68.6% in 2012 and 69.92% in 2016 to 76.3% in 2020. Preliminary 2024 data shows turnout in Maine to be 75.51%.

It's time for Connecticut to join this wave of progress and set an example for inclusive, modern voting practices.

I urge the committee and the legislature to pass measures that will bring ranked choice voting to Connecticut. Let's give our citizens the power to express their full voice at the ballot and elect leaders who truly represent us.

Thank you for considering this important reform.