

Nov. 2, 2024

Senator Osten, Senator Hwang and distinguished members of the Governor's Ranked Choice Voting Working Group:

My name is Melinda Tuhus and I live in Hamden.

When I lived in Boston in the 1970s, I was puzzled to see signs in Cambridge for political candidates that always said "Vote #1" for one's candidate of choice. Now I understand that Cambridge used rank choice voting.

I am a supporter of Voter Choice Connecticut and the Unitarian Society of New Haven's membership in UU the Vote, which promotes more and better forms of voting.

I am testifying in favor of implementing Ranked Choice Voting in Connecticut for state, local and federal elections.

I'm a registered Democrat, which enables me to vote in all-important primaries, but politically and philosophically I am an independent. I have spent almost every election voting the "lesser evil" candidate, not the one I support more, who is often from a "minority" party. Doing so would make me "a spoiler," and likely send the election win to the candidate I favor the least.

I believe that reasonable (i.e., not violence-promoting) third (and fourth, etc) party candidates bring essential ideas into our political debates, and they should always be included. And if we vote for them, we should not be "throwing away" our votes. That's why I support Ranked Choice Voting.

I recognize that there may be state constitutional barriers to adopting RCV for state and federal offices, but in addition to proposing legislation to implement RCV for party primaries and municipal elections, I encourage you to pursue legislation that would allow the use of RCV for all elections.

Sincerely,

Melinda Tuhus  
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