

Ranked choice voting saved the Virginia GOP

“Virginia Republicans were about to be a third party in a two party state.”

CHRIS SAXMAN





Party primaries are the best use for RCV



- The Virginia GOP hadn't won a statewide election since 2009, and Joe Biden won in 2020 by 10 points. Mainstream pundits wrote the party off for dead.
- The Republican Governors' Association did not budget Virginia for the 2021 election.
- Then, Virginia Republicans started used RCV to pick their nominees.
- **Ranked choice voting was critical to winning three statewide races and winning back the House of Delegates.**

Virginia Republicans' history with RCV



OFFICIAL BALLOT Republican Party of Virginia Convention MAY 8, 2021



INSTRUCTIONS FOR RANKED CHOICE VOTING

1. **Circle** the number 1 next to your first choice candidate, the number 2 next to your second choice, the number 3 next to your third choice, and so forth.
2. **Do not** use the same column twice for any office. All choices must be different.
3. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Otherwise your vote might not count

GOVERNOR (Rank up to 7 candidates)	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	4 th Choice	5 th Choice	6 th Choice	7 th Choice
Glenn A. Youngkin	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Amanda Freeman Chase	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Peter Doran	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sergio de la Peña	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Peter A. "Pete" Snyder	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Octavia L. Johnson	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

- 2020: RCV used to choose party Chairman
- 2021: RCV used to choose statewide candidates
- 2022: RCV used in four congressional primaries

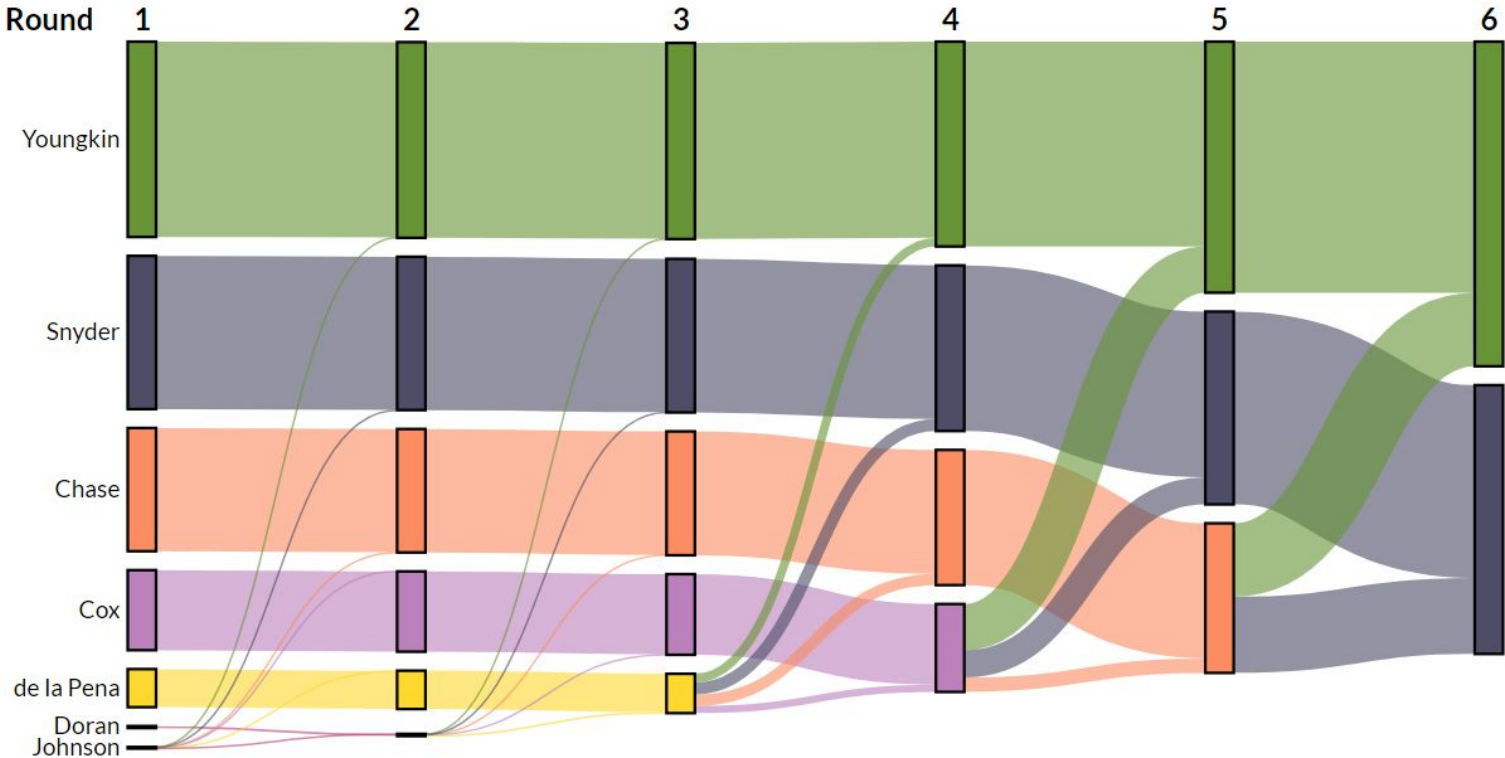
RCV primaries strengthen nominees



- RCV in Virginia kept the party united as it rebranded itself with a more diverse yet conservative ticket, and saved the two party system in the process.
- RCV made the 2021 campaigns less acrimonious because candidates had to appeal to more voters – including those who prefer other candidates.
- Candidates chosen with RCV appealed to all elements of the party, giving them momentum and energy heading into the general election.
- **Research proves that candidates nominated with majority support do better in general elections.**

**In 2021, Republicans used
RCV to nominate
candidates for Governor,
Lieutenant Governor, and
Attorney General – and
swept all three offices**

RCV nominees unite the party



Source: The Republican Party of Virginia

2021: Virginia GOP sweeps statewide elections



- Virginia Republicans united quickly and enthusiastically around candidates who won a majority of the vote in the primary.
- Glenn Youngkin won a competitive general election, and his coattails helped Republicans take back the House of Delegates too.
- Since taking office, Youngkin has given more control over education back to parents and cut taxes by \$4 Billion.



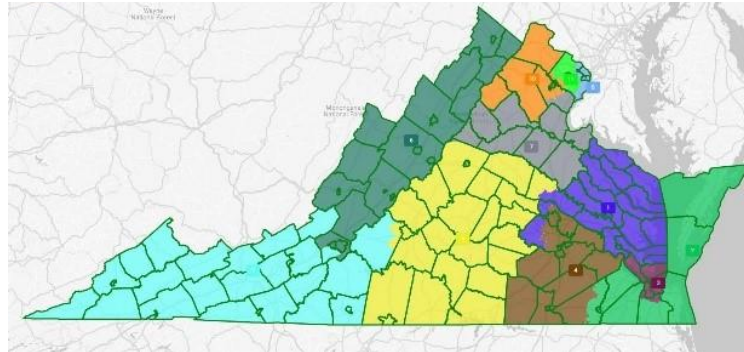
“When a primary yields a majority winner, that means more voters are bought in and likely to turn out for that candidate in the general election.”

– GOP strategist Eric Wilson

2022: RCV nominees defy expectations



- In 2022, the Center for Campaign Innovation polled Republican primary voters in two Congressional Districts – one that used RCV and one that used plurality voting.
- They found that the RCV-nominated candidate (Hung Cao) had a higher net approval rating than the plurality nominee.
- Cao came closer than expected in the general election, nearly flipping a deep blue seat.



Republicans like RCV



- A majority of Virginia primary voters (56%) who used RCV in Republican congressional primaries reported that they prefer it to single-choice elections.
- In the Virginia GOP's 10th District RCV primary, 84% of voters said the Republican candidates ran a somewhat or mostly positive campaign, compared to 59% of the 7th Congressional District, which did not use RCV.

Ranked choice voting is "quite simple. Next to my name, hopefully I'm your candidate, put number one."

- Hung Cao

Ranked choice voting saved the Virginia GOP

“The 2021 elections brought the Republicans back from near extinction. RCV was critical to that.”

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