

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

I am a supporter of Voter Choice Connecticut and I am writing in favor of implementing ranked choice voting in Connecticut for state, local and federal elections.

Over the past few years, Connecticut has made significant progress towards strengthening our freedom to vote, especially by making it *easier* to vote. As a volunteer election official working this year at both early voting and Election Day polling places, it was gratifying to see how many people took advantage of early voting.

Not only was it easier to cast a vote, but the mood at the polls was a million miles away from the national discourse of supposed citizen rancor and party warfare—voters were happy, excited, and grateful for this long-overdue change. The huge numbers of early voters bear that out.

But strengthening our democracy requires more; it requires that winning candidates better reflect the will of the people. That is what Ranked Choice Voting delivers.

Too often, elections today seem to deprive voters of meaningful choices, feature increasingly toxic campaigning, and advance candidates who lack broad support. When candidates win without a majority, voters feel like their voices aren't being heard.

I've spoken to too many young people who believe that our system is irrevocably broken, that the choices of candidates offer no hope for meaningful representation—to them, if this is democracy, they'd rather sit things out, or worse, they're rooting for the system to implode.

Ranked Choice Voting is an election reform that gives voters more choice and produces winning candidates who better represent the will of the majority.

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,
Barry Rahmy
Simsbury