

To the Governor's Working Group for Ranked Choice Voting

Allow me first to express my gratitude for your work looking into Rank Choice Voting as an option for the State of Connecticut. While I have been an advocate of RCV for years, I believe that this provides a unique opportunity for both the state as well as the Governor to position themselves as leaders in electoral reform, and institutional trust.

In the hearing many members of third party organizations testified of RCV's potential to allow for voices outside of our two party system to be heard. While I don't disagree with this benefit of the system, I want to be sure to outline RCV's benefits to the existing status quo. As we perform the autopsy of the Harris campaign, the Democratic Party finds itself in need of a road map for how best to recapture the popular vote.

By utilizing Ranked Choice Voting in presidential primaries, voters will be able to express what platforms they would like to endorse, as oppose to what platforms they feel compelled to back. Even if these fringe candidates do not manage to become the nominee, it allows the party to identify the desires of voters that legitimately make it out to vote. This allows for course correction to ensure they can drive the same turn out when it comes to the actual election.

RCV also benefits the Red minority in the state as well by allowing the vote of the average Republican to go further. When the only influence you can have over your party's performance on the national level is determining who the nominee is, being able to vote without the fear of the spoiler effect goes a long way.

In terms of feasibility. It is no secret that RCV was resoundingly defeated in various states in this last election cycle. From what I've read, the primary determining factor to the public's rejection comes down to difficulty to understand. While I will agree that voter education will be important to the mission, I would like to point out that in many of these ballots, RCV was paired with other electoral reform initiatives like open primaries. Keeping the messaging simple and not overcrowding the ballot, adding to its complexity would go a long way towards getting across the finish line.

Do not let this opportunity go by. It would set Connecticut as a leader in electoral reform in an age where our institutions are deeply mistrusted. It would provide Democrats necessary feedback on messaging to capture the imaginations of the country at large. It would provide breathing room to an otherwise disenfranchised CT Republican minority. And in a time where other states have failed it provides our leadership an opportunity to shine as a political machine capable of taking on the issues of the day.

For when it comes to our elections, if nothing changes, how are people to reclaim their faith?

Thank you again for your time.

Chase Trahan