

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

Elections

My name is Elizabeth Litt; I am from Newtown, CT. I am testifying in favor of implementing ranked choice voting in Connecticut for state, local and federal elections.

I treasure my right to vote; I never miss an opportunity to make my voice heard by voting. However, in our currently hyper-polarized political environment, extremist and exhibitionist candidates get outsized attention and opportunity, and more moderate candidates, who might actually attract many voters, don't stand a chance of getting elected. Candidates can win even though a majority of voters prefer other candidates; as a result, many voters feel that they can't make their voices heard.

Ranked Choice Voting gives voters more choice and produces election outcomes that represent the will of the majority. With RCV, candidates don't have to worry about splitting the vote, and voters don't have to worry about wasting their vote on a candidate with no chance of winning. Candidates are more likely to address issues and less likely to attack other candidates, because they need to seek 2nd and 3rd choice support; they want to appeal to a broader range of voters, rather than pandering to the extremists in their party.

Ranked Choice Voting is a win for democracy. I support adopting Ranked Choice Voting for federal, state and local elections in Connecticut and urge you to propose legislation for RCV for party primaries and municipal elections, as well as pursuing legislation that would allow the use of RCV for all elections. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Litt

Newtown, CT