

November 8, 2024

I am writing to express my opposition to the adoption of ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Connecticut. I am deeply concerned that it introduces unnecessary complexity, voter confusion, and potential unintended consequences that could undermine the integrity of our Democratic elections of **one person, one vote**.

One of the primary drawbacks of RCV is its complexity. Traditional voting methods are straightforward: voters select the candidate they believe is best suited for office, and the candidate with the most votes wins. RCV, on the other hand, asks voters to rank candidates in order of preference, which can be confusing and time-consuming, especially for those unfamiliar with the system. Studies have shown that voter errors, such as improperly completed ballots, increase with RCV, leading to higher rates of ballot disqualification and ultimately disenfranchising some voters, particularly seniors and those less familiar with the system.

Additionally, ranked choice voting rarely delivers on its promise of ensuring majority support. In many cases, a candidate can win despite not being the top choice of a majority of voters, as lower-ranking preferences can result in outcomes where a significant portion of voters are still dissatisfied. This runs counter to the fundamental democratic principle of electing leaders who reflect the clear choice of the majority.

RCV can also create confusion and diminish trust in election outcomes. Under our current system, voters and candidates alike understand who has won by a simple, transparent process. In contrast, RCV requires multiple rounds of tabulation and transfers of votes, which can feel opaque and lead some voters to question the fairness or transparency of the results.

Rather than changing the voting method, I believe we should focus on reforms that increase voter participation, ensure transparency, and make it easier for all citizens to understand the voting process and its outcomes. Simplifying ballots, improving access to polling stations, and investing in voter education are just a few alternatives that can strengthen our democratic system without the drawbacks associated with ranked-choice voting.

Thank you for considering my concerns on this important issue. I hope that you will take into account the dangers of RCV undermining our Democratic processes and support election methods that are simple, transparent, and truly representative of the voters' will.

Sincerely,

John Zachos

Newtown, CT