

IN SUPPORT OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

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

My name is Lynne Bonnett, I live in New Haven, CT.

I am testifying in favor of implementing ranked choice voting in Connecticut for state, local and federal elections.

In the recent past years I have witnessed what I consider a disservice to the voters of our community. Our local representative to the City of New Haven Board of Alders "won" his seat with 40% of the vote from our community because there were three people in the race. While he may have won anyway with ranked choice voting it is also possible that he would not have won. Ranked choice voting would have allowed our community to have a representative that is more truly chosen by the people that live here.

Likewise, the recent mayoral election in New Haven featured four choices in the primary; New Haven has a majority of democrats in the electorate and whoever wins the primary wins the general election. It is not clear to me what would have happened if the election was done by ranked choice but I think that it would have been more fair. For that reason, I think that ranked choice voting is essential for towns that have a plurality of one party or the other to ensure that citizens have more choice in selecting their representatives.

National and state elections need more choices for selecting candidates as well, in my opinion.

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,
/Lynne Bonnett/
New Haven, CT
November 3, 2024