

Mr. Pinto and Honorable Ranked-Choice Voting Working Group Members,

The CT.GOV portal Ranked-Choice Voting website's "Resources and Documents" page "Study on demographic disparities using ranked-choice voting" article by Joseph A. Coll says "Findings...challenge research assuming that racial and ethnic groups are disadvantaged by RCV" (Ranked Choice Voting).

Further, "Under-Voting" is described by the paper as occurring "when voters do not rank as many candidates [for a single office only] as there are candidates available. This term may be misinterpreted as having a negative connotation, but the author points out that a voter may "under-vote because they would rather not vote than have their vote cast for a (sic) unpreferred candidate." As the study is only based on a set of five candidates where voters are asked to rank the five choices, it makes sense that each voter should cast no ranking for between one and four of the candidates. "Under-voting" may be more commonly used to describe the lack of a vote cast for down-ballot contests, and should not be confused with the definition in the paper. In general, the evidence in the paper supports the paper's conclusion that, "a large majority of respondents found ranking to be easy" and "little to no evidence of differences in difficulty were found among racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups".

I interpret the article's findings as being a positive for the opportunity of Ranked Choice Voting in Connecticut, and I support RCV.

The debate between our future Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas and her opponent in 2022 was marked by large differences in election policy positions. But both Secretary Thomas and her opponent agreed that Ranked-Choice Voting was not right for Connecticut. Connecticut centrists who desire solutions, and see the positions of many Connecticut Republicans and Democrats as extreme, may conclude that the opposite may be true, and that the time for Ranked-Choice Voting has come.

Ranked Choice Voting in Connecticut, and elections in Connecticut generally, can benefit from a state administered website which encourages all candidates to upload a candidate statement as is done in the State of California. Such statements were mailed to California voters tailored to the voter's place of registration, but current technology allows this to be done without printing and postage costs.

Thank you.

William Kirschner

Berlin