



My name is Carol Platt Liebau and I am the president of Yankee Institute.

I am here to testify in opposition to ranked choice voting.

At a time when Americans' trust in their institutions – and election integrity -- is at all-time lows, we should be making voting and ballot counting simple, trustworthy and transparent. Ranked choice voting does just the opposite.

Voters rank multiple candidates. Vote counting can go through multiple rounds of adjusting and recounting before a winner is declared. In the New York City Democratic party RCV mayoral primary in 2021, there were [eight rounds of vote tabulation](#). The 2022 Oakland, California mayor's race took [nine rounds of tabulation](#) to reach a winner. It's difficult for voters to understand the voting results or how they actually occurred. That lack of transparency breeds distrust in our system and electoral outcomes.

In fairness, sometimes this distrust may be warranted. RCV can make election administration very complicated. As a result, in 2022, [one California county even certified the wrong winner](#) in its school board race. One wonders how many other mistaken outcomes simply haven't been detected by election administrators.

Ranked choice voting also makes it harder for people to vote. When it comes to voting, it should be easy to vote and hard to make a mistake. With RCV, it's the opposite. Ballots are longer and more complex. It's easier to overlook a bubble that needs to be filled in. But a double vote, a stray mark, or a missed vote can mean a vote won't be counted ... or even that the entire ballot will be thrown out. Yet many of the same people who insist it's too difficult for people to get voter ID are strangely confident that these same voters will easily navigate complex multipage ballots with many choices in them.

Third, ranked choice voting raises the odds that some voters' ballots will be "exhausted" and simply won't be counted in the final tally. Voters often stop voting before they reach the end of their ballots, especially if they're long and detailed. But if they stop before fully completing the

ranked choice ballot – for example, they “rank” just one candidate – their ballot won’t be counted. They’ve been effectively disenfranchised. [Common Cause New York found black voters were 2.5 times more likely to have this happen than their white counterparts.](#)

Connecticut’s people deserve elections that are reliable, trustworthy and transparent. Ranked choice voting makes it harder for people to vote, harder for them to verify the process, and easier for them to be disenfranchised. It’s the wrong choice for the Constitution State.