



NEW YORK CITY CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Ranked Choice Voting in New York City



RCV in NYC Outline

1. Introduction
2. What is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)?
3. How does RCV Work?
4. Reasons to Rank
5. Next Steps

Open Discussion & questions



Campaign Finance Board & NYC Votes

WHO WE ARE

The CFB administers NYC's public matching funds program, provides campaign finance disclosure, and engages voters through the NYC Votes initiative.

Charter mandate to conduct voter education and outreach campaign introducing Ranked Choice Voting to New Yorkers.



Campaign Finance Board & NYC Votes

OUR WORK

Together with our partners and volunteers, the CFB & NYC Votes:

- ◆ Inform all New Yorkers with what they need to know to participate in our democracy
- ◆ Engage underrepresented communities through outreach initiatives

If you're interested in working with us on civic engagement work throughout the year, reach out: nycvotes@nyccfb.info



NYC government outreach about RCV

CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

The CFB is designated by the Charter to conduct a voter education campaign to familiarize voters with ranked choice voting.

NEW YORK CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The BOE is designated by State law to administer all elections in NYC, including RCV elections for municipal office.



What is Ranked Choice Voting?



What is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)?

RCV is a new way for voters to elect their representatives

- ◆ Voters can rank up to 5 candidates in order of preference, instead of choosing just one.
- ◆ This gives voters more say in who wins, increases civility, and can lead to more diverse candidates winning.

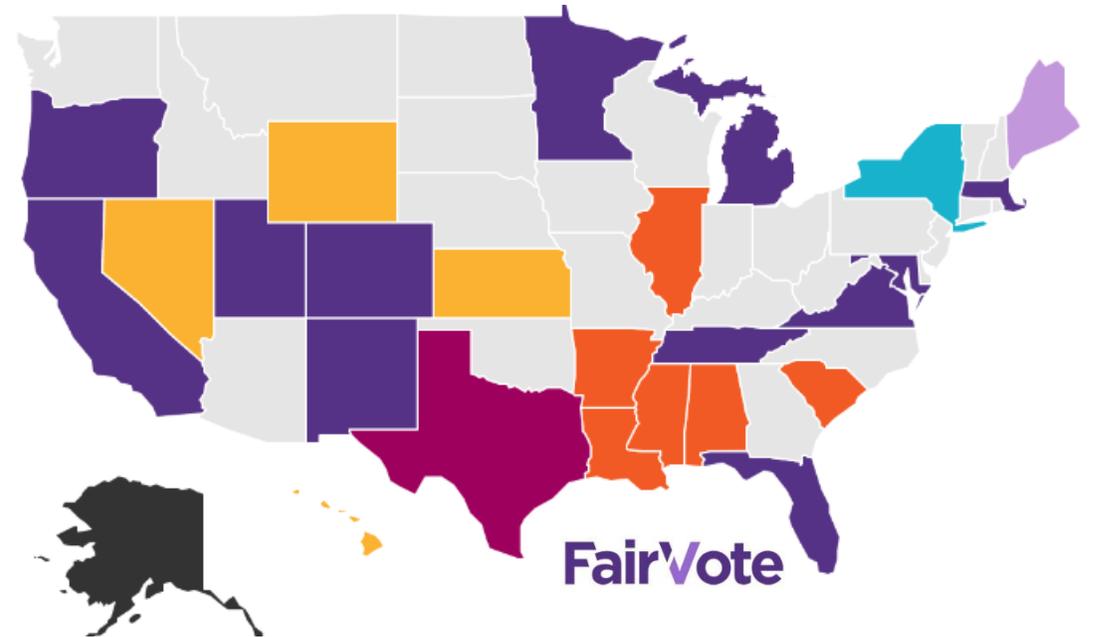
	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Who uses RCV?

- ◆ 17 U.S. cities (including San Francisco, Minneapolis and Santa Fe)
- ◆ Maine (+ Alaska soon)
- ◆ the Academy Awards



- Presidential Primaries in 2020
- RCV Used for primaries and special elections
- RCV used Statewide
- RCV used for Party Elections
- RCV used/enacted for local elections
- Ranked Ballots for Military & Overseas Voting
- Used Statewide/Presidential Primaries in 2020



How did RCV get to NYC?

The 2019 Charter Revision Commission voted to create **Ballot Question #1**, to establish ranked choice voting in primary and special elections for local office, effective January 1, 2021.

- ◆ **73.5%** of New York City voters voted **YES**

How did RCV get to NYC?

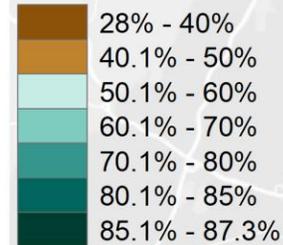
The map on the right shows the percent of voters who voted YES on Ballot Question 1 in 2019 by Assembly District.

This analysis was done by CUNY Center for Urban Research

2019 General Election Ballot Proposals Proposal 1: Elections/Ranked Choice Voting *Certified results, by Assembly District*

Ballot Proposal 1 (Elections)

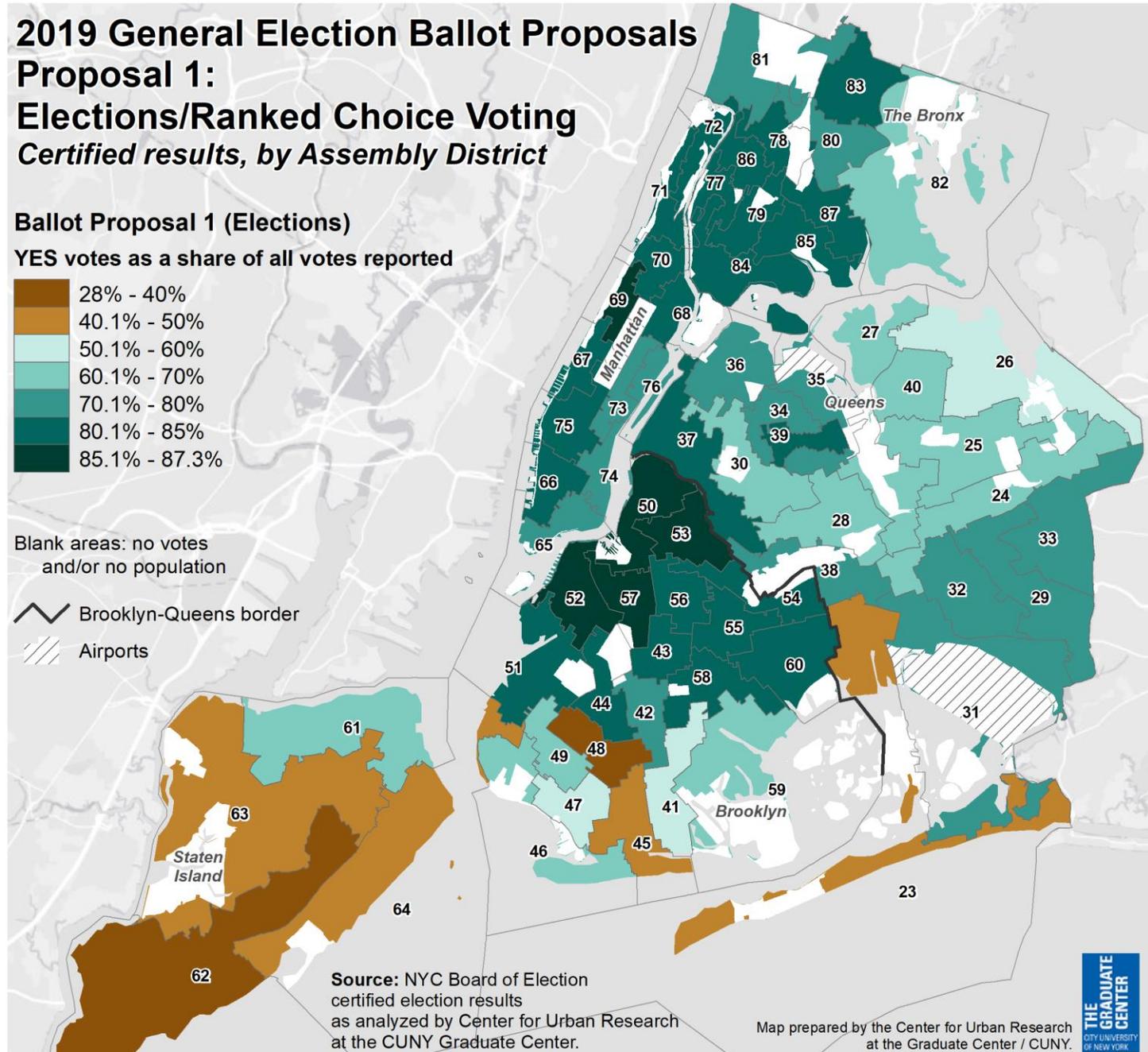
YES votes as a share of all votes reported



Blank areas: no votes and/or no population

Brooklyn-Queens border

Airports



Source: NYC Board of Election certified election results as analyzed by Center for Urban Research at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Map prepared by the Center for Urban Research at the Graduate Center / CUNY.



RCV in NYC

- ◆ Effective January 1, 2021
- ◆ Used in special & primary elections for city offices
- ◆ All 5 city offices:
 - ◆ Mayor
 - ◆ Public Advocate
 - ◆ Comptroller
 - ◆ Borough President
 - ◆ City Council
- ◆ Not used in general elections
- ◆ Not used for Federal or State races like President, Congress, or Governor
- ◆ Not used in local races like District Attorney and Judgeships



How does RCV change City elections?

Single-choice elections

- ◆ Voters choose only one candidate for each office and the candidate with the highest number of votes wins.

Voters **will still use single-choice elections** for:

- ◆ All elections for Federal, State, and some local offices like District Attorney
- ◆ General elections for city office



How does RCV change City elections?

...With **runoffs** for citywide office

- ◆ If no candidate received more than 40% of the total primary election vote for Mayor, Public Advocate, and Comptroller, a run-off election took place

Ranked choice voting **eliminates all runoff elections**



How does RCV work?



Ranked Choice Voting Video Explainer

English <https://youtu.be/jqpst3uY-0w>

Español <https://youtu.be/FTxrd5-cnjlw>

中文 <https://youtu.be/q3EqR2noH3o>

한국어 https://youtu.be/5qMU_6JNFIY

বাংলা <https://youtu.be/AxZKsA9Wd7w>



Steps for Marking a Ballot

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



- ◆ Pick your first-choice candidate and completely fill in the oval next to their name under the 1st column.
- ◆ If you have a second-choice candidate, fill in the oval next to their name under the 2nd column.
- ◆ You can rank up to 5 candidates. You can still choose to vote for only one candidate if you prefer.



Steps for Marking a Ballot

- ◆ All candidates who qualify for the ballot will appear but voters can rank a maximum of 5
- ◆ To vote for a candidate whose name is not on the ballot:
 - ◆ Write the name on the “Write-in” line and fill in an oval to rank your choice

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE F	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE G	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE H	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE <u>Candidate X</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Ballot Marking Error

Overvoting

Do not give multiple candidates the same rank

- ◆ If you do, it will not be clear who you intended to vote for
- ◆ *This invalidates your ballot*

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Ballot Marking Error

Duplicate ranking

Do not rank a candidate more than once

- ◆ If you do, only your top ranking for them will count.
 - ◆ *This does NOT invalidate your ballot but you run the risk of your vote being exhausted*

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>				
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>				
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>				
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>				
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>				





Main takeaways for voters

- ◆ Rank only one candidate in each numbered column.
- ◆ Do not rank the same candidate more than once.
- ◆ Remember you can always ask for another ballot!



Main takeaways for voters

- ◆ You can rank up to five candidates, but you do not need to rank a total of 5.
- ◆ If you rank 5 candidates, five votes do not get counted. You always only have 1 active vote.



Main takeaways for voters

- ◆ Ranking other candidates **does not** harm your first choice. Your vote will go toward your 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th choice **only if** your top choice is eliminated
- ◆ This gives you more say in who wins!



When to expect results

As we saw in 2020, the winner of some races might not be known on election night

- ◆ The BOE must accept absentee ballots 7-13 days after the election
- ◆ RCV tabulation process can happen in a matter of minutes but requires all ballots be opened and all first-choice votes counted



NEW YORK CITY CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Reasons to Rank



Reasons to Rank

- 1. Voters have more say in who gets elected**
- 2. Candidates are more likely to appeal to a wider audience**
- 3. Voters elect more diverse candidates**



You have more say in who gets elected

- *Even if your top choice does not win, you can still help choose who does*
- *You can vote for your top choice first, without worrying about who is likely to win*



Candidates are more likely to appeal to a wider audience

- *Candidates who are not your top choice still need your 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th choice vote, leading them to appeal to you instead of attacking each other*
- *More civility and less negativity*



Voters elect more diverse candidates

- *Elected officials are more representative of the communities they serve*
- *In cities with Ranked Choice Voting, more women candidates and women candidates of color get elected*



When will RCV be used?



Past 2021 Specials

Queens Council District 24 (February 2nd)

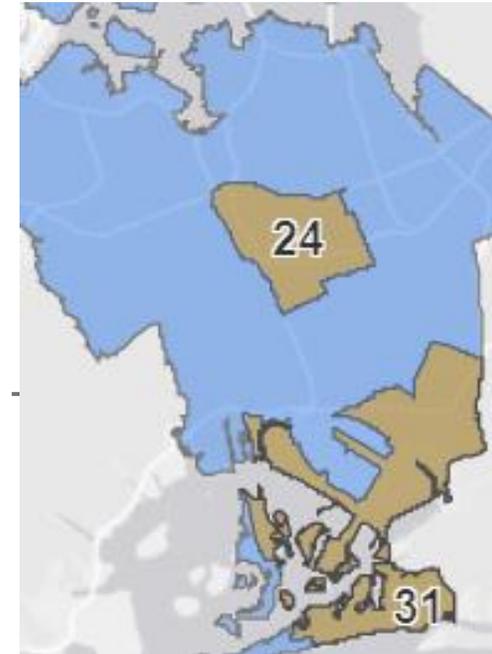
- ◆ Voters elected James F. Gennaro

Queens Council District 31 (February 23rd)

- ◆ Voters elected Selvena Brooks Powers

Bronx Council District 11 & 15 (March 22nd)

- ◆ Awaiting results April 14th





Citywide Primary Elections

June 22, 2021 (early voting June 12 - 20)

All voters registered to a political party holding a primary

- ◆ Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller
- ◆ 5 Borough President races
- ◆ 51 City Council races



Voting resources!

NYC Campaign Finance Board

- ◆ General voting information: voting.nyc
- ◆ RCV Resources page: nyccfb.info/rcvresources
- ◆ RCV Video: youtube.com/user/nyccfb

- ◆ Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: [@nycvotes](https://twitter.com/nycvotes)



Other voting resources

NYC Board of Elections

- ◆ Poll site locator: <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>
- ◆ Accessible Voting info: <https://vote.nyc/page/accessibility>
- ◆ Twitter & Instagram: [@boenyc](#)



Contact information

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Open Discussion and Questions!