

In Support of Ranked Choice Voting for Chicago Municipal Elections

Prepared by member Abigail Nichols for the League of Women Voters of Chicago

Although it has many strengths, improvements to Chicago’s Election System could better advance the League of Women Voters’ policy to “support election systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable, and enhance representation for all voters” In all the ways that it could.ⁱ Rank Choice Voting would greatly improve representation and might, therefore, improve voter turnout. The League of Women Voters of Chicago should join the groundswell of advocates for Ranked Choice Voting for Chicago elections.

Brief History of Chicago’s Nonpartisan Municipal General Elections

Law governing Chicago’s nonpartisan mayoral elections was enacted by State legislation in 1995. It was first used in 1999. The replacement of the previous plurality partisan primaries (with a general election) was in reaction to the election of the city’s first Black mayor, Harold Washington in 1983, against the preference of the Chicago Democratic Party.

Chicago’s City Council elections have been nonpartisan since 1920.

Democracy Depends on the Participation of Its Citizens, But Few Chicagoans Vote in Municipal Elections

In 2023 the rate of participation by registered voters was 36.85 percent in the Chicago municipal general (February) election. Voting by those eligible to vote was still lower because not everyone who is eligible registers to vote; less than two thirds of eligibles register to vote in Illinois.ⁱⁱ

American voter turnout is generally low; surveys document that voters are disengaged from elections and politics. This is most true at the local level because municipal races tend to have less publicity and more modest campaigns than statewide and federal races. In comparison, Chicago’s turnout in the 2020 Presidential election was 73 percent.

Chicago is not unique in having low voter turnout for municipal elections. In 2021 voter turnout in New York City’s municipal elections was 23 percentⁱⁱⁱ Voter turnout in the 2017 municipal election in Los Angeles was 20.1 percent.

“Voter Fatigue” Contributes to Low Turnout

Chicago makes it very easy to vote; Chicago has mail-in voting, early voting, and same day registration. Why do so few people vote? This is a complex issue, but another factor may be “voter fatigue”

Voter fatigue develops when voters have elections at different times and have a lot of them. Chicagoans vote at different times for Federal, State and County officials than they vote for municipal officials. Elected jobs include judges and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation Board. Additional elections are being added for members of the Councils on Public Safety and for the Chicago School Board. A recent report identified 8,923 units of local government in Illinois. This includes 2,826 general purpose governments and 6,097 special purpose governments.^{iv}

Aligning elections is one way to increase turnout. To increase turnout for municipal elections Los Angeles aligned municipal elections with State and federal elections. Although there were other factors, the change resulted in an increase of votes for the mayor from 365,000 in 2017 to more than a million votes in 2022.^v In fact, in 2022, 5 percent more votes were cast in the Los Angeles mayoral election than Angelinos cast in the US Senate race.^{vi} Too many elections may be a factor explaining why Chicago’s municipal election turnout is low compared to voting in federal elections.

Runoff elections are an example of election burden that can contribute to voter fatigue. Runoffs require voters to go to the polls twice for the same election. Although there was a slight increase in voter turnout for Chicago’s 2023 runoff compared to the general election (38.6 compared to 35.85), in 2019 fewer voters showed up for the runoff than had for February general election.^{vii}

Holding Elections in the Winter May Decrease Turnout

Under State law Chicago’s municipal elections are held in February. For those who prefer in person voting to mail in voting, a sudden snowstorm or icy sidewalks close to election day may make voting difficult. Changing the date would be a State issue and therefore under the purview of the League of Women Voters of Illinois.

Chicago Election Results Don’t Represent the Will of All Voters” When An Election System Gets Results that Don’t Represent Voter Views, Voters Are Further Discouraged.

Chicago has “two round” municipal elections. If no one receives more than 50 percent in the first round, an election called the municipal general election, the top two vote-getters advance to a second-round runoff. When faced with the possibility of a runoff, primary election votes can be seen as “wasted” on a candidate who doesn’t have a chance to make it to the runoff. Furthermore, polling and other information may indicate to voters that their candidate is doomed to lose so it is a “waste of time” to vote.

The existence of “wasted votes” in mayoral elections has recently emerged in Chicago. The number of “wasted votes” has greatly increased in the last two general municipal mayoral elections.

In the first few nonpartisan mayoral elections following the 1999 changes, there were fewer candidates, and with one the Democratic Party favorite, that candidate usually garnered more than 50 percent of the votes in the general election so there was no runoff (1999, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2011). Then in 2015 there was a runoff after none of the five candidates garnered more than 50 percent of the vote. However, the top two who went to the general election had 79 percent of the total vote cast in the general election so that “wasted” votes might be a problem wasn’t as apparent as it was after the elections of 2019 and 2023.

In the 2019 Chicago mayoral election there were 14 candidates in the general municipal election. Votes were split among candidates to such an extent that the runoff candidates – Toni Preckwinkle and Lori Lightfoot – together received less than 35 percent of the first vote. More than 65 percent of the electorate had voted for someone else – their votes didn’t count. These numbers were smaller in 2023 when the top two among nine candidates garnered 55 percent of total votes cast. Still 45 percent of voters preferred someone else. Increasingly, “wasted” votes are seen as a problem.^{viii}

There is another type of elected vote that is likely less a factor in Chicago’s municipal elections than some other elections such as the Presidential primaries. When who is running is fluid, early voters may vote for a candidate who has dropped out of the race after the ballot has been printed. (And, of course, voters may not know their candidate has withdrawn even if they vote on election day itself.)

Wasted votes also exist in Council elections. Chicago has had nonpartisan runoff elections since 1920. This paper has not looked at the extent to which concerns have been raised about wasted votes in Council elections. But the situation exists: there have been one or more runoff elections in every municipal election since 1999 – the only period examined. In the 2023 municipal elections there were 14 Council runoffs in addition to the mayoral runoff.

This paper does not analyze other Chicago municipal elections for which Ranked Choice Voting could be appropriate, e.g., the City Clerk, the City Treasurer, the Community Commissions for Public Safety and Accountability, and the upcoming first elections for the Chicago School Board.

Plurality Elections with Many Candidates Favor Extreme Views and Winners Don’t Know What the Entire Electorate Wants

In any election, “wasted” votes mean that many votes don’t count. But those elected might still share the views of the electorate at large. But this may not happen. This happens when votes split among many candidates benefit the extremes. Moreover, when votes are split among many candidates, it is difficult to assess whether the candidates who advanced to the runoff election accurately reflect voters’ preferences. There were four 2023 city council races where the top two candidates advanced to the runoff with less than 50% of votes combined.

When votes are split among many candidates with similar views, an extreme candidate, beholden only to the small part of the electorate can have an advantage. Even if the winning candidate has ideas which are similar to those of losers, that winner will necessarily pay more attention to his supporters than to the electorate at large. (The role of political parties in ameliorating this problem is something to look at further.)

Strategic Voting Adds Another Distortion to Election Outcomes as a Measure of Voter Preferences

Another distortion of voter preferences comes from “strategic voting” in plurality runoff elections such as those used in Chicago.

More competition should be a good thing; it gives voters more choice on the ballot. However, the choice can feel artificial, since a vote would be most wisely cast on a candidate who has a chance at making the runoff election. Many voters feel torn between voting for their favorite candidate and attempting to have a say in which candidates make the runoff. As a result, voters cast their ballots “strategically,” i.e. for a candidate they think can make the runoff rather than for their honest favorite.

Polls published before the election can affect voters’ efforts to be strategic. A candidate who otherwise might be a popular choice may be doomed by poor performance in an early poll. Further, constant flip-flopping in the polls makes it difficult for voters to figure out which candidates have the best chance,

and therefore how to cast their vote most effectively. This calculus especially disadvantages early voters, who sent in their ballots without the latest polling.

Strategic voting is, no doubt, a factor in how Chicagoans vote. An article in Chicago Magazine by Edward Robert McLellan describes his own calculations and those of others as to who they should vote for February 28, 2023, given their favorite candidate is unlikely to make the runoff.^{ix}

Besides Leading to Unrepresentative Results, Runoff Elections are Expensive

Runoff elections are increasingly common in Chicago, and they expensive in terms of public money spent on running a second election. (Even more private money is spent on the candidates' runoff campaigns). The estimated cost of a Chicago runoff election is more than \$3 million.

Is Ranked Choice Voting An Election System Change That Better Supports The Goals Of Participation and Representation?

Edward Robert McLellan's article on strategic voting mentioned above has a longer title, "Why You Should Vote Strategically in the Mayoral Election: Until ranked-choice voting comes to Chicago, many can't vote for their preferred candidate if they want to be strategic." He favors Ranked Choice Voting, should we?

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Across the US voters are seeing problems with their election systems.^x There is growing interest in alternatives.^{xi} The one getting the most attention is Ranked Choice Voting. It is theoretically better than current plurality systems, and it is being increasingly adopted successfully at all levels of State and local elections.

Under Ranked Choice Voting voters rank their choices. If no candidate wins more than half the first choice votes, A second round of tabulation occurs. In that tabulation the candidate with the fewest first choice votes is eliminated. The second choice of the voters choosing that candidate are reallocated among the remaining candidates. If someone now has more than 50 percent of the votes, counting ends and a winner can be announced. If after two rounds of tabulation, no one has more than 50 percent of the votes, the second-round candidate who has the least votes is removed and the second or third choices of that candidate's voters are reallocated. This process continues until someone has the support of more than 50 percent of the voters.

A simple example of ranked choice voting might be a large family's decision making about what flavor ice cream to buy when the freezer has room for only one flavor. Table 1 shows that if Mom asks for a show of hands for what to buy, vanilla has the most votes, but about 58 percent favor something else. But with ranked choice voting, first banana and strawberry were eliminated. After three rounds more than half the family liked blackberry well enough.

Table 1: The differences between Plurality Voting and Ranked Choice Voting: Which Single Flavor of Ice Cream Will Most Satisfy the Family

Candidate name	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3
Blackberry	29.1% 350 votes	31.2% 375 votes	52.0% 625 votes
Vanilla	41.6% 500 votes	45.8% 550 votes	47.9% 575 votes
Strawberry	20.8% 250 votes	22.9% 275 votes	
Banana	8.3% 100 votes		

How Ranked Choice Voting Would Have Worked in the Chicago's 2023 Municipal General Mayoral Election

A ranked choice ballot would look like the current ballot with additional columns. Voters could mark second, third, fourth, etc. Law would determine the number of choices voters could mark. The number was five for the first New York City Ranked Choice Voting. New York City used Ranked Choice Voting for 2021 partisan primary elections. Voters could rank up to five out of 13 candidates in the Democratic primary.

The ballot might look something like this.

Table 2. Sample Chicago Election Ballot 2023

Mayoral Candidates	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	Fourth Choice	Fifth Choice
Ja'mal Green	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sophia King	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kam Buckner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Willie Wilson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Brandon Johnson	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paul Vallas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lori E. Lightfoot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roderick T. Sawyer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jesus "Chuy" Garcia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-In	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

We don't know who would have won with Ranked Choice Voting. No results have been released from any poll that used Ranked Choice Voting during the campaign period. What we have are the results from the election itself. In Table Three candidates are listed in descending order of the percentage of votes they received in the February 28, 2023, Municipal General Election.^{xiii} Since no candidate garnered more than 50 percent of the votes, the top two went forward to a runoff. Unless there was a tie, which was unlikely, one would and did get more than half the votes and a winner declared.

Table 3: Outcomes in Chicago’s February 28, 2023, Mayoral Election as a Percentage of Votes Cast

Candidate	Round One	Round Two	Round Three	Round Four	Round Five
Paul Vallas	32.90%				
Brandon Johnson	21.63%				
Lori E. Lightfoot	16.81%				
Jesus "Chuy" Garcia	13.68%				
Willie L. Wilson	9.13%				
Ja'mal Green	2.17%				
Kam Buckner	1.96%				
Sophia King	1.27%				
Roderick T. Sawyer	0.43%				
Six Write-In's (29 votes)	0.00%				
Total Votes	564,524				

Under ranked choice voting, a second tabulation would occur. Roderick Sawyer and the write-in votes would be eliminated. The second choices of Sawyer’s voters would have been added to the votes of the remaining candidates. If after the second round, no one had more than 50 percent, the same thing would happen again. The votes of voters for Sophia King (eighth in number of votes) would be reallocated as well. This would all happen through computerized tabulation so it would happen very fast. Since the five candidates with less than 10 percent of the vote each had a total of about 15 percent of the vote, and the top vote-getter had 32 percent to start with, five rounds of tabulation might be needed to reduce the field to those with good support. A sixth round and maybe more rounds of tabulation would be necessary to find a winner. (This may mean that Chicago voters will need more than five choices to have every voice heard. It depends upon the number of candidates and the distribution of first votes. In general, plurality elections result in three times the number of “wasted” votes as does Ranked Choice Voting.^{xiii})

Why Is Ranked Choice Voting A Good Alternative To Chicago’s Current Plurality Runoff Hybrid System?

Ranked Choice Voting would change Chicago elections for the better.

Savings of time and money: The runoff would be instant, and voters would not have to return to the polls. The cities would not have to spend millions of dollars on renting space, election workers, equipment transport, rent space, postage, etc. for a new round of voting. Ranked Choice Voting would elect consensus leaders with just one election.

With Ranked Choice Voting, voters can confidently cast their ballot for their favorite candidate, knowing that if that candidate performs poorly, their vote counts towards their designated backup(s). Early and Election Day voters alike would not have to consult ever-changing polls to determine which candidates are viable enough to be worthy of a vote. As a result, Ranked Choice Voting can eliminate “wasted votes” and strategic voting.

Candidates also wouldn't need so much money to attract attention. Voters would be incentivized to look at a wider range of candidates, because they would have to think about who to rank second, third, etc. Candidates would not need to tear each other down to be heard in a crowded field. It is no surprise that both Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas are supportive of Ranked Choice Voting.

Experience Across the US Shows the Benefits of Ranked Choice Voting.

Ranked Choice Voting has a long track record. Australia has used Ranked Choice Voting for 100 years; Ireland has used it for 50 years. More than 60 U.S. American cities have adopted Ranked Choice Voting. These include New York City, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and Salt Lake City. Voters in Evanston, IL just voted to adopt ranked choice voting, with a whopping 83% in favor. Ranked choice voting is also used in non-public elections such as those for student bodies, unions, etc.^{xiv}

There is satisfaction with the new system. The one jurisdiction that returned to a plurality system then reversed itself again and returned to ranked choice voting.^{xv} Voters in Santa Fe reported increased confidence in the quality of the result. Public media reported problems the first time New York City used Ranked Choice Voting, but it turned out that the delays in tabulating results were election board problems. Citizens found voting simple and the eventual results were accurate. New York City held its first ranked choice election in 2021, when voter turnout shot up by 29%; New York City residents elected one of the most diverse City Councils in history and the city's second Black mayor.^{xvi}

The pandemic seems to have increased interest in ranked choice voting in situations where in-person gathering was precluded for public health reasons. For example, political parties that use conventions to select their candidates turned to ranked choice voting when face-to-face conventions weren't practical. The Utah Republican Party is a case in point.

Fair Vote's "Ranked Choice Voting Year in Review" 2022 report highlights Ranked Choice Voting's recent growth:

- Over 3 million people had access to Ranked Choice Voting ballots in 2022.
- Nearly 700,000 people had access to Ranked Choice Voting ballots for the first time in 2022
- 105 elections used ranked choice voting in 2022
- Voters in 8 jurisdictions voted to adopt Ranked Choice Voting, 2 local governments passed Ranked Choice Voting, and Hawaii established Ranked Choice Voting for congressional vacancies.

Voters like Ranked Choice Voting and find it easy to use.

- Nearly all voters (95%) - across every ethnic group – in New York City's 2021 primary elections found the ballot "simple to complete," and 77% supported using Ranked Choice Voting for future local elections

Voters do rank the candidates.

- A median of 71% of voters rank multiple candidates. For highly competitive races like New York City's mayoral, it's close to 90%.
- In all U.S. Ranked Choice Voting elections since 2004, 73% of ballots ranked the winning candidate in their top three.

Elected Officials Look More Like the Electorate Under Ranked Choice Voting

- Ranked Choice Voting helped New York City and Las Cruces, New Mexico, elect its first majority-female city council.
- California cities that adopted Ranked Choice Voting saw increases in candidates of color running for office and in the probability of female candidates of color winning office, according to a 2018 study.
- Candidates of color gain more votes in the round-by-round counting process than white candidates, indicating consensus-building, according to a 2021 study. Additionally, candidates of color in Ranked Choice Voting elections pay no penalty when competing against other candidates of the same racial or ethnic group.^{xvii}

Ranked Choice Voting can reduce negative campaigning.

- With Ranked Choice Voting, candidates benefit from being the second choice of their opponents' supporters. Some candidates in NYC cross-endorsed each other and campaigned together (most notably, Andrew Yang and Kathryn Garcia in the mayoral primary). Ranked Choice Voting incentivizes candidates to find common ground and keep campaigns positive and issue-oriented. Ranked Choice Voting also resulted in a more positive congressional primary in Virginia in 2022, and a more positive mayoral race in Santa Fe in 2018.

Interest in Ranked Choice Voting is Growing in Illinois

In November 2023 voters in Evanston chose ranked choice voting by the same process that Chicago could use to adopt Ranked Choice Voting. It appears that momentum is growing in Oak Park and Park Forest. The League of Women Voters of Illinois issued a statement of guidance after hearing from local Leagues in cities where interest in Ranked Choice Voting was growing. Both top running Chicago Mayoral candidates, Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas support Ranked Choice Voting. In May and June 2023 Fair Vote Illinois launched a Chicago initiative to obtain Ranked Choice Voting in Chicago. Fair Vote Illinois is seeking collaborators such as the League of Women Voters of Chicago to join its efforts.

Voter Education is an Important Component of Passing and Implementing Ranked Choice Voting

Voter education is a key component of Ranked Choice Voting implementation. Across the country, the League of Women Voters has been active in these voter education activities even when they had not taken a position on Ranked Choice Voting, e.g., Evanston, Illinois.

Money for boards of elections must cover voter education. However, the costs of education and the software changes for the equipment that reads and tabulates ballots will be small compared to the estimated \$3 million it takes to run a runoff election.

Experience Shows That Fears About Ranked Choice Voting Are Unfounded.

As detailed above, experience shows that voters understand and like Ranked Choice Voting. Ranked Choice Voting elections produce more robust data, allowing for a greater degree of transparency and external validation than traditional choose-one elections. Ranked Choice voting may put pressure on traditional power structures, but it is inherently nonpartisan. In Alaska's recent statewide both parties had victories; Alaskans elected Republicans for governor and Senator and a Democrat for the House of Representatives.^{xviii}

Hopes for Increased Turnout Have Not Yet Been Realized Everywhere.

Some research suggests that Ranked Choice Voting increases turnout, while other research shows it has no effect.^{xix} Turnout is most strongly driven by competitive campaigns and whether the election takes place in an even-numbered year. Other characteristics that are independent of the election method, such as media attention, also make it difficult to control for the impact of Ranked Choice Voting when studying turnout.

At the same time, Ranked Choice Voting may improve turnout by consolidating the general and runoff election into a single higher-turnout general election. For example, when NYC used Ranked Choice Voting in its 2021 primaries, that election had its highest turnout in over 30 years.

Illinois State Law Provides the Legal Structure by Which Chicago Can Obtain Ranked Choice Voting

Illinois constitution and law govern aspects of Chicago's elections. State law provides two methods for getting Ranked Choice Voting: 1) citizens could submit a petition to get an Ranked Choice Voting referendum on the ballot, or 2) the City Council could pass a bill to put the referendum on the ballot. With the citizen-initiated route, there is the risk that the Council could "bump" the Ranked Choice Voting referenda from a vote. This occurs because existing law allows them to limit referenda and pass others that would trump the citizen referendum.^{xx}

Evanston adopted Ranked Choice Voting in 2022 after the Evanston City Council passed a bill authorizing such referendum. Evanston will implement Ranked Choice Voting in their 2025 municipal elections.

Another approach would change existing State law. Illinois State Representative Kam Buchner from Chicago has introduced State legislation to allow city councils in home rule cities to adopt ranked choice voting without a referendum. This bill did not pass the recently adjourned General Assembly.

The Experience of Other Jurisdictions and Our Election Equipment Make Ranked Choice Voting Practical for Chicago.

Ballot design will be easier because of other jurisdictions' experience. Moreover, nonprofit entities such as the Center for Civic Design^{xxi} and the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center provide guidance on best practices.^{xxii}

Chicago uses Dominion voting machines that are already capable of 1) allowing voters to make ranked choices and 2) tabulating the results. What is required is a software change that would cost about \$50,000 to \$70,000.

There Are Actors and Organizations that Favor and Oppose Ranked Choice Voting

National proponents of Ranked Choice Voting are numerous. The leading advocate of Ranked Choice Voting is Fair Vote. Fair Vote has affiliated organizations that include the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center, Verified Voting, Democracy Rising, Unite America, and Rank the Vote. Other good government organizations like Common Cause, Public Citizen, and Represent Us are supportive without focusing on Ranked Choice Voting.

Prominent people behind ranked choice voting include Presidential candidate Andrew Yang and former Massachusetts Governor Bill Weld. Among the founders of Fair Vote in 1992 was former Illinois Congressman and Presidential Candidate John Anderson.

The number of Illinois champions is growing. Illinois champions include:

- Illinois State Representative Laura Murphy
- Illinois State Senator Maurice West
- Chicago Mayoral Candidates including Brandon Johnson, Paul Vallas, and^{xxiii}

The major organization leading the Ranked Choice Voting effort is Fair Vote Illinois, fairvoteillinois.org. Fair Vote Illinois was incorporated in 2020 as a 501c3 nonpartisan organization to advocate for Ranked Choice Voting. Other publications and organizations with positions favoring Ranked Choice Voting include The Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Sun Times, The Better Government Association, Reform Illinois, and Change Illinois.

Individuals and National Organizations Opposing Ranked Choice Voting also exist.

- House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy is on record as opposing Ranked Choice Voting as “woke” and a scam.
- Publications opposing Ranked Choice Voting include the National Review,^{xxiv}
- Organizations opposing Ranked Choice Voting include the Heritage Foundation, the Freedom Caucus, and .
- Four State legislatures have adopted legislation to ban Ranked Choice Voting in local elections.^{xxv} However, when the North Dakota legislature – one of the four -- banned local use of Ranked Choice Voting earlier this year, the Republican governor vetoed the bill saying, “House Bill 1273 undermines local control of local political subdivisions exercising their granted powers under home rule charter.”^{xxvi}

The Illinois Opportunity Project is a coalition of Illinois organizations that oppose Ranked Choice Voting.

The Illinois Opportunity Project is organizing opposition to Ranked Choice Voting saying it is “confusing and disenfranchising.” Coalition members include Stop Ranked-Choice Voting National Coalition, Illinois Election Integrity Program, Heritage Action for America, Honest Elections Project, Save Our States, Employment Policies Institute, YANA! Illinois, and the Chicago Republican Party.

ⁱ *Impact On Issues A Guide To Public Policy Positions Of The League Of Women Voters 2022 – 2024*, p. 14.

ⁱⁱ Bureau of the Census: Table 4a. Reported Voting and Registration of the Total Voting-Age Population, for States: November 2022

ⁱⁱⁱ [New York City Voter Turnout Hits Record Low For A Mayoral Election - Gothamist](#)

^{iv} [An Inventory of Local Governments in Illinois | The Civic Federation](#) 2021

^v Wikipedia.org on 2017 and 2022 Los Angeles Mayoral Elections

^{vi} <https://content.LAVote.gov/lacounty.gov/2022/12/05/certified-election-results-for-the-2022-general-election/>

^{vii} [Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago \(chicagoelections.gov\)](#)

^{viii} Document number of news stories.

^{ix} [Edward Robert McClelland – Chicago Magazine](#)

^x Alternative systems in widespread use are plurality systems where whoever gets the most votes wins. Chicago used a plurality system in partisan primaries before 1999 .

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- ^{xi} One alternative is “exhaustive ballot” system, the lowest vote getter is removed, and another round of voting occurs. Besides systems already in use, political scientist look for alternatives that best meet the criteria of being representative. Two interesting alternatives proposed as an addition to Ranked Choice are STAR and Approval Voting. STAR or “Score Then Automatic Runoff” allows voters to score each candidate on a scale and then the two candidates with the highest scores enter an automatic runoff, with voters’ ballots cast to whichever candidate they scored highest. With Approval Voting, voters select the candidates they approve of and the candidate with the most votes wins. The Voters Services Committee has chosen to focus on Ranked Choice Voting as an alternative that improves representation and which is actually in us. [Three Alternative Voting Methods: Pros and Cons - Giving Compass](#)
- ^{xii} Add sample ballot for 2023 mayoral election with first round results. Use same order as on original ballot
- ^{xiii} [Pros and Cons of Ranked-Choice Voting \(rankedvote.co\)](#)
- ^{xiv} Wikipedia, Ballotpedia, Fair Vote all have information on the various examples where ranked choice voting is used, e.g. [Ranked-choice voting in the United States - Wikipedia](#).
- ^{xv} Get information on jurisdictions that adopted RCV and then reversed themselves.
- ^{xvi} Get documentation.
- ^{xvii} https://fairvote.org/report/report_rcv_benefits_candidates_and_voters_of_color/
- ^{xviii} [Pros and Cons of Ranked-Choice Voting \(rankedvote.co\)](#)
- ^{xix} <https://fairvote.org/resources/data-on-rcv/#voter-turnout>
- ^{xx} Get references to State Constitution, State law, and local law.
- ^{xxi} <https://civicdesign.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CCD-RCV-Best-Practices-Ballot-Design-2022-1.pdf>
- ^{xxii} <https://www.rcvresources.org/ballot-layout>
- ^{xxiii} Get more information on this.
- ^{xxiv} [Elections: Ranked-Choice Voting a Mistake | National Review](#)
- ^{xxv} The State legislatures of North Dakota, Florida, Tennessee, and Idaho
- ^{xxvi} [Burgum vetoes bill that would have banned ranked-choice and approval voting - KVRR Local News](#)