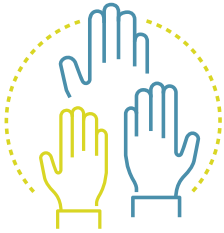


WASHINGTON VOTING JUSTICE COALITION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2023

HB 1592 RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES



No matter which values our communities hold most dear, we all want to elect a president who shares those values. But because of our current primary election system, many are afraid to vote their conscience, millions of votes are wasted on candidates who drop out, and the final candidates may not represent the values of the majority of their citizens.

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE?

RCV allows voters to rank candidates on their ballots in order of preference. If a candidate drops out before primary day or if they do not get enough votes to meet the primary threshold, their votes are redistributed to their voters' next choice candidate.

If we allow voters to rank their choices in the presidential primary...

- All voters could vote sincerely for their true values.
 - Under the current system, some voters feel like they have to vote strategically instead of voting their values. With RCV, voters do not have to worry about "splitting" the vote or wasting their vote.
- No vote would be "wasted."
 - In 2020, over 3 million votes were wasted on Democratic candidates who had already withdrawn from the race, representing over 8% of total votes. In 2016, nearly 2 million votes were wasted in the Republican primaries, or over 5%.
 - With RCV, voters who support candidates who drop out before primary day would have their votes counted for their second choice candidate.
- Candidates would be incentivized to run inclusive campaigns that respond to the needs of a wide variety of voters, instead of a narrow base

Ranked Choice Voting has been put to the test in 5 Democratic presidential primaries (Hawaii, Alaska, Kansas and Wyoming and early voters in Nevada), where they saw higher turnout, fewer wasted ballots, and high engagement with the ranking system.

WHO WE ARE

The Washington Voting Justice Coalition is committed to protecting and expanding voting rights across the state. We're a coalition of community-based organizations and individuals who believe that justice, participation, and the freedom to vote are the foundation of a real democracy. We believe that our vote is our instrument of change, and our tool to have a voice in our government.



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