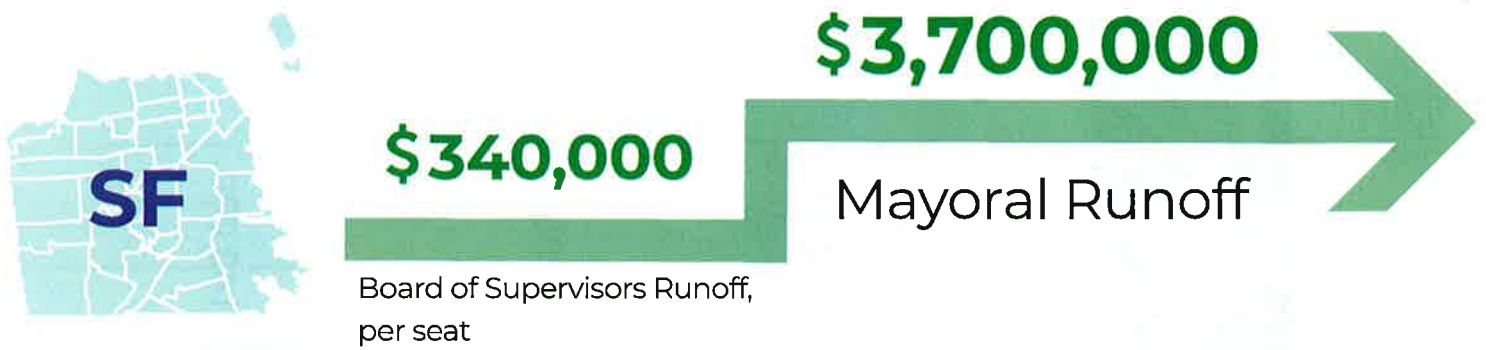


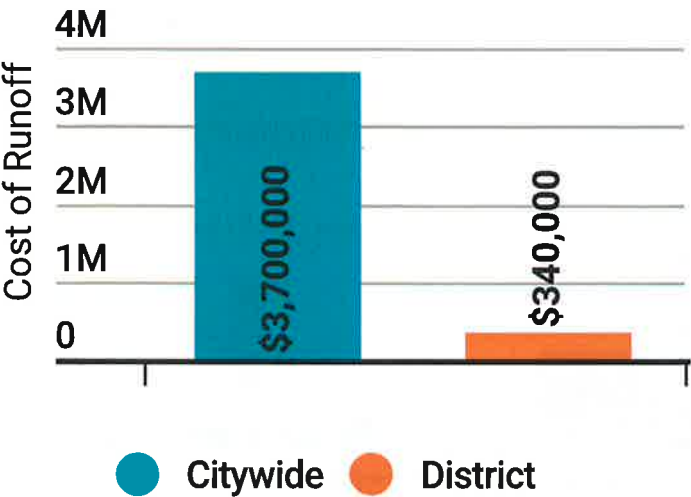
FV CA The Cost of Runoffs in the Bay Area

Since San Francisco, Berkeley, San Leandro, and Oakland use ranked choice voting (RCV) for local elections, they avoid costs associated with runoffs and primary elections. Total savings range by city size and type of election.

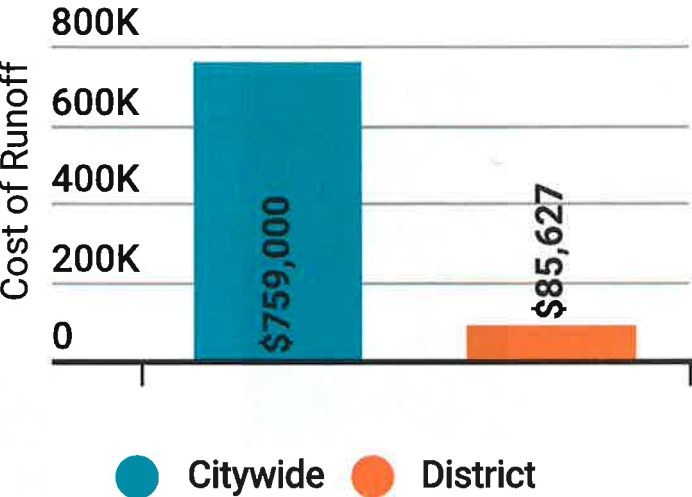


Without RCV, San Francisco and Berkeley would have an additional stand-alone runoff election following a November election. Here are the costs of these elections:

San Francisco¹

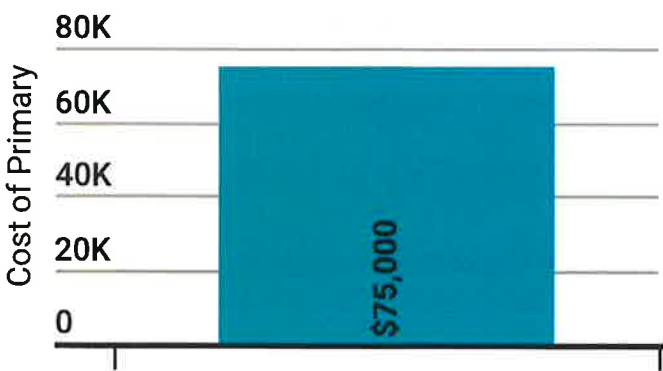


Berkeley²

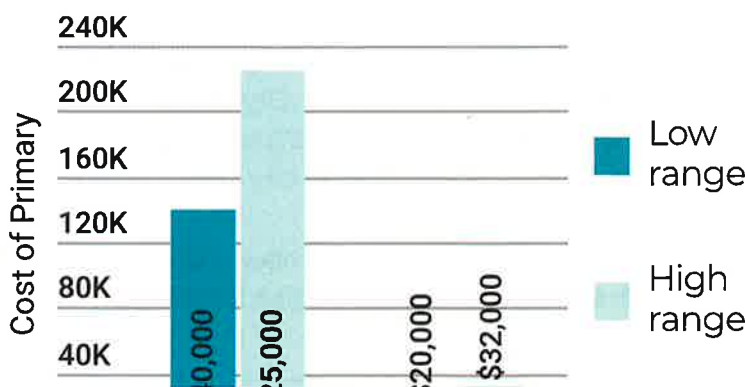


Without RCV, San Leandro and Oakland would have municipal races on their June primary ballots, in addition to the November general ballot. Here are the estimates for these primary races, based on per voter costs:

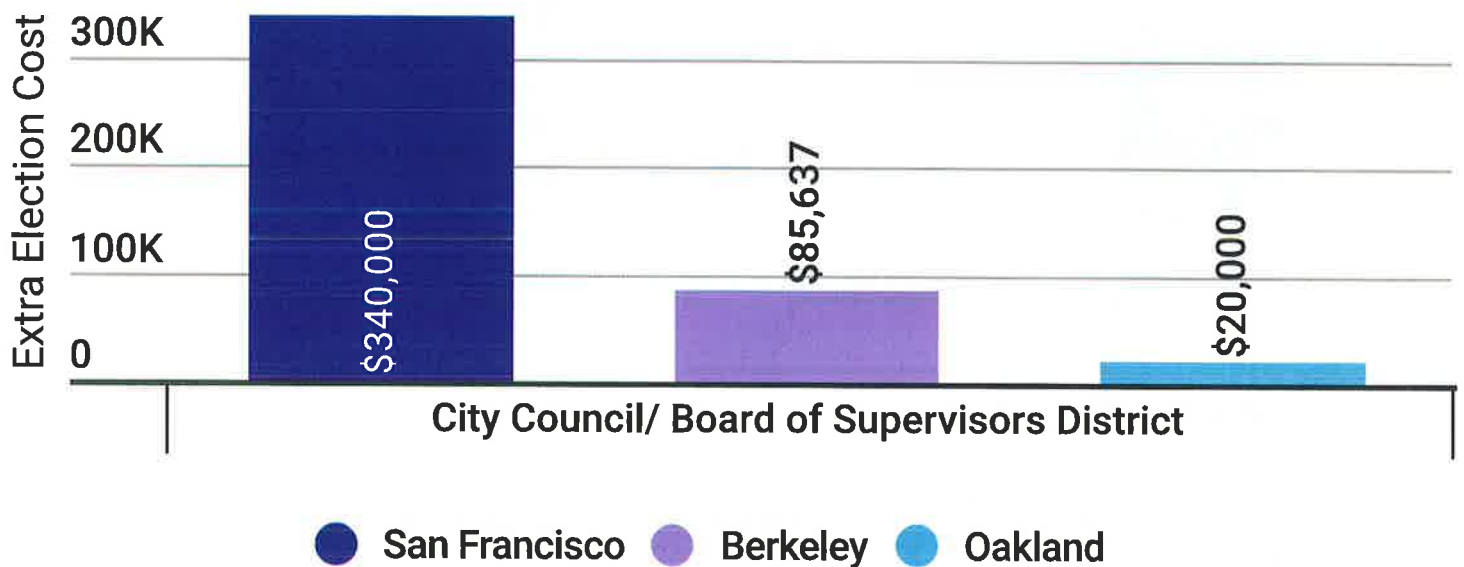
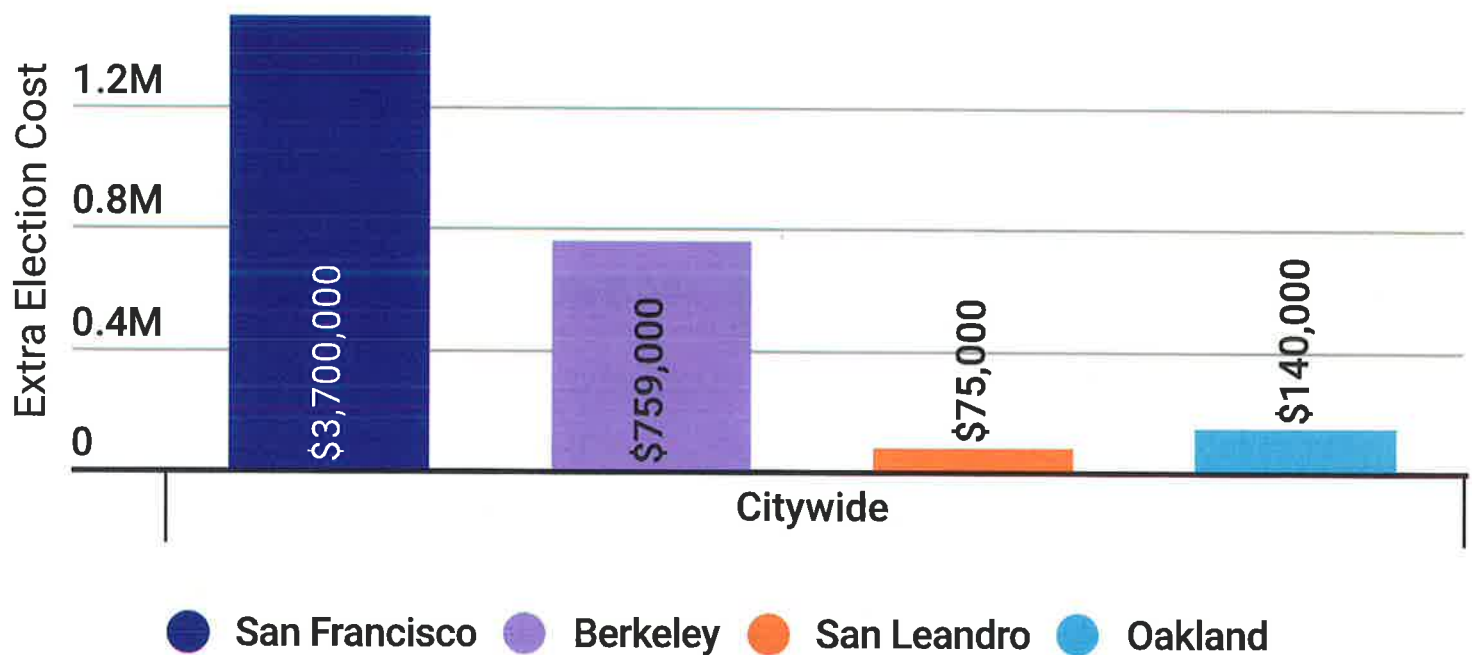
San Leandro³



Oakland⁴



FV CA The Cost of Runoffs in the Bay Area

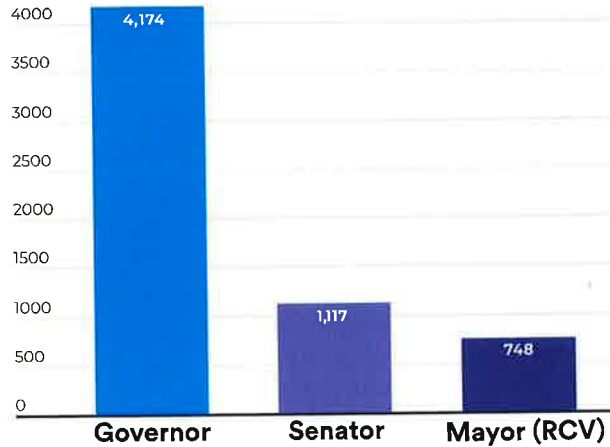


Sources

1. Letter from Ben Rosenfield, Controller, City and County of San Francisco, to Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, City and County of San Francisco (Jan. 12, 2016) (on file with author).
2. E-mail from Mark Numainville, City Clerk, City of Berkeley, to Pedro Hernandez, Deputy Director, FairVote California (Sep. 27, 2017, 16:05:18 PST) (on file with author).
3. Staff Report by Marian Handa, City Clerk, City of San Leandro (Jan. 19, 2010) (on file with author), available at <http://bit.ly/2ywxME5>.
4. Agenda Report by Councilmembers Pat Kernighan and Nancy Nadel, City of Oakland (Jun. 29, 2006) (on file with author) available at <http://bit.ly/2yTrMs0>.

Ranked Choice Voting and Voter Understanding in the Bay Area

Overvotes, June 2018



Overvotes

The June 2018 mayoral election in San Francisco using Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) resulted in the second highest voter turnout in SF history for Mayor. Voters cast very few overvotes on their RCV ballots. Only 748 ballots (0.30%) of the more than 250,000 cast had a disqualifying overvote. This was far fewer than in the non-RCV election for Governor, where voters were almost six times more likely to cast an overvote. Historically, overvotes in SF's RCV elections have been low compared to other voting methods.

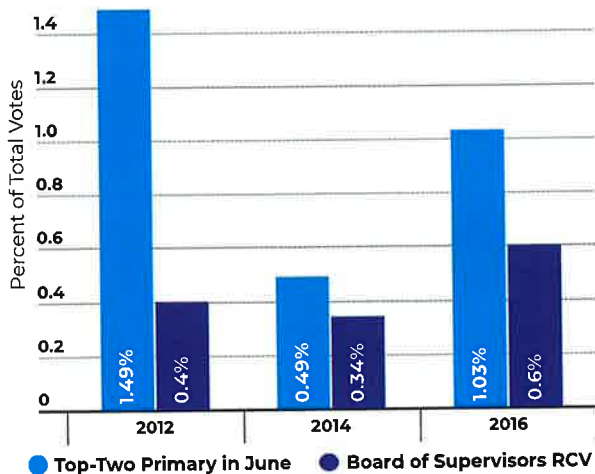
Understanding

There is no statistical difference in the rates that voters report understanding RCV versus other voting methods, including plurality and top-two runoff. A 2019 study found that there were, "[n]o differences within RCV cities between whites and people of color in reports of understanding voting instructions," and "no differences in RCV cities in how whites, African Americans, and Latinx respondents reported understanding RCV [as a voting system]."¹

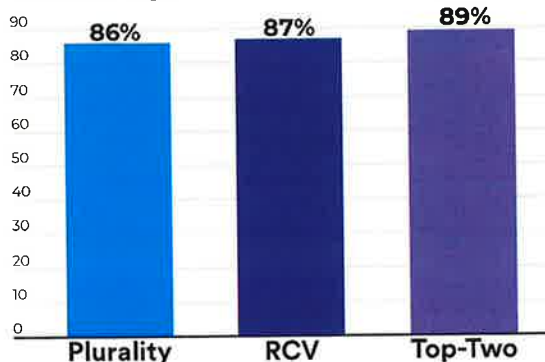
Preference

Voters prefer RCV to plurality and traditional runoff elections--an indicator of voter comfort with this method. For example, in exit polls after San Francisco first used RCV in 2004, 60.7% of voters said they preferred RCV, compared with only 12.7% who preferred the two-round runoff--a nearly 50% spread.² A decade later, a 2014 Rutgers Eagleton poll found that 57% of voters in the four Bay Area cities that use RCV (San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro) agreed that "ranked choice voting should be used in local elections" in their city.³ That same poll also found that a majority of voters in neighboring cities would prefer that their city adopt RCV.

Overvotes in SF Elections 2012-2016



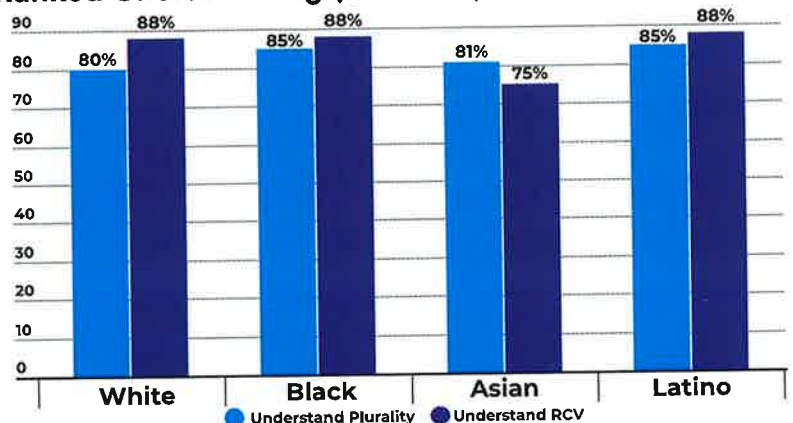
Self Reported Understanding of Election Systems (2019 Study)



¹ Donovan, T., Tolbert, C. and Gracey, K. (2019), Self-Reported Understanding of Ranked-Choice Voting. *Social Science Quarterly*, 100: 1768-1776. doi:10.1111/ssqu.12651

² Francis Neely et al., An Assessment of Ranked-Choice Voting in the San Francisco 2004 Election, Public Research Institute (May 2005), available at: archive.fairvote.org/sfrcv/SFSU-PRI_RCV_final_report_June_30.pdf

Voter Understanding of Plurality vs. Ranked Choice Voting (2014 Poll)



Percentage notes respondents who understood system, somewhat, very or extremely well.

³ John, Sarah and Caroline J. Tolbert, Socioeconomic and Demographic Perspectives on Ranked Choice Voting in the Bay Area, Ranked Choice Voting Civility Project Research Report #4 (2015) available at <https://fairvote.app.box.com/v/perspectives-on-rcv-bay-area>.