

Benton County citizens voted for ranked choice voting (RCV) several years ago and utilized it in the Fall 2020 election. We supported it as it is a proven electoral reform that enhances voter choice, eliminating the third party spoiler effect. RCV can save the cost of staging run-off elections; whenever an election remains contested, it allows for immediate run-off tally. I believe it keeps elections more issue oriented with less negative mud-slinging. A candidate would want to ensure that she/he is 1st or 2nd choice of voters; so they might well avoid alienating those voters with negative campaigning. In districts where used, it has increased voter participation, not only by increasing participation to the polls, but also by allowing more viable candidates to be willing to run for office.

RCV is now used in countries around the world, in cities and states like San Francisco and Maine; RCV is a great reform that will have a positive effect on our civic and political culture.