

Submitter: Pat Krikorian  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HB2004

## No to HB 2004 Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked choice voting is a scheme to disconnect elections from issues and allow candidates with marginal support from voters to win.

It obscures true debates and issue-driven dialogs among candidates and eliminates genuine binary choices between two top-tier candidates.

It also disenfranchises voters, because ballots that do not include the two ultimate finalists are cast aside to manufacture a faux majority for the winner.

In 2016 California Democrat Governor Jerry Brown Jr. vetoed a bill to expand ranked choice voting. He said it was "overly complicated and confusing" and "deprives voters of genuinely informed choice"

Such a system would present many opportunities to rig the electoral system.

Here are some more reason to reject RCV

- 1) Minor parties candidates will not have a chance to succeed, their votes will be given to the bigger party candidates.
- 2) You can't vote against a candidate. You have to rank every candidate running. If you only rank one candidate your ballot will be thrown out in succeeding rounds of voting.
- 3) The voting is still strategic. It is not a "way to voice yourself more thoroughly" as it is advertised to be.
- 4) Extreme candidates manage to get voted in.
- 5) Moderate candidates are squeezed out. Redirection and redistribution of votes creates distrust.
- 6) Ballot exhaustion. If you don't rank all candidates, your vote is thrown out completely in future rounds so essentially your vote never counted. The number of ballots counted in the last round is less than the number of ballots counted in the first round.
- 7) Low participation. Voter turnout has been measured in places with RCV and it constantly gets lower. People are not enthused by RCV.
- 8) It is confusing to voters. Confusion leads to lower turnout.

9) It opens up the door for more fraud. It is difficult to track ballots and takes weeks to count them. This system requires more handling of ballots, more transportation of ballots, more chain of custody issues, and more adjudication issues.

10) Delays result from above issues. Ballots are practically inauditable because of the ballot exhaustion. Instead of providing more transparency in elections, RCV makes it even muddier.

Pat Krikorian