

**Misconception: Oakland elections in 2010 and 2022 show that ranked-choice voting is problematic.**

In 2010, Oakland mayoral candidate Don Perata blamed ranked-choice voting for his loss. [But click this link to learn the facts about that instant-runoff election.](#)

In 2022, an administrative programming error in Oakland had nothing to do with the efficacy of ranked-choice voting. Human errors can affect all elections, both single-choice and ranked-choice. For example, in the November 2022 general election, errors were made in [offices across California](#) and the United States.

Election administrators in Oakland should have programmed vote-counting software to automatically advance a voter's next choice if a ranking was accidentally left blank. However, during the election, no vote was registered for those ballots. The wrong candidate was declared the winner until the error was discovered, after the votes were certified.

It's critical that voters have trust and confidence in our elections. Fixable voting errors, human or not, benefit from accountability and transparency measures. With so much public scrutiny of Oakland's election results, the programming error is unlikely to happen again.

The mistake in Oakland provided an opportunity for Alameda County and its vendors to develop and implement additional best practices for future elections. The newly formed Elections Commission, comprised of a broad representation of communities of interest, is based on ones already in use in San Francisco and Santa Clara County, and it will bring unprecedented transparency and accountability to the administration of elections.