

## [It's time for Ranked Choice Voting in Alameda](#)

Editor:

We have elections coming up in 2022. And it's time that we join other cities in our county and institute ranked-choice voting (RCV) in our local elections.

There are so many benefits to RCV over traditional plurality and first-past-the-post election techniques. It costs taxpayers less. It discourages negative campaigning. It widens the platform for more people to run for office — studies show that women and people of color are more likely to run and win in higher numbers with RCV. It means that you never have to vote strategically, choosing the “lesser of two evils” or avoiding “throwing away your vote” on your true choice.

Looking back over the last few local elections for city council, mayor, and school board, how often I've preferred one candidate but strategically voted for another! With RCV, I can rank my top choice as #1 even if I don't think he/she has a chance of winning. My second choice will still count as my choice if my first choice is eliminated. And of course, maybe my top choice did have support so maybe my candidate can even win. Under a traditional system this could never happen.

I worry that most of our local elected officials aren't in favor of RCV, and it's clear why — they got where they are now because of the current system. We can do so much better! I want to choose from a wider range of candidates in the upcoming elections that are more likely to represent my values.

Fortunately, RCV has a lot of grassroots support, including from the Alameda County Democratic Party, the California Democratic Party, and the League of Women Voters. Let's make ranked-choice voting a reality in Alameda — talk to your friends, neighbors, and City Councilmembers about it!

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