Why Ranked Choice Voting?

In California, ranked choice voting (RCV), also known as instant runoff voting, is used in local elections in Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Leandro. Nationally, California joins states like Colorado, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New Mexico that have cities using RCV. **RCV gives voters more voice and power to rank their candidates in order of choice.**

Promotes Fairness

Too often, candidates win elections despite being opposed by most voters. With RCV, winners must earn a majority of the vote, and are more broadly representative.

Eliminates "Vote-Splitting"

RCV makes elections more fair and representative because you always get to vote your favorite first. This allows you to vote for your true preference based on your hopes and values, instead of the fear of "splitting the vote" among candidates you like from the same community.

Fosters Civil Elections

In RCV elections, candidates will ask for your first choice support and also your backup choices. This encourages candidates to reach beyond their traditional base of supporters. Candidates who have run and won in RCV elections have been successful because of coalition building and effective relationship building with all voters.

Reduces Costs

With RCV, you don't need to vote twice since there is no primary or runoff election. Instead, you get a winner in a single high turnout election. This saves money and reduces campaign finance needs.

How Does Ranked Choice Voting Work?

Ranked choice voting gives voters the **freedom to rank candidates in order of choice**. If your favorite candidate can't win, your vote counts for your next choice, until some-one wins with a majority.
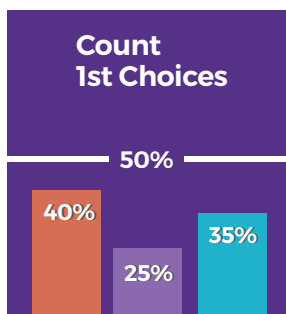
Rank candidates in order of choice.

Fill in "1" circle next to your 1st choice
Fill in "2" circle next to your 2nd choice
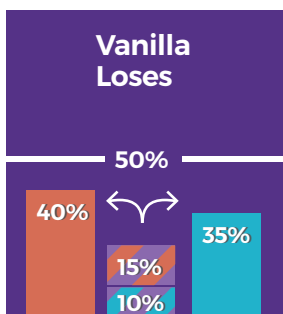Fill in "3" circle next to your 3rd choice

Things to remember:
Everyone has one vote. Ranking your favorite candidate more than once will not help them.

Indicating only one choice or "bullet voting," does not help your favorite candidate because a 2nd choice only counts if your 1st choice is eliminated.
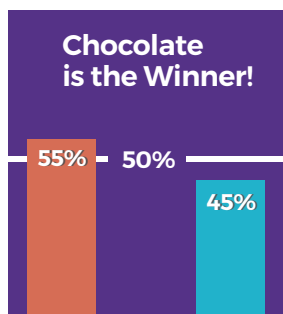
	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice
Chocolate	●	2	3
Vanilla	1	2	●
Strawberry	1	●	3

Count 1st Choices

- 40% chocolate
- 25% vanilla
- 35% strawberry
- 50% line

↑ Vanilla has the least amount of 1st choices

Vanilla Loses

- 40% chocolate
- 15% / 10% vanilla added
- 35% strawberry
- 50% line

↑ Vanilla votes are added to totals of each vanilla voter's 2nd choice

Chocolate is the Winner!

- 55% chocolate
- 45% strawberry
- 50% line

Legend:
- chocolate
- vanilla
- strawberry