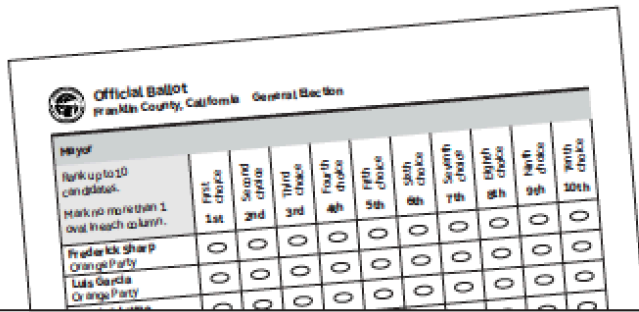# Ranked Choice Voting
What and why?

What is it?

With Ranked Choice Voting, you mark your preferences for the candidates in order, instead of just choosing one.

Why use it?

$ Saves Money
There don't have to be runoff elections if no candidate gets enough votes to win in the first round. Voters have already indicated their second preference.

Stronger Voices
Voters have a way to express preferences while still voting for their first choice.

Broaden Participation
Candidates have to appeal to people who might initially vote for someone else.

Marking your choices with Ranked Choice Voting

▪ **Do I need to rank all candidates?**
No, you do not have to rank all candidates.

You should rank **at least one candidate** as your 1st choice.

Then, you can rank as many as you want of the other choices available.

▪ **How does it affect my 1st choice?**
Ranking other candidates does not affect your vote for your 1st choice.

Only your 1st choice is counted in Round 1.
Your 2nd, 3rd, 4th and other choices will be considered only if your 1st choice does not win.

▪ **Under what circumstances can my first choice be eliminated?**
As the votes are counted, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated.

If your 1st choice is eliminated, your 2nd choice will be counted, and so on.

The elimination continues until there is a winner.

Learn more about how RCV works at www.elections.gov

How is the winner determined? Counting ballots with Ranked Choice Voting

The first candidate who gets 50% of the final votes wins.

Ballots are counted in rounds until a candidate wins.

Round 1

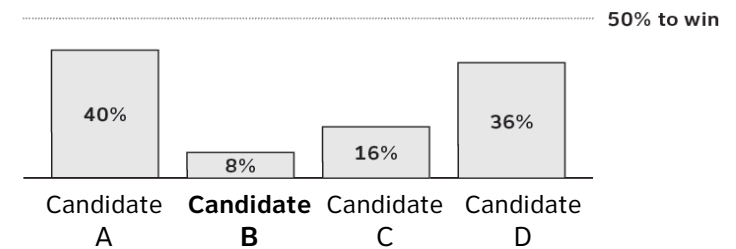**Only your vote for your 1st choice is counted.**

If a candidate gets 50% of the votes, they win.

If not, the counting goes to Round 2.

Your 1st choice for Candidate B is counted.

	1st	2nd	3rd
A		●	
B	●		
C			
D			●

When all the 1st choices are counted, Candidate A is leading, but there is no winner

50% to win

Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D
40%	8%	16%	36%

Round 2

The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated.

Ballots for that candidate are counted for their next choice (see illustration)
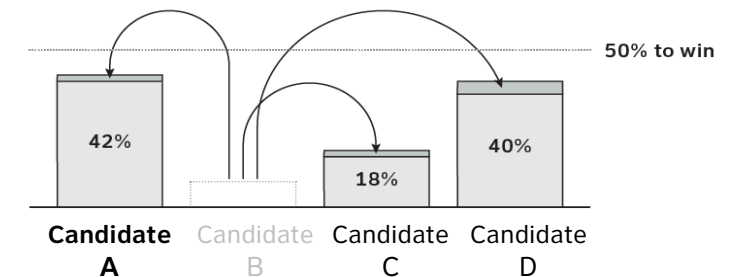
If your candidate has not been eliminated, your first choice still holds.

If a candidate gets 50% of the votes, they win. If not, the counting goes to Round 3.

Your next choice - for Candidate A - is counted.

	1st	2nd	3rd
A		●	
B	○		
C			
D			●

Candidate B is eliminated. Those ballots are counted for the next choice. Still no winner.

50% to win

Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D
42%		18%	40%

Round 3 (and beyond)

The counting continues until there is a winner.

In each round the last place candidate is eliminated and their ballots counted for the next choice candidates.

With Candidate A still in the race, your vote does not change

	1st	2nd	3rd
A		●	
B	○		
C			
D			●

Candidate C is eliminated. Those ballots are counted for the next choice. Candidate A wins.

50% to win

Candidate A	Candidate C	Candidate D
54%		46%