



NEW YORK CITY CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Emmanuel Baptist Church: Ranked Choice Voting in NYC

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New York City Campaign Finance Board



Campaign Finance Board & NYC Votes

WHO WE ARE

The CFB administers NYC's public matching funds program, provides campaign finance disclosure, and engages voters through the NYC Votes initiative.

Charter mandate to conduct voter education and outreach campaign introducing Ranked Choice Voting to New Yorkers.



2021 Citywide Elections

Positions

- ◆ Mayor
- ◆ Public Advocate
- ◆ Comptroller
- ◆ 5 Borough President races
- ◆ 51 City Council races

Key Issues

- ◆ Education
- ◆ Housing
- ◆ Transportation
- ◆ Small Businesses and jobs
- ◆ Health Care



2021 Citywide Elections

Citywide Primary

June 22, 2021 (early voting June 12-20)

All voters registered to a political party holding a primary

General Election

November 2, 2021 (early voting October 23-31)

All registered voters



What is Ranked Choice Voting?





What is Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)?

RCV is a new way for voters to elect their representatives

- ◆ Voters can rank up to 5 candidates in order of preference, instead of choosing just one.
- ◆ This gives voters more say in who wins, increases civility, and can lead to more diverse candidates winning.

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





How did RCV get to NYC?

The 2019 Charter Revision Commission voted to create **Ballot Question #1**, to establish ranked choice voting in primary and special elections for local office, effective January 1, 2021.

- ◆ **73.5%** of New York City voters voted **YES**

How did RCV get to NYC?

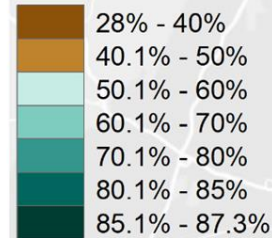
The map on the right shows the percent of voters who voted YES on Ballot Question 1 in 2019 by Assembly District.

- This analysis was done by CUNY Center for Urban Research

2019 General Election Ballot Proposals Proposal 1: Elections/Ranked Choice Voting *Certified results, by Assembly District*

Ballot Proposal 1 (Elections)

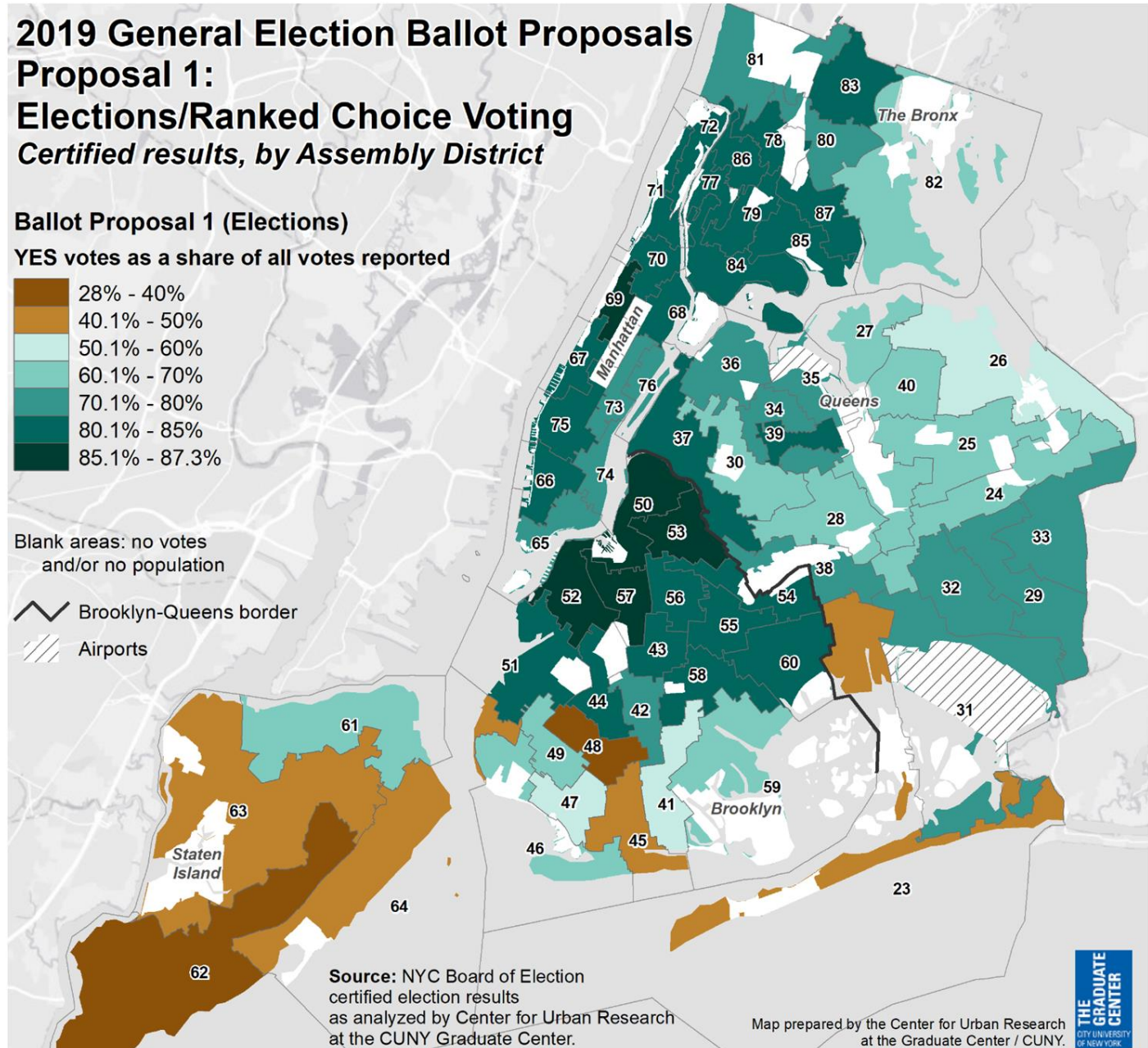
YES votes as a share of all votes reported



Blank areas: no votes and/or no population

Brooklyn-Queens border

Airports





RCV in NYC

Only used to elect City offices, *not* Federal or State

- ◆ Used to elect **all 5 city offices**:
 - ◆ Mayor
 - ◆ Public Advocate
 - ◆ Comptroller
 - ◆ Borough President
 - ◆ City Council
- ◆ **NOT** used for Federal or State races like President, Congress, or Governor
- ◆ **NOT** used in local races like District Attorney and Judgeships



RCV in NYC

- ◆ Used in **special elections**

- ◆ Held any time there is a vacancy in a City office
- ◆ Open to all registered voters

- ◆ Used in **primary elections**

- ◆ Always 4th Tuesday in June
- ◆ All voters registered to the political party

- ◆ **NOT** used in **general elections**

- ◆ Always held the 1st Tuesday in November
- ◆ Open to all registered voters



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How RCV Works



Marking Your Ballot

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



- ◆ Pick your first-choice candidate and completely fill in the oval next to their name under the 1st column.
- ◆ If you have a second-choice candidate, fill in the oval next to their name under the 2nd column.
- ◆ You can rank up to 5 candidates. You can still choose to vote for only one candidate if you prefer.



Marking Your Ballot

- ◆ The ballot will show all candidates who qualify for the ballot for that race but voters can rank a maximum of 5
- ◆ To vote for a candidate whose name is not on the ballot
 - ◆ Write the name on the “Write-in” line and fill in an oval to rank your choice

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE F	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE G	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE H	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
WRITE-IN CANDIDATE <u>Candidate X</u>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Sample Ballot

Council District 15 Special Election

Sample Ballot provided by the NYC Board of Elections; showing English and Spanish, languages vary by ED/AD

Council Member Rank up to 5 choices Mark no more than 1 oval in each column Miembro del Consejo Clasifique hasta 5 opciones Marque no más de un óvalo en cada columna		Choice Opción	Choice Opción	Choice Opción	Choice Opción	Choice Opción
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
John E. Sanchez Community First	A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Oswald Feliz People United	B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Elisa Crespo Jobs & Justice	C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kenny G. Agosto Empower People	D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ischia J. Bravo We Matter	E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ariel Rivera-Diaz Second Choice	F	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bernadette Ferrara Fifteen Forward	G	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Latchmi Devi Gopal Go For The Bronx	H	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jose A. Padilla Jr. Safe & Stable	I	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Altagracia Soldevilla People First	J	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidato por escrito		<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SAMPLE BALLOT




Overvoting

Do not give multiple candidates the same rank

- ◆ If you do, it will not be clear who you intended to vote for
- ◆ *This invalidates your ballot*

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Duplicate ranking

Do not rank a candidate more than once

- ◆ If you do, only your top ranking for them will count.
 - ◆ *This does NOT invalidate your ballot but you run the risk of your vote being exhausted*

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE E	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





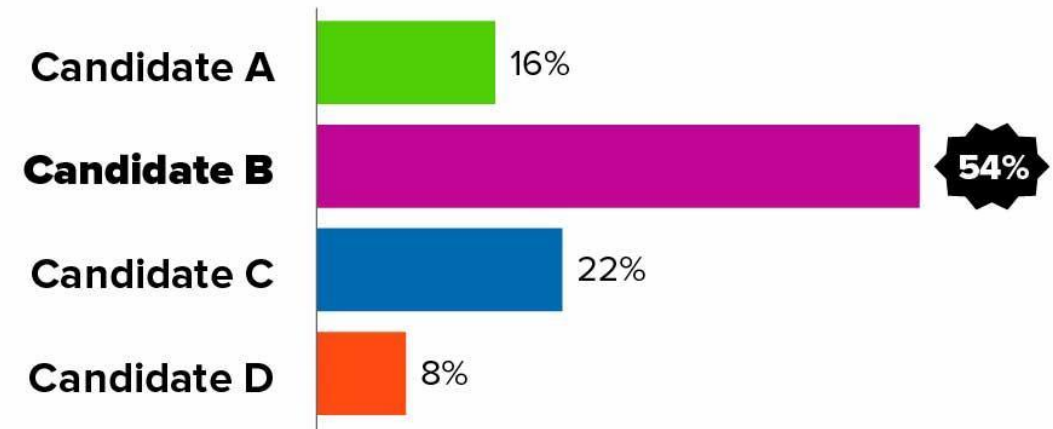
NEW YORK CITY CAMPAIGN FINANCE BOARD

Counting the Votes



All first-choice votes are counted.

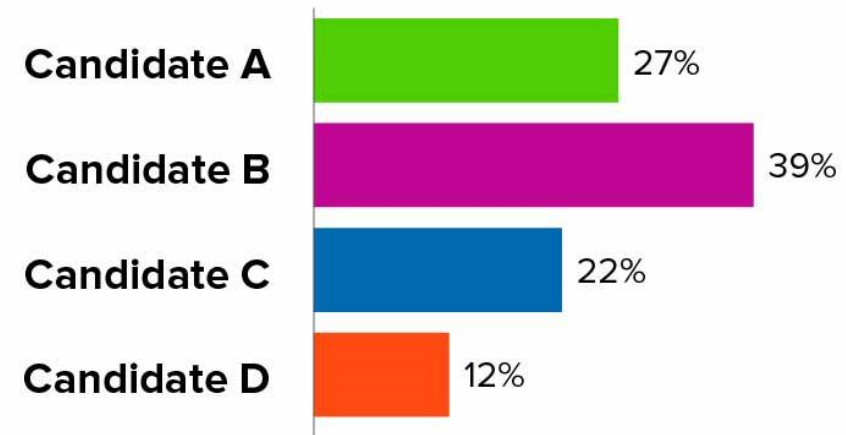
If a candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, they win the election.





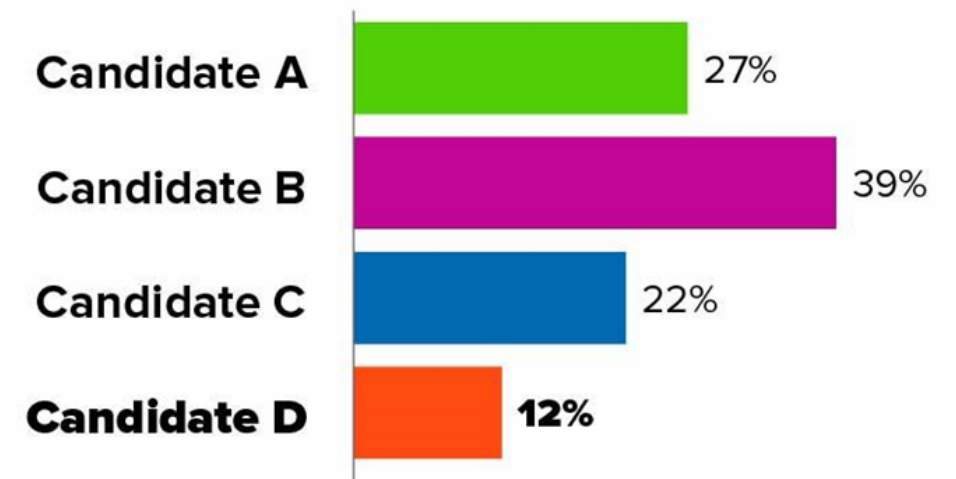
All first-choice votes are counted.

If no candidate earns more than 50% of first-choice votes, then counting will continue in rounds.



The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated.

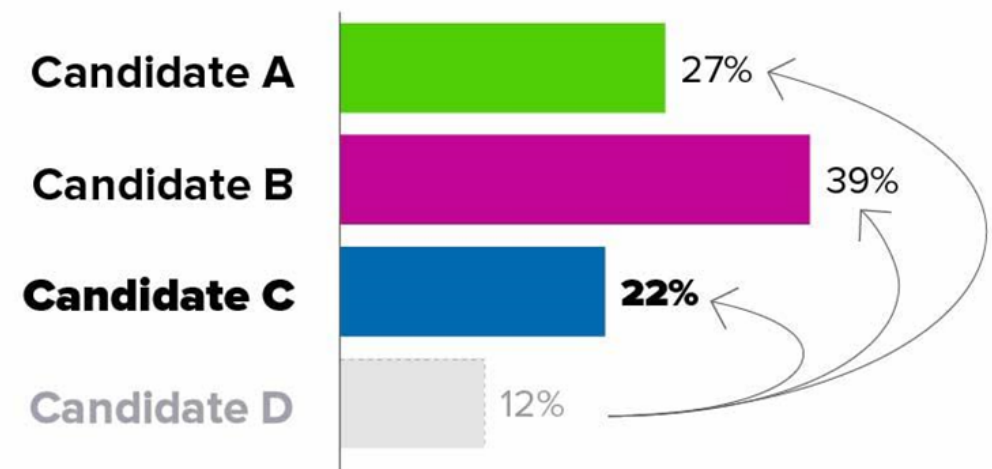
	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Your vote goes to the next highest candidate on your ballot.

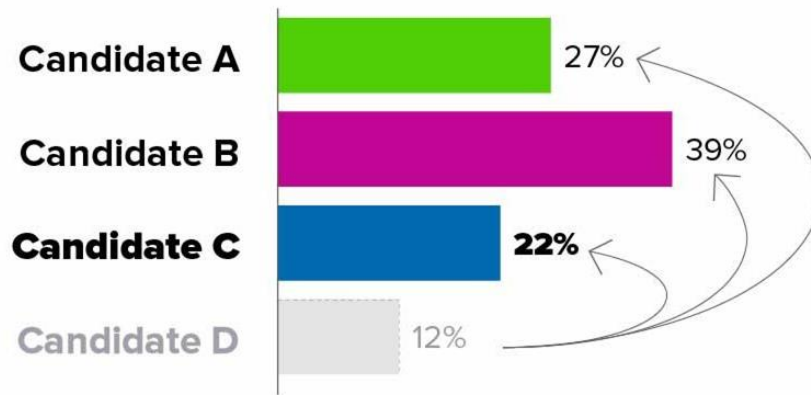
	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Moving to next round

VOTE DISTRIBUTION



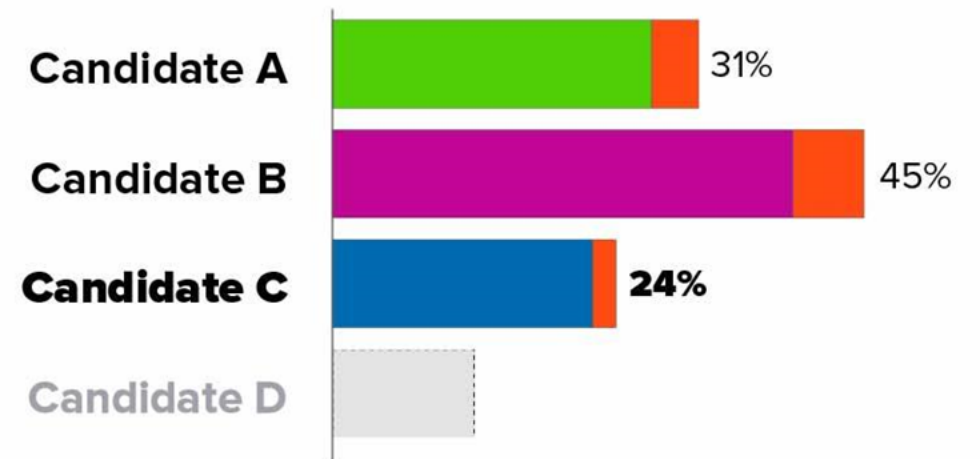
NEW TOTALS





Counting continues until the top 2 candidates are left

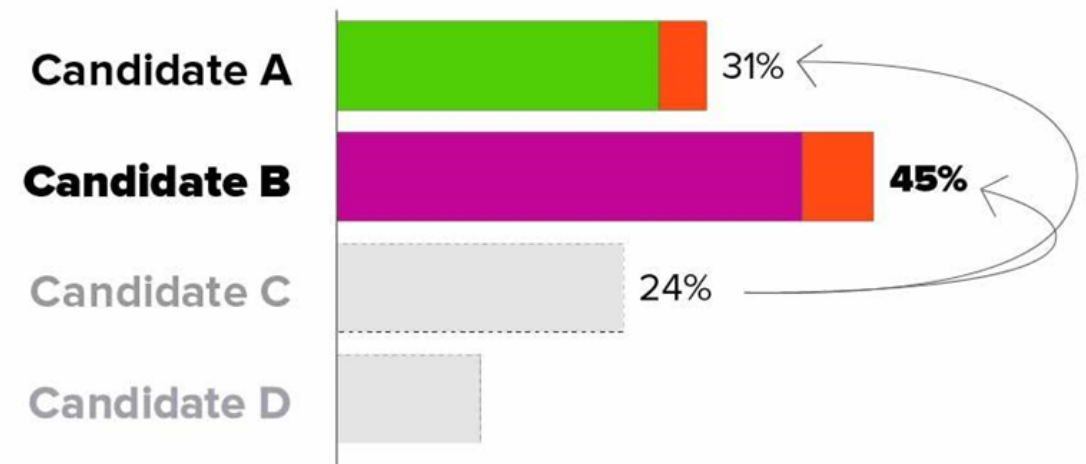
	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





Counting continues until the top 2 candidates are left

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>





The candidate with the most votes wins!

	1	2	3	4	5
CANDIDATE A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Candidate A



Candidate B



Candidate C



Candidate D





Exhausted ballots

A voter's ballot is "exhausted" when all the candidates a voter ranked have lost even though two or more other candidates remain in the race

- ◆ Voters who want to reduce the likelihood of their ballot being exhausted should use all available rankings



Reminder

- ◆ You can rank up to five candidates, but you do not need to rank a total of 5.
- ◆ If you prefer, you can still vote for just your first-choice candidate. However, ranking other candidates does not harm your first choice.



Reminder

- ◆ If you rank 5 candidates, five votes do not get counted. You always only have 1 active vote.
- ◆ Ranking multiple candidates ensures your vote will go toward your 2nd, 3rd, 4th, or 5th choice if your top choice is eliminated, giving you more say in who wins.



Election results

As we saw in 2020, the winner of some races might not be known on election night

- ◆ In half of RCV elections, there's a winner in the first round
- ◆ The BOE must accept some absentee ballots up to 10 days after the election
- ◆ RCV tabulation process can happen in a matter of minutes but requires all ballots be opened and all first-choice votes counted



Other Resources for RCV information

NYC Campaign Finance Board

- ◆ General voting information: <https://voting.nyc>
- ◆ RCV Resources page: <https://nyccfb.info/rcvresources>
- ◆ RCV Trainings: <https://nyccfb.info/rcvtrainings>
- ◆ Video: https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0B0b34dC_h-ETDqWzLi5rWNSe5OyU6dK
- ◆ Twitter, Facebook, Instagram: @nycvotes



Other Resources for RCV information

NYC Board of Elections

- ◆ RCV Video: <https://youtu.be/5VdJBo16fDM>
- ◆ Poll site locator: <https://findmypollsite.vote.nyc/>
- ◆ Twitter & Instagram: @boenyc



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Thank you!

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