

FairVote
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Accurate Democracy 4 Group Decision Tools



“This is *the* site for learning about democracy.”

— Zoe Weil, author of *Most Good, Least Harm*,
president of the Institute for Humane Education.

“...a huge contribution to the democracy cause.”

— John M. Richardson Jr., former chairman of
the National Endowment for Democracy.

“Congratulations on a brilliant piece of work.”

Robert Fuller, former president of Oberlin College,
author of *Somebodies and Nobodies* and *All Rise*.

The book’s primer, games and pictures let you

Read, Touch and See How

The best types of voting are **quick and easy,**
centered and stable, yet inclusive and fair.

They help groups, from classrooms to countries.

One tool compares the votes for each version
of a **policy**. **Two** give **fair shares**
of **council seats** or **\$pending**

To Use and Enjoy

- Share** the colorful booklet with friends.
- Grow** support in your school, club or town.
- Enjoy** better power relations and policies.

fairvote.org/get-involved

Accurate Democracy eBook

Free



Contents

Parts **A**, **B**, and **C** reveal how tools steer power.

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B. Workshop Games let us be inside the **four** tallies

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1. Ranked Choice Voting, RCV, elects leaders.

Many cities are adopting it from California to Minnesota & Maine, Utah to NYC; plus Duke, Harvard, Princeton, Rice, Stanford, Tufts, MIT, Cal Tech, Carlton, Clark, GW, Reed, UCSC, Vassar, Auburn and the Universities of Houston, CA, IA, IL, MA, MN, NC, OK, TX, VA, WA and WY.

2. Multi-winner RCV elects balanced councils

at Cambridge, Carnegie Mellon, Clark, CUNY, MIT, Oberlin, Oxford, UC Cal, UC Davis, UCLA, Vassar and more. Australian and Irish voters have used RCV for decades.

Step 1: Ranked Choice Voting elects a majority winner from a single election

Voting is easy. **Rank your favorite** as first choice, **and backup choices**: second, third, etc. as you like. Your civic duty to vote is done.

Now your vote counts for your top-rank candidate.

If no candidate gets a majority, the one with fewest votes loses. So we eliminate that one from the tally.

Your vote stays with your favorite if she advances.

If she has lost then your vote counts for your backup.

This repeats until one candidate gets a majority.

Why Support Ranked Choice Voting, RCV

- Backups give you more power and freedom to express opinions with less risk of wasting your vote.
- No hurting your first choice by ranking a backup, that does not count unless your first choice has lost.
- No worry about vote splitting in a faction as votes for its loser(s) can count for each supporter's backup.
- A majority winner from one election, so no winner with a weak mandate and no costly runoff election.
- High voter turnout also creates a strong mandate. The turnout for an election runoff often goes down.⁵
- More civility and consensus² arise³ as candidates ask a rival's fans for their backup votes.⁴

Summary and Index of Benefits

Ranked Choice Voting has proven to: Page*

- 1, 2, 3, 4. **Make voting easy**, more effective..... 14, 57
 - Give you power to rank a backup choice; so 33, 45
 - Reduce your risk of wasting your vote; so 12, 16
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 - turnout, effective votes, equal votes per rep; so 19
 - Make policies match public opinion better.** ... 19, 60

✧ ✨ An RCV Toolbox does more ✨ ♥

- 4. **Elect a few central reps**, key votes pulling 31, 56
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 - Streamline group decision-making.** 27, 33, 36

*[AccurateDemocracy.com/AcDem.pdf](https://www.AccurateDemocracy.com/AcDem.pdf)

♥ Social Effects ♥

Tools to Build Communities

A group's decision rules pull its **culture** toward fair shares or toward winner takes all. They spread power wide and balanced, or narrow and lopsided. Other relations among members may follow their models.

Fair rules make **cooperation** safer, faster and easier. This favors people and groups who tend to cooperate. It may lead others to cooperate more often.



Politics are more **principled** and peaceful when all the rules help us find fair shares and central majorities. This might reduce political fears within our community; which helps us to be more receptive, creative and free.

So better rules help us build better decisions, plus better **relationships**. Both can please most people. Fair rules won't please some who get money or self-esteem from war-like politics. But countries with fair rules tend to rank high in social trust and happiness.¹ Decision tools help shape communities.