Dear Students,

During a college reunion, I gave one booklet to each residence, hoping its ideas would grow in their conversations. Two years later, students petitioned for a referendum and the following year 62% voted for Ranked Choice Voting to elect their Student Senate. That may have been a coincidence, of course, but I think the booklets probably helped.

The online edition may help the co-ops, senate, SFC, faculty, trustees or town adopt more tools for a more Accurate Democracy. — R. Loring

$ Accurate $ Democracy

Make policies and funding that fit the voters' center and spread.

Help Schools, Clubs, Towns and More

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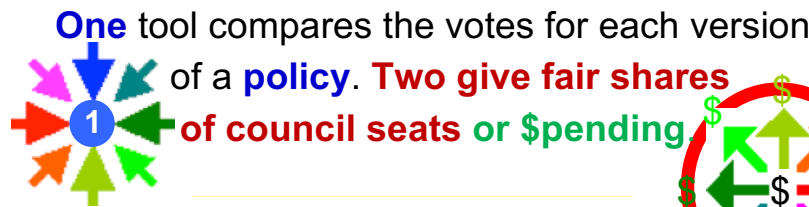— John M. Richardson Jr., former chairman of the National Endowment for Democracy.

"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

Contents

Free

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

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1. Ranked Choice Voting, RCV, elects leaders.
Many cities are adopting it from California to Minnesota and Maine, Utah to NYC; plus Duke, Harvard, Princeton, Rice, Stanford, Tufts, MIT, Cal Tech, Carlton, Clark, GW, Vassar, Auburn, UCSC, 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 <u>fewest votes loses</u>. 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 consensus[2] arise[3] 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
  Vote worry free for your true first choice. 14
  Boost mandates as more voters count. **11**-21, 57

1, 2. **Reduce attack ads** that scare, anger, polarize..... 14
  Weaken gerrymanders and spoilers. 14, 16, 32

2. **Give fair shares** of reps to the rival groups; so **16**
  Diverse candidates have real chances to win; so 18
  Voters have real choices and effective votes; so 17
  Voter turnout is stronger. 61

2. **Elect women** two or three times more often; so **18**
  Accurate majorities win, also due to more choices... 17
  turnout, effective votes, equal votes per rep; so 19
  Policies match public opinion better. 19, 60

✧ ❋ An RCV Toolbox does more ❁ ♥

4. **Elect a few central reps**, key votes pulling........ **31**, 56
  reps from many factions **to moderate policies**. .. 8, 54

3. **Use Fair Share Voting** for projects, savings, etc **24**
  Reveal a rep's **spending; cut corruption**. 27, **59**

3, 4. **Reduce agenda effects** and scams..... 27, 30, **33**, 36
  Streamline group decision-making. 27, 33, 36

♥ 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 shape communities in these ways.