



FREE eBook

# Accurate Democracy

for Schools, Clubs, Towns and More

by Robert Loring, Published by FairVote

“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*.

**Tools for democracy** impact our levels of liberty, social trust, health and happiness.

The best types of voting are fast, easy and fair. They help groups from classrooms to countries.

They raise the rewards for consensus builders. They reduce polarizing fear, anger and gridlock.

One easy tool compares the votes on all the **options for a policy**. Other tools give out **fair shares of seats or \$pending**.



**Accurate Democracy is strongly centered yet inclusive and fair.**



## eBook Contents

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

**A. Voting Primer** tells the stories of the **four** tools

- Tragedies, Eras and Progress of Democracy ..... 4
- 1. Ranked Choice Voting elects a majority **Leader** ..... 14
- 2. Fair Representation elects a balanced **Council** ..... 16
- 3. Fair Share Voting sets optional **Budgets ... New** ..... 22
- 4. Condorcet Tally enacts a balanced **Policy** ..... 28
- Rigged votes, Gerrymanders and Gridlock ..... 32
- \* **Social Effects** of group decision tools ♥ \$★ ..... 35
- Complementing Consensus ..... 37
- How we can try out a group-decision tool ..... 38

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

**C. SimElection™ Maps** make tally patterns visible

- References, Glossary and Index, About Us ..... 60

### 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, Reed, UCSC, Vassar, and the Universities of Houston, Auburn, 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.

<https://fairvote.org/get-involved/>

## 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 a 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.<sup>2</sup>
- **More civility** and consensus<sup>3</sup> arise as candidates ask a rival's fans for their backup votes.<sup>4</sup>

## 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** twice as often as plurality does; 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

Even then, old decision tools push policy pendulums... 4

### ✧ ✨ An RCV Toolbox can do 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

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

## Social Effects

### These Are Tools Between People

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.<sup>1</sup> Voting is an exemplary tool between people.