

Steven Sepe

From: Sara V <saravieira803@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2025 8:30 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee; Rep. Nardone, George A.
Subject: Oppose HB 5276

My name is Sara Vieira and I am from Coventry. I oppose HB 5276.

1. RCV ballots are confusing, cumbersome, and highly prone to mistakes by voters.
2. SOME ballots are ALWAYS discarded - not every vote is counted.

With RCV, every vote does not count.

Maine's 2018 Second Congressional District Election
In this state race, 8,253 ballots were thrown in the trash, which was almost five percent of the total ballots cast. Bruce Poliquin (R) received 46.33 percent of the vote ahead of Jared Golden's (D) 45.58 percent. But since Poliquin didn't receive 50 percent, there was a second round of tabulation. The secretary of state threw out the 8,253 "exhausted ballots"—this was not a mistake; this is how ranked-choice voting is designed to work. Golden was declared the winner with 50.62 percent of the remaining ballots but only 49.2 percent of the total ballots cast.

Alaska's 2022 At-Large Congressional Special and General Elections
In the special election, nearly 15,000 Alaskan votes were tossed out before the Mary Peltola (D) was declared the winner. In fact, 60 percent of voters voted Republican in the first round, but by the last tally, Peltola came out ahead by just 5,129 votes. Conveniently for the Democrats, more than 11,000 ballots were tossed by the second round simply because they only voted for the other Republican candidate instead of ranking all of the candidates. In November's midterm elections, Mary Peltola won reelection after three rounds of tabulation and, once again, after nearly 15,000 ballots were exhausted.

3. RCV decreases voter confidence by making voting even more complicated and confusing.
4. RCV slows counting, delays outcomes, and **delays governance**

RCV threatens fast and accurate ballot counting.

New York City's 2021 Democratic Mayoral Primary
Ranked-Choice Voting mandates the central counting of votes and involves a complicated counting process. The 2021 Democratic mayoral primary took 15 days to announce a winner. The New York City Board of Elections accidentally included 135,000 "test ballots" in its publicly posted tally before fixing the error. Overall, almost 15 percent of the ballots were thrown in the trash and didn't count toward the final result.

Maine's 2022 Second Congressional District Election
It took more than eight days to decide the official winner in this 2022 congressional race. A "technical snafu" led to two memory sticks, which had recorded more than 16,000 ballots, being corrupt.

5. Hinders recounts and audits with its multiple tiers, options, and rounds of counting.
6. RCV is particularly damaging to vulnerable voters (military, seniors, voters with disabilities) who often vote remotely or by mail and are unable to immediately correct mistakes or access "replacement" ballots once a mistake has been made on their ballots.

7. Makes voting lines longer as it is a cumbersome and confusing ballot and people make mistakes and then need a “re-do”

<https://thefga.org/research/exposing-myths-reality-why-states-ban-ranked-choice-voting/>



Exposing Myths and Acknowledging Reality Shows Why States Should Ban Ranked-Choice Voting - The Foundation for Government Accountability

Overview. To listen to politicians, pundits, and policy wonks on the Left, ranked-choice voting is not only a better process to elect political leaders but also the key to saving American democracy. 1-3 But talking points like these are not based in reality, instead, they are part of a growing number of myths around ranked-choice voting.

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Thank you,
Mrs. Sara Vieira