1. Impact on Polling Places

- Implementing ranked choice voting may lead to a longer and more complex ballot.
- Currently largest ballot used in RI is **8 ½** inches by **17** inches
- The 4 communities with Bilingual ballots generally always have a 2 card ballot, with the local questions almost always having only local questions.
- Occasionally, a 3 card ballot has been necessary in these communities, again with the local questions on the 3rd card.
- Polling places in these communities with 3 cards are generally more congested due to voters requiring more time to complete the ballot in the booth and the machine requiring more time to physically process 3 cards.
- With Ranked Choice Voting, there would likely be 2 direct impacts.
  - Due to more votes or ranks needing to be cast per office, it is likely voters will spend more time in each voting booth. This will necessitate the need for more voting booths, which will limit polling places to facilities that can accommodate the additional equipment. More voting booths would also need to be purchased as currently we are required to send a minimum of **1 booth per 175** voters and we have approximately **5,000** in inventory. For example, a polling place with 10 voting booths would require a minimum **of 980 sq ft** to accommodate all of the booths, equipment, and tables while also maintaining voter privacy. Increasing the number of booths to 14 raises that minimum requirement size to **1,600** square feet, which would require a substantially larger room, which many current polling places may not have available.
  - The design of the ranked choice ballot would likely lead to more 3 - card ballots in bilingual communities, and perhaps even 4 card ballots in some circumstances. English-only ballot communities would likely see more 2 card ballots. This would require the Board of Elections to allocate more machines to each voting location. Generally speaking in 1 card communities, we typically allocate **1** machine per **1,700** registered voters assigned to a precinct, and in 2 card communities we allocate **1** machines per registered **1,000** voters. In a 3 card community, we may allocate **1** machine per registered **700** voters. If a location were to have 4 cards, we would likely need top assign an additional machine to those locations. The Board of Elections currently has 590 voting machines in it's inventory, and it is likely

additional machines would need to be purchased to accommodate the longer ballot.

2. **Impact on Election Night Reporting**
   - The Board of Elections has made investments over the years to consistently provide the public with unofficial results as quickly as possible on Election Night.
   - This includes investments the secure electronic transmission of unofficial results from polling places to the purchase of high speed mail ballot opening, sorting, and tabulation equipment.
   - Over the past 2 decades the Board of Elections has been able to provide results to the public in a timely fashion via our website on Election Night, even during the pandemic when mail ballot volumes reached 5 times the number seen in previous presidential primaries and elections.
   - Ranked choice voting would delay the timely reporting of results as each physical USB drive from all **461** locations would need to be transported to the Board of Elections and uploaded into a software program to determine the results of each round of ranking. This process could take 1-2 days to accomplish, during which time the winner of the contest would not be determined.
   - Rounds mays also take additional time to conduct due to the collection of mail ballots placed in drop boxes and the return of miliary and overseas ballots which may arrive up to 7 days after the poll close.

While as an Election Administrator it's not my role to recommend a change to the system of voting in our state, I am in the position to provide insight into how such a change could potentially impact the conduct of elections from a cost and logistical viewpoint. In my opinion the impact of ranked choice voting on elections could potentially require the purchase of additional equipment and a longer timeframe to determine the election winners.