

Patricia Breslin

To: HOWARD SCHULMAN
Subject: RE: comment from Howard Schulman on non-plurality voting commission

From: HOWARD SCHULMAN <hschul6778@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 14, 2023 10:21 AM
To: Patricia Breslin <pbreslin@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: re: comment from Howard Schulman on non-plurality voting commission

Hi Ms Breslin,

I am submitting a public comment for the Non-Plurality Voting Commission chaired by Senator Sam Zurier.

I enthusiastically support and appreciate the work of the Commission. I agree, non-plurality voting will select politicians who more closely reflect the will of their constituents, and with an eventual majority vote, a better defined mandate to represent. Also, non-plurality voting will result in less contentious elections.

However, I am concerned about a method of ranked choice voting that gives first priority to re-distribute the votes of the last place candidate and then working up, as opposed to starting with candidates ranked fourth or fifth and working down, for example. There's just something that feels wrong about giving priority to the least popular first-vote getter.

Sara Gideon's presentation was great, but it would also be interesting to hear first-hand (likely on Zoom) from a politician from Alaska--the experience of getting a new voting system enacted and how it has worked and the conditions that lead to the change.

Thank you,
Howard Schulman
Providence, RI