

To The Honorable Matthew LaMountain and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

We are writing to urge you to support Bill S-152, which will enable Rhode Island voters to rank their candidate choices in the 2028 Presidential primaries.

Our current method of voting in Presidential primaries is broken. Voters have been forced to select only one candidate from a list of as many as 31 (!) candidates in some states. Under our current system, a candidate in a such a large pool could win with as little as 5% of the vote, yet earn all of a state's electoral votes. Worse yet, given that an average of 10% of registered voters participate in primaries, our electoral votes could be allocated based on the vote of only (5% of 10% = ) 0.005 of registered voters. Our current system clearly does not ensure that selected candidates have the support of the majority of our citizens.

Fortunately, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) offers Rhode Island a widely-used alternative voting system that will help us avoid this dilemma in the future. Using RCV in our primaries will ensure that the candidate who receives Rhode Island's presidential delegates has earned support from the *majority* of voters. An increasing number of states and local communities in the U.S., as well as other countries, have adopted and successfully used Ranked Choice Voting. As you can find in research posted at FairVote.org, voter polls and follow-up research indicate that RCV:

- Is easy for voters to use;
- increases voter turnout;
- reduces negative campaigning;
- frees voters to vote for their favorite candidate, without worrying about "spoilers"; and
- elects leaders supported by the majority of voters.

After all, we need a President who represents *all* of us.

Other democracies around the world have already abandoned the outdated "Single-Vote Plurality" system that we and other former British colonies inherited from England. Of the better systems those countries have adopted, the best is Ranked Choice Voting. As detailed in the book "Making Democracy Count," there is an entire field of mathematics devoted to comparing how successful each voting systems is in electing candidates who truly represent their constituents. Ranked Choice Voting emerges as the best system; our plurality system is, sadly, the worst. It is time to fix our primaries, by adopting Ranked Choice Voting.

Ranked Choice Voting is simple for voters to use, and adds a great deal of power to their votes. In RCV, a voter can *still* choose to vote for only one candidate, but has the option to *rank* candidates in order of preference. If there are 5 candidates on the ballot, the voter can rank them from 1<sup>st</sup> choice to 5<sup>th</sup> choice. If the voter's 1<sup>st</sup> choice candidate receives the fewest 1<sup>st</sup> place votes, that candidate is eliminated and the voter's 2<sup>nd</sup> choice candidate receives a vote. No vote is wasted. The process is repeated until a candidate is identified who has received support from the majority of voters. You can find more details at FairVote.org or at OSRCV.org.

Please vote to implement Ranked Choice Voting for our all-important 2028 Presidential primaries.

Respectfully,  
Scott and Monica Shuler  
1 Burrs Lane, Providence