



RANKED CHOICE VOTING

LWVMI INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE TO LOCAL LEAGUES

Ranked Choice Voting

According to Ballotpedia: “A ranked choice voting system (RCV) is an electoral system in which voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. If a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, he or she is declared the winner. If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. First-preference votes cast for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the second preference choices indicated on those ballots. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of the adjusted votes. The process is repeated until a candidate wins an outright majority.”

LWVUS Position on Ranked Choice Voting

League of Women Voters of the U.S. has a position that allows support of Ranked Choice Voting. The position is in [Impact on Issues 2024-2026](#) under Voter Representation/Electoral Systems on page 58.

LWVUS Position: Voter Representation/Electoral Systems

Statement of Position on Voter Representation/Electoral Systems ([Impact on Issues 2024-2026](#), page 57) as adopted by concurrence by the 54th National Convention in June 2020:

LWVUS promotes an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and are expressive of voter choices.

Whether for single or multiple winner contests, the League supports electoral methods that:

- *Encourage voter participation and voter engagement.*
- *Encourage those with minority opinions to participate, including under-represented communities.*
- *Are verifiable and auditable.*
- *Promote access to voting.*
- *Maximize effective votes/minimize wasted votes.*
- *Promote sincere voting over strategic voting.*
- *Implement alternatives to plurality voting.*
- *Are compatible with acceptable ballot-casting methods, including vote-by-mail.*

The LWVUS believes in representative government. The League supports electoral systems that elect policy-making bodies—legislatures, councils, commissions, and boards—that proportionally reflect the people they represent. We support systems that inhibit political manipulation (e.g., gerrymandering).

The LWVUS supports enabling legislation to allow local jurisdictions to explore alternative electoral methods, as well as supporting state election laws allowing for more options at both the state and local levels. With the

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adoption of any electoral system, the League believes that education of the voting public is important and funding for startup and voter education should be available. We encourage a concerted voter education process.

What can Local Leagues do:

1. Local Leagues can do educational programs on Ranked Choice Voting and state that the LWVMI does not have a position on this option. Presentations are available or local Leagues can develop separately, together, or with the state.
2. You could do a pro/con presentation since LWVMI does not have a position, but either way it is important to let participants know the LWVMI does not have a position.
3. Local Leagues could support or oppose a local proposal to use Ranked Choice Voting, using the criteria listed in the LWVUS Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems Position as adopted at 2020 Convention.
4. Local Leagues can submit a support/oppose form available on LWVMI's website, asking LWVMI to take a position on a ranked choice voting ballot proposal or legislation in the state. Local Leagues cannot support a statewide proposal unless LWVMI has taken a position in support of the proposal.

What can LWVMI do:

A Support/Oppose form would come to LWVMI Advocacy Committee for consideration and recommendation to LWVMI Board using the criteria listed in the LWVUS' Voter Representation/ Electoral Systems Position).

If a bill on ranked choice voting is introduced in the MI Legislature, the LWVMI Board has the option of supporting or opposing legislation or taking no position on the legislation that provides for Ranked Choice Voting.

Additional Information:

There are many resources for information on ranked choice voting such as:

[Ranked-choice voting \(RCV\) - Ballotpedia](#)

[Homepage - FairVote](#)

[Let's Bring Ranked Choice Voting To America | Rank The Vote](#)

[Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center](#)

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