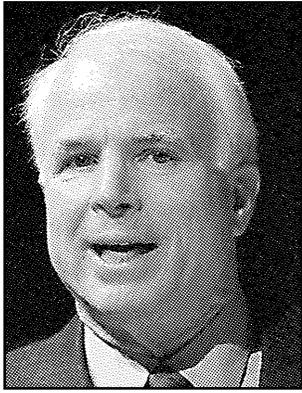


What reform do the **League of Women Voters** and these political leaders all support?



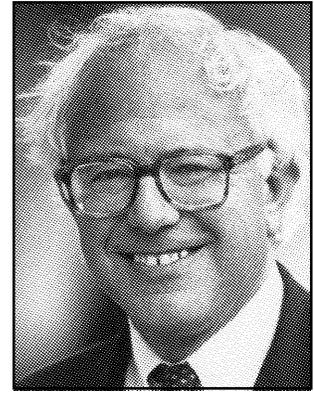
U. S. Sen. John McCain
(Republican Senator)

“Instant runoff voting will lead to good government because voters will elect leaders who have the support of a majority. Elected leaders will be more likely to listen to all and cities will be able to enjoy big tax savings and keep majority rule.”



DNC Chair Howard Dean
(former Vermont Governor)

“[As for needed reforms,] I would have instant runoff voting, so, when you had more candidates than just two, the person with a majority of votes would win.”



U.S. Rep. Bernie Sanders
(former mayor of Burlington)

“Establishing a majority requirement for electing a mayor with instant runoff voting gives voters more choice and more power. This voting method is used successfully by millions of voters all over the world. It’s time for Vermonters to take this step as well.”

Majority Rule with Instant Runoff Voting

Some more reasons to vote **YES** on Burlington’s charter amendment ballot item #5

(placed on the ballot by the city council as a result of the overwhelming vote for the advisory referendum in November)

It Ensures Majority Winners

Under the current Burlington charter, a candidate can become mayor with just 40% support — meaning that up to 60% may consider that candidate to be the *worst* choice! Ballot item #5 will set a **majority** requirement for the office of mayor.

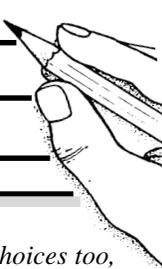
It Solves The “Spoiler” Problem

When more than two candidates are running, voting for the candidate you like the best may split the majority and help elect the candidate you like the *least*. Instant runoff voting lets voters rank candidates in order of choice and solves this “spoiler” problem.

It is Easy For Voters To Use

Voters can still vote for a single candidate if they wish, but gain the power to rank alternate choices. It’s as easy as 1 - 2 - 3. San Francisco recently adopted instant runoff voting, and it has been a big success. An exit poll found that San Francisco voters overwhelmingly prefer it over the runoffs they used to use.

for MAYOR	1 ST choice	2 ND choice	3 RD choice
Paul T. Carston	1	2	3
Carolyn P. Nash	●	2	3
Andre G. Poulin	1	●	3



You can vote for just one, or rank back-up choices too, in case your first choice doesn’t make it into a runoff.

It Saves Money and Time

Under the current city charter, if no candidate gets at least 40%, there is a separate runoff election weeks later. Separate runoff elections cost tax-payers and candidates more money and time. They also typically have lower turnout. Instant runoff voting combines the runoff into the original election. By giving voters the option of ranking candidates, if no candidate is the first choice of a majority, a runoff can be done without a new election.

It Is A Proven Election Method

Instant runoff voting is used by millions of voters. *Robert’s Rules of Order* recommends it as superior to our current “plurality” method of voting. The American Political Science Association even uses it to elect their own national president.

It is Fair and Constitutional

In upholding the constitutionality of instant runoff voting a court ruling stated that it “...does not violate the one-man, one-vote mandate nor does it deprive anyone of equal protection rights... Each voter has his or her ballot counted once in any count that determines whether one candidate has a majority of the votes.” No candidate, party or group is given an unfair advantage.

It Has Broad Support

Supporters of instant runoff voting include the **Vermont League of Women Voters, Common Cause, the Vermont Grange, the AFL-CIO, VPIRG, the Older Women’s League, the Burlington City Council, Mayor Peter Clavelle, Ruth Dwyer, Secretary of State Deb Markowitz,** and many others.