



# Talking Points: Majority Rule, Without a Separate Election

Q: What is instant runoff voting?

*"Instant runoff voting (IRV) means **better elections.**"*

- You rank candidates in the order you like them, so if your top choice doesn't win, your vote goes to your next choice, instead of being "wasted."
- If no one has a majority on the first count, the least-popular candidate is knocked off and those voters' next choice counts instead. This repeats until one candidate earns a majority.

Q: What's the problem with the way we do it now?

*"Right now our elections can't guarantee majority rule."*

- The more candidates run, the fewer votes you need to win. This means a small minority of voters can decide the election for everyone else.

*"Runoffs are a waste of time and money."*

- Runoffs are supposed to produce a candidate with a higher level of support. In practice, voter turnout dwindles when second elections are held, actually giving us a candidate elected by fewer people. Given the cost and effort of holding a runoff, we need a better way.

Q: How does it strengthen democracy?

*"It guarantees majority support without runoffs."*

- Every vote counts equally and no vote is "wasted" or "spoiled."

*"Everyone wins with instant runoff voting."*

- **Voters win.** You can vote for the candidate you really believe in, without worrying about throwing your vote away.
- **Taxpayers win.** IRV stops us from wasting money on expensive, ineffective runoffs.
- **Candidates win.** We will have less negative campaigning, since candidates want their opponents' voters to rank them #2.
- **America wins.** IRV restores faith in democracy by accommodating voter choice and inspiring better candidates to run for office.

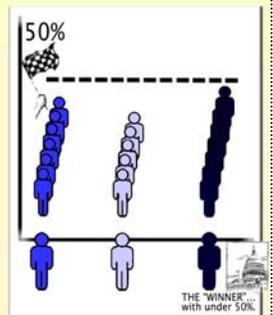
Q: Who supports IRV?

*"Leaders from across the political spectrum support it, from **John McCain** to **Barack Obama.**"*

- Also, voters nationwide chose IRV. Cities like San Francisco CA, Burlington VT and Takoma Park, MD. Many countries and U.S. colleges use it as well!

## Plurality's Real Name: Minority Rule

The more people run, the fewer votes it takes to win. Should we be electing our leaders without a majority?



VS.

## Instant Runoff Voting: Majority Rule, Without a Separate Runoff

You rank the candidates in the order you like them. If your top choice doesn't win, your vote can count for your next choice.

