## What is ranked-choice voting?

Ranked-choice voting allows San Francisco voters to rank a first, second, and third choice candidate for a single office. This makes it possible to elect local officials by majority vote without the need for a separate run-off election.

## Who is elected using ranked-choice voting?

Starting in November 2004, San Francisco will use ranked-choice voting to elect most local officials. Ranked-choice voting does not affect the election of State and federal officials or the adoption of ballot measures.

## How does ranked-choice voting work?

To start, every voter's first-choice vote is counted. Any candidate who receives a majority (more than $50 \%$ ) of the first-choice votes is declared the winner. If no candidate receives more than $50 \%$ of the first-choice votes, a process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes begins:

- First, the candidate who received the fewest number of first-choice votes is eliminated from the race.
- Second, voters who selected the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their vote transferred to their second choice.
- Third, all the votes are recounted.
- Fourth, if any candidate receives more than $50 \%$ of the votes he or she is declared the winner. If no candidate receives more than $50 \%$ of the votes, the process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes is repeated until one candidate has a winning majority.



## The Ranked-Choice Ballot

This brochure shows a sample ranked-choice ballot. This fall, the exact ballot you will see at the polling place will be on the Department's website and in your voter information pamphlet.

## How To Find Out More

For more information on ranked-choice voting please contact the Department of Elections.

Stop by: The Department of Elections
City Hall, Room 48
1 Dr. Carton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, California 94102

Call:
English: (415) 554-4375
Chinese: (415) 554-4367
Spanish: (415) 554-4366
TDD: (415) 554-4386

Visit Our Website: www.sfgov.org/election

## Ranked-Choice Voting Explained

## Marking the Ranked-Choice Ballot

## First Column

Select your first-choice candidate by completing the arrow pointing to your choice.

## Second Column

To indicate a second choice, select a different candidate in the second column by completing the arrow pointing to your choice.

Third Column
To indicate a third choice, select a different candidate in the third column by completing the arrow pointing to your choice.


## Write-In Candidates

If you wish to vote for a qualified write-in candidate for any of your three choices, write the person's name on the blank line provided and complete the arrow pointing to your choice.

