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 ElectionsCity Hall, Room 481 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett PlaceSan 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.

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Keep In Mind

Your second choice will be counted only if your first-choice candidate has been eliminated. Your third choice will be counted only if both your first-choice and second-choice candidates have been eliminated.

If you select the same candidate in more than one column, your vote for that candidate will count ONLY ONCE.

Complete the arrow as shown here.

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.