

Instant Runoff Voting

won
Five Big Victories
in 2006



here's how we did it

Instant Runoff Voting the 2007 Menu

2007 has the potential to expand the success IRV saw in 2006. Among the best prospects for local ballot measures for IRV in 2007 are Santa Fe (NM), Aspen (CO), Ann Arbor (MI) and Sarasota (FL), while advocates in Denver (CO), King County (WA) and San Diego see hope for IRV in the near future. We expect as many as ten North Carolina cities to use IRV in the fall, and ten more North Carolina counties in May 2008.



At the state level, viable legislation to implement IRV statewide will advance in Vermont and Maine, with many other state bills likely and statewide ballot measures on the 2-4 year radar. **Stay tuned and stay involved!**

Our Commitment to Cooking Up Quality Reforms

About Instant Runoff Voting

Instant runoff voting (IRV) elects candidates who have majority support, accommodates voters having better choices and encourages winning candidates to reach out to more people. That's why IRV has gone 8-0 at the ballot in 2004-2006, taking an average of more than 66% of the vote.

About FairVote

FairVote's IRV America program advances IRV through research, outreach and advocacy. We assist in every step of what it takes to implement IRV, from initial community education to researching past elections and laws, advising campaigns and assisting implementation for both governmental and student elections.

FairVote

6930 Carroll Ave, Suite 610
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 270-4616 • info@fairvote.org

www.fairvote.org

2006 Instant Runoff Voting

Delicious Landslide Victories Recipe

Ingredients:

- More than \$150,000 raised by FairVote staff and board for campaigns.
- Dozens of volunteers educating voters about IRV on the ground.
- League of Women Voters endorsements for the big three IRV campaigns.
- Support from editorial boards of leading newspapers in all five jurisdictions.
- Organizational help from labor, business, environmental, and religious groups.
- Endorsements from elected officials from across the spectrum.
- Success stories from cities using IRV.



Average Serving Size: Over half-a-million residents per jurisdiction where IRV won.

Directions: First, take the ingredients listed above, and spread them throughout Pierce County (WA), Davis (CA), Oakland (CA), Minneapolis (MN), and North Carolina. Then draw on the dedication of FairVote's national staff and board members who put extensive time into these campaigns for IRV and choice voting. Next connect with the many talented and local organizations active in electoral reform organizing who have worked for years to prepare for these victories. The people involved are first and foremost key to a tasty victory. Now mobilize your volunteers to make hundreds of phone calls, host dozens of house parties, and conduct outreach and educational workshops. Use remaining ingredients as indicated at right.

Endorsements: The IRV ballot measures earned long lists of endorsements from across the political spectrum. First and foremost, the League of Women Voters endorsed the three big campaigns for IRV. Local elected officials played a crucial role, with IRV being placed on the ballot thanks to support from the Minneapolis and Oakland City Council, and the Pierce County Charter Review Commission; the Davis City Council put choice voting on the ballot. Several members of Congress endorsed the various campaigns, which also won endorsements from local Democratic, Green and Libertarian Party organizations and several Republican candidates and elected officials.

Fundraising: Generous donations from supporters around the country made it possible to get our message out to the more than 250,000 people who voted "yes" on IRV in 2006. The campaigns in Minneapolis, Oakland, Davis and Pierce County had combined budgets of approximately \$250,000. FairVote staff and board raised more than \$150,000 directly, and allied organizations such as FairVote Minnesota, IRV Washington, Californians for Electoral Reform and the New America Foundation all made significant direct and indirect contributions to the campaigns. The campaigns used these resources to generate quality literature, mail pieces, lawn signs, web sites, Flash animations, email messages and recorded phone messages.