Instant runoff voting: A primer

Burlington voters have an opportunity to rank their preferences for mayor on their ballots in this year's mayoral election. How it works:

For MAYOR
Three-Year Term

Special instructions: Rank candidates for mayor in order of choice.

- Fill in the number 1 oval ① to the right of your 1st choice candidate.
- You may rank as many or as few candidates as you wish.
- Fill in the number 2 oval ② to the right of your 2nd choice candidate.
- Fill in the number 3 oval ③ to the right of your 3rd choice, and so on.
- Fill in no more than one oval per column.
- Fill in no more than one oval per candidate.

(Rank candidates in order of choice)

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Bob Kiss 9 Germain Street — PROGRESSIVE	①	②	③	④	⑤
Andy Montroll 409 South Union Street — DEMOCRATIC	①	②	③	④	⑤
James Simpson 43 North Union Street — GREEN	①	②	③	④	⑤
Dan Smith 22 Linden Terrace — INDEPENDENT	①	②	③	④	⑤
Kurt Wright 31 Vine Street — REPUBLICAN	①	②	③	④	⑤
Write-in	①	②	③	④	⑤

No more than <u>one</u> oval per <u>column</u>   No more than <u>one</u> oval per <u>candidate</u>

Sample ballot similar to what voters will see at polling places

HOW YOU VOTE

Mark the oval in the "1st choice" column next to your first choice for mayor. If you choose, you may fill in ovals for second choice, third choice, etc. You do not have to make more than one choice.

	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	4th choice
John	①	②	③	④
Paul	①	②	③	④
George	①	②	③	④
Ringo	①	②	③	④

HOW A RUNOFF WORKS

If no candidate is the first choice of 50 percent of the voters, an instant runoff ensues. If your first choice is the lowest vote-getter, your ballot counts for your second choice. If your second choice is later eliminated, your ballot counts for your third choice, and so on.

John 48%
Paul 41%
George 7%
Ringo 4%

The ballots that had Ringo as their first choice are retabulated. The second choices from those ballots are added to the remaining candidates' totals.

John 51%
Paul 42%
George 7%

John wins!

■ WHEN THE RUNOFF ENDS
As soon as one candidate receives 50 percent.

ON THE WEB: For a presentation on instant runoff voting, go to www.burlingtonvotes.org/