

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

KORY HOLDAWAY, URCV

STATE HOUSE BILL 75

- This bill allows cities to contract with whomever they choose in the event that their County Clerk is unwilling to run an RCV election.
- It also pushes out the date a city needs to make the determination of doing RCV to Mid May rather than the current April deadline.

WHO BEARS THE COST OF VOTER EDUCATION ON RCV?

In 2018, the Utah legislature passed HB35 that established an RCV pilot program. The Legislature appropriated \$250,000 for cities to access and use for educational purposes regarding RCV. During 2019 municipal elections Vineyard and Payson used a portion of these funds – there is approximately \$200,000 still available for educational purposes.

HOW MANY CITIES AND/OR MUNICIPALITIES HAVE SIGNED ON TO RCV?

Vineyard and Payson used RCV in their 2019 elections and will use RCV in their 2021 elections. Numerous cities throughout Utah are in the process of evaluating RCV for their upcoming elections. These cities and towns include: Draper, Bluffdale, Riverton, West Jordan, Millcreek, Alta, Salt Lake, Lehi, Highland, Cedar Hills, Provo, and Cedar City.

DOES RCV ELIMINATE THE COSTS OF A PRIMARY ELECTION?

With RCV a city can choose to hold one election in November eliminating the need for a primary election. Candidates can also focus on a single election in November. This is a savings for taxpayers and candidates. Mayor Jeff Silverstini from Millcreek City testified in the March 1, 2021 Senate Committee hearing that it estimates RCV will save the city \$70,000.

ARE WE CORRECT IN ASSUMING THIS DOESN'T CHANGE COUNCIL SEATS REALLY? IF 2 SEATS ARE OPEN AND 5 RUN, WE STILL ELECT THE 2 WITH THE MOST VOTES. YES?

Voters rank their choices, first, second, third and so on. When a candidate wins over 50% of the votes, they become the first candidate of choice and declare the winner. This process is repeated with the remaining candidates until someone wins over 50% of the votes and is declared the second winner.