Ranked-Choice Voting in San Francisco

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FAQ

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Have Questions?

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8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Phone: (415) 554-4375
Fax: (415) 554-7344
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www.sfelections.org

Want to Practice Marking a Ballot?

Use this demonstration ballot to practice marking your choices.

Go to sfelections.org/rcv to fill out an interactive practice ballot and receive feedback on how your ballot will be counted.

When voting the official ballot, refer to the instructions on the ballot, in a voting booth poster, or in your vote-by-mail ballot packet if you vote by mail.
Everyone’s first choice is counted.

The new ballot format allows voters to rank up to a maximum of 10 candidates in a ranked-choice voting contest.

To rank candidates, fill in one oval in each column, starting on the left:
- In the 1st column for your 1st choice.
- In the 2nd column for your 2nd choice.
- In the 3rd column for your 3rd choice, and so on.

Key Points to Remember

Make a Note of the Increased Number of Rankings

The last-place candidate is eliminated and voters who chose that candidate now have their vote counted for their next choice.

How Votes Are Counted in Round 1

Every vote counts in Round 1.

How Votes Are Counted in Round 2

If a candidate receives a majority (50%+1) of first-choice votes, that candidate wins.

- If no candidate wins in Round 1, counting goes to Round 2.
- If no candidate wins in Round 2, the rounds continue until there is a winner.

- During each round, the last-place candidate is eliminated, and voters who chose that candidate now have their vote counted for their next choice.

- You may rank as many candidates as you like.
- If you do not want to rank some candidates, leave columns blank.
- Do not fill in more than one oval in the same column.
- If you give the same ranking to multiple candidates, your vote will be counted for your next choice.
- Do not fill in more than one oval for a candidate. Ranking the same candidate more than once will not help that candidate, because your vote will be counted only once for that candidate.
- Do not fill in more than one oval in the same column.
- If you give the same ranking to multiple candidates, your vote in that rank and later ranks will not count.