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From: Sheila Clarkin <sheila.nsrc@proton.me>
Sent: Sunday, March 23, 2025 2:06 PM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: Opposition to Ranked Choice Voting Bills H5275, H5276, H5277 & H5712

Greetings,

H5275 and **H5276** are again proposing ranked choice voting. For those who are unaware, according to Ballotpedia, A **ranked-choice voting** system (RCV) is an electoral system in which voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. There are multiple forms of ranked-choice voting. The most commonly used form of RCV is also called instant-runoff voting. In instant-runoff voting, if a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, he or she is declared the winner. If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. Ballots that ranked a failed candidate as their first, or highest choice, depending on the round, are then reevaluated, and counted as first-preference ballots for the next-highest-ranked candidate in that round. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of ballots. The process is repeated until a candidate wins an outright majority. Elements of this process, such as the number of candidates eliminated in each round, may vary by jurisdiction.

If that wasn't confusing enough, please take note that this spectrum of ranking candidates is also referred to as Preference Voting, Alternative Voting, Approval Voting, Single-Transferable Voting, Proportional Representation, Jungle Primary, Blanket Primary, Open Primary and now even **Fusion Voting**. Ranked choice voting destroys everything we know about fair and transparent elections. Unlike a traditionally trusted election, one of the biggest problems is that thousands of ballots are TRASHED (exhausted) to create this alleged majority winner. Would voters head to the polls if they knew that their vote would just end up in the TRASH?

According to Wikipedia, since 2020, voters in seven states have rejected ballot initiatives that would have implemented, or allowed legislatures to implement, ranked choice voting. Ranked choice voting has also been banned in eleven states. More recently, since that Wikipedia article was updated, the total number of states now banning RCV are thirteen (13), including FL, TN, ID, MT, SD, AL, KY, LA, MS, MO, OK, WV, and WY.

RCV makes it harder to vote, harder to understand election results, and harder to trust the voting process. The tabulation of ballot results will greatly be delayed and will cost the state a ton of money. Please VOTE to oppose this irresponsible legislation.

H5277 is also one that should be opposed as it is just an offset of the descriptions above using a top two ranking system. It also refers to the termination of a trusted and easy to understand closed primary system of voting.

H5712 Fusion voting is another form of ranked choice voting.

REFERENCES:

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<https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/elections/west-virginia-wyoming-ban-ranked-choice-voting-totaling-13-states>

<https://alaskawatchman.com/2025/03/22/more-states-ban-ranked-choice-voting-raising-total-to-13/>

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