A Deep Dive Into Ranked Choice Voting

Pre-Conference, NCSL Summit

July 31, 2022
Agenda

1:00 – 1:15 p.m.  Introduction
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.  Panel 1: What is ranked choice voting?
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.  Break
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.  Panel 2: Does ranked choice voting deliver on its promises?
3:30 – 3:45 p.m.  Break
3:45 – 4:45 p.m.  Panel 3: What is the future of ranked choice voting?
4:45 – 5:00 p.m.  Break
5:00 – 6:00 p.m.  Reception
Introduction

In most American elections, the winning candidate is the one who receives the most votes, even if most voters selected someone else. Some states in the Deep South hold runoffs between the top two vote-getters if no candidate receives at least 50% of total votes, ensuring whoever wins is supported by a majority of the electorate. In a small but growing number of states and municipalities, another majoritarian system—ranked choice voting, or RCV—is used. RCV combines the general election and the runoff by letting voters select—or rank—their candidate in order of preference. If no candidate receives 50% of the first-choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates. This process continues until one candidate reaches a majority.
RCV Advisory Panel Members

Rep. Barbara Griffin (R – NH)
Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins (D – AK)
Rep. Jeff Stenquist (R – UT)
Rep. Chris Kennedy (D – CO)
Sen. Elaine Bowers (R – KS)
Sen. Jeanette White (D – VT)
Rebecca Power, Montana Legislative Services
Matt Gehring, Minnesota Legislative Counsel
Ryan Williamson, R Street Institute/Election Center
Rozan Mitchell, Elections Clerk, Utah County, UT
Walter Olson, Cato Institute
Will Adler, Center for Democracy & Technology
Deb Otis, FairVote
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