RANKED CHOICE VOTING

A Proposal to Amend the Charter for the City of San José

01

HOW WE CURRENTLY VOTE

In traditional candidate elections, the **top two vote-getters** during the primary election **go on to the runoff** in the general election.

02

WHAT IS RANKED CHOICE VOTING?

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) **consolidates candidate voting into one election,** eliminating need for a primary *and* general election.

How it Works:

1. Using a ranked ballot, voters have the ability to rank preferences of candidate.

1. Candidates who do not meet minimum threshold or have the least votes are dropped.

1. Votes that went to dropped candidate go to voters' second preference.

1. Process continues until one candidate remains.

03

WHY RCV?

WHY RCV?

MEANINGFUL VOTE

Allows voters to choose candidates who best reflect their values without feeling like they are wasting a vote.

REDUCING COSTS

Eliminating the need for two elections saves on money and time, allowing a diverse range of candidates to run, and an overall better voter experience.

PROMOTING CIVILITY

RCV incentivizes candidates to practice positive campaigning and avoid alienating voters who may rank them as second or third choice.

04

WHY NOT RCV?

Arguments against RCV:

- **Accessibility**: Transition to a new voting system will impact older or limited English proficiency voters.

- **Non-Monotonicity**: Possibility that candidates lose by getting more votes, or win by getting less votes.

ACCESSIBILITY

Data from 2020 RCV Study:

- **80% had no difficulty** ranking candidates
- **Older voters** were more likely to **vote correctly** than younger voters
- Only **12% undervoted**, with data suggesting this **error was intentional** rather than by mistake

NON-MONOTONICITY

- Each voter only votes once, so **final result** of an RCV election still **is an expression of votes casted.**

- **Lower rank** among voter preferences is **not** an indication that any other candidate is **entitled to the seat.**

CONCLUSION