

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING (IRV)

Instant Runoff Voting, also known as Ranked Choice Voting, is a way of electing a single winner among three or more candidates. This type of voting has been used in elections in Portland, Maine; Alameda County, California and Minneapolis, Minnesota. In IRV, a voter not only indicates his/her first choice but may also indicate a second, third or fourth choice. If one candidate receives the majority of the 1st choice votes, that candidate is the winner. If no candidate receives a majority of the 1st choice votes, then (1) the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated and (2) the 1st choice votes that were cast for that candidate are redistributed to the 2nd choice candidates on those ballots, etc. This process continues until a single candidate receives a majority of the votes.

SAMPLE BALLOT (with PROS AND CONS)

*Directions: Indicate your preferred candidate under the 1st Choice column. You may also indicate one 2nd choice candidate and one 3rd choice candidate but **you may only vote for each candidate once**. Indicating a 2nd or 3rd choice will not help defeat your 1st choice candidate.*

	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice
Alice Apple			
Benjamin Berry			
Caroline Cupcake			
Dennis Dumpling			

Arguments in Favor (PROs)	Arguments Against (CONs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows minor party voters to vote their 1st choice without “spoiling” the chances of their 2nd choice • Reduces the problem of voters splitting their votes between two very similar candidates, allowing a 3rd candidate to win • Saves money because a 2nd election is not needed in case of a tie or where a runoff is needed to reach 50% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not every voter will vote for more than a 1st choice and will not be counted if their 1st choice candidate is eliminated • Would have a high initial cost to implement • It is very complicated and would be difficult to implement