



Bringing Communities Together

NEW YORK CITY NEEDS RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR PRIMARY & SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Multi-candidate primaries, races with three or more candidates that account for the majority of our primaries, have an abysmal track record of producing winners with majority support. Research shows:

- **A mere 36% of multi-candidate primaries were won with more than 50% of the vote during the last three election cycles.** Worse, still, 29.8% of multi-candidate primaries were won with less than 40%, and 7.7% were won with less than 30% of the vote.
- In fact, even more startling- there's a clear tipping point, **once a primary election fields 4 or more candidates there is a precipitous decline in majority support winners.** Just 13.7% of multi-candidate primaries with 4 or more candidates produced majority support winners.
- Too often the majority of our elected officials win their primaries — which virtually guarantees election in November — without majority support in their districts from the primaries. **That's not really democratic representation.**
- **As we saw in February's Special Election for Public Advocate,** the winner won with 33% of the vote. That's not a consensus winner.
- **The trend of non-consensus winners rarely persists in a general election.**
- **Since 2009, there have been three runoff elections for citywide offices.** Under current election law, runoff elections are triggered when a candidate for citywide office fails to secure 40% of the vote. If no candidate reaches the 40% threshold, the top two vote earners proceed

RCV:NYC is a campaign initiated by [Common Cause/NY](http://CommonCause/NY) to bring Ranked Choice Voting to New York City. Visit rcv.nyc to learn more!



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to the runoff election. **Runoff elections are low turnout, high expense elections, far exceeding the per-vote costs of a primary or general election.**

ABOUT US

Who we are: [RCV:NYC](#) is a nonpartisan, citywide network of voting rights and election reform advocates, good government groups, and everyday New Yorkers. Our theory of change is simple: give New Yorkers a meaningful say in their local elections, and our elected officials will truly represent and serve all of our communities.

RCV:NYC is running a citywide campaign to bring Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) to New York City. We are specifically championing a top five candidate Ranked Choice Voting system **for all city offices in primary and special elections in place for the 2021 election cycle.**

What is Ranked Choice Voting? Instead of voting for a single candidate in our sprawling primary or special elections, voters will rank their top 5 candidates from first to last choice on the ballot. **A candidate who collects a majority of the vote, fifty percent plus one, wins.** If there's no majority, then the last place candidate will be eliminated and votes reallocated. The process is repeated until there's a majority winner.

Where did you get your data? Common Cause/NY analyzed election data from 2009-2017 election cycles. Their full [reports can be found here.](#)

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