

Ranked Choice Voting

Requirements and Costs

August 21, 2024

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TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS

Election *system* (ballots, scanners, tabulators, etc) must:

1. Scan and record the ranked choices on a ballot up to the number of choices permitted.
2. Export the ballot data to a Cast Vote Record (CVR).
3. Tabulate the results of multiple rounds and re-allocate votes to the remaining candidates until one gets a majority.

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Our current election system **STILL** meets only the first requirement.

We have plans and the budget to purchase new ballot scanners/tabulators in January 2025. The new equipment will still only meet the first requirement.

TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS

2. Export the ballot data to a Cast Vote Record (CVR):

- Available upgrade from vendor that would enable current and new equipment to produce the Cast Vote Record required for further tabulation.
- Initial purchase and recurring annual license fee.
- Sufficient for one-round RCV. Additional tabulator software required for second and further rounds.

TECHNICAL AND LOGISTICAL REQUIREMENTS

3. Tabulate the results of multiple rounds and re-allocate votes to the remaining candidates until one gets a majority.

- Additional “tabulation software” required to re-allocate and recalculate votes after each round of elimination.

VOTER EDUCATION

- Voter education is key to the success of RCV elections.
- The law *requires* a RCV voter education campaign at least 60 days before an election. We view this as a minimum.
- The cost of a voter education campaign depends largely on how much we can leverage internal county communication resources and use some of the education materials developed by other jurisdictions that have adopted RCV.

Budget

Electionware upgrade (Results Reporting module) & dedicated laptop

Initial cost \$13,626

Annual licensing \$7,200

Dedicated Laptop for tabulation software (software is provided by ELECT).
\$3,000

Integration, testing, validation. \$6000

Training - An Elections Staff member whose primary job function is to create and conduct training of voters, election officials and fellow staff members. (adding a staff position) \$\$\$

Increased costs for longer ballots. \$\$\$

Voter education program (to include PSA's, mailings to every registered voter, demos at various sites etc.....) \$40,000 minimum