Rank Choice Voting

VEBA presentation 2025

What is rank choice voting (RCV)?

- Va. Code § 24.2-673.1
 - "a method of casting and tabulating votes in which (i) voters rank candidates in order of preference, (ii) tabulation proceeds in rounds such that in each round either a candidate or candidates are elected or the last-place candidate is defeated, (iii) votes for voters' next-ranked candidates are transferred from elected or defeated candidates, and (iv) tabulation ends when the number of candidates elected equals the number of offices to be filled. "Ranked choice voting" is known as "instant runoff voting" when electing a single office and "single transferable vote" when electing multiple offices."

What is rank choice voting (RCV)?



Election of county board of supervisors or city council.



County board of supervisor or city council has authority to vote on holding RCV.



The Electoral Board and General Registrar carry out the election.



Need at least three candidates to hold rank choice voting. The 2025 filing deadline is April 3, 2025.

What is rank choice voting (RCV)? Here is the code.

1VAC20-100-20. ADMINISTRATION.

1VAC20-100-30. RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

1VAC20-100-50.
RANKED CHOICE
VOTING
TABULATION.

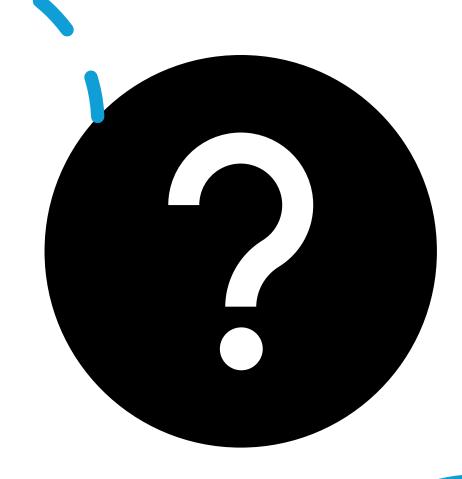
1VAC20-100-70: ELECTION RESULTS.

1VAC20-100-80. OUTREACH.

VA. CODE § 24.2-673.1

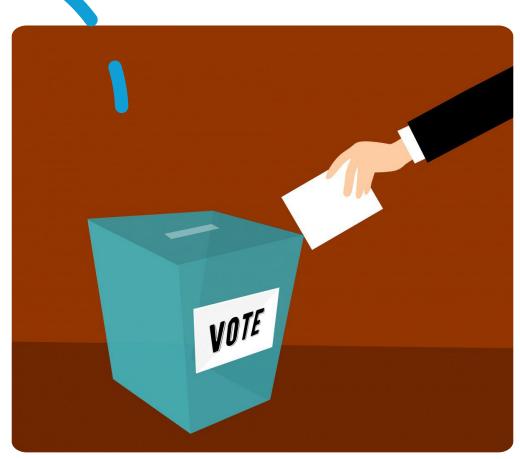
My locality is considering RCV...

- If your locality is considering RCV, here are some considerations:
 - Will current equipment/software be able to conduct the election?
 - What is the cost (printing, administrative time)?
 - How much time (processing, release of results)?
 - What does voter outreach look like? Review the code: 1VAC20-100-80. Outreach.



My locality is holding RCV...

- If your locality is holding RCV:
 - Partner with your governing body on voter outreach and education. Review the code: 1VAC20-100-80. Outreach.
 - Train election officers on how to answer questions.
 - Explain how RCV works.
 - Look for guidance from ELECT.
 - Have a plan for announcing results.
 - L&A testing.
 - Ballot style.



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The Charlottesville Experience







THE CITY COUNCIL VOTED TO HOLD RANK CHOICE VOTING FOR THE PRIMARY.

TO CARRY THIS OUT, THE ELECTORAL BOARD IS PROCEEDING WITH A SOFTWARE UPDATE.

TO DATE, ONLY TWO CANDIDATES HAVE FILED TO RUN. ONE MORE IS NEEDED FOR RCV.

The Arlington Experience

- Arlington has conducted RCV for three elections; 2 primaries, one general.
- The county board considers and votes on holding RCV for each election.
 - Software allows ranking up to three candidates.
 - In the 2024 general election, the winning candidate won by 50% + 1 in the first round.
 - The county board requests a post-election update and citizen feedback on the process after every election.
 - What works
 - Transparency
 - Outreach and education

