

1 H.744

2 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

3 Date:

4 Subject: Municipal government; municipal charters; City of Burlington;
5 amendment

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to approve an
7 amendment to the charter of the City of Burlington to adopt ranked choice
8 voting for City elections.

9 An act relating to approval of an amendment to the charter of the City of
10 Burlington

11 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

12 Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

13 The General Assembly approves the amendments to the charter of the City
14 of Burlington as set forth in this act. The voters approved the proposals of
15 amendment on March 2, 2021.

16 Sec. 2. 24 App. V.S.A. chapter 3 is amended to read:

17 CHAPTER 3. CITY OF BURLINGTON

18 * * *

1 § 5. ELECTION TO BE BY BALLOT; METHOD OF ELECTION;
2 RUNOFF ELECTIONS

3 (a) The election of the Mayor ~~and all City councilors~~ and school
4 commissioners shall be by ballot, and the person or persons receiving a
5 plurality of all votes cast for any office aforesaid shall, except as hereinafter
6 provided, be declared elected thereto. However, if no person receives at least
7 40 percent of all votes cast for any office aforesaid, no one shall be declared
8 elected and a runoff election shall be held. The only candidates in the runoff
9 election shall be the two persons receiving the greater number of votes or, in
10 case of a tie, the persons receiving the greatest number of votes or the persons
11 receiving the second greatest number of votes. The Chief Administrative
12 Officer shall within seven days warn a runoff election to be held not less than
13 12 days nor more than 20 days after the date of the warning. The warning
14 shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and posted
15 in a public place. The person or persons receiving a plurality of all the votes
16 cast in a runoff election shall be declared elected.

17 (b) All elections of City Councilors shall be by ballot, using a system of
18 ranked choice voting without a separate runoff election. The Chief
19 Administrative Officer shall implement a ranked choice voting protocol
20 according to these guidelines:

1 (1) The ballot shall give voters the option of ranking candidates in order
2 of preference.

3 (2) If a candidate receives a majority (over 50 percent) of first
4 preferences, that candidate is elected.

5 (3) If no candidate receives a majority of first preferences, an instant
6 runoff tabulation shall be performed by the presiding election officer.

7 (4) The City Council may adopt ordinances consistent with this
8 subsection to implement these standards.

9 * * *

10 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

11 This act shall take effect on passage.