



# **More Voice for Vermonters**

*Ranked Choice Voting • Informational Session • 04/11/19*



# Real world experience winning and implementing RCV





# Ranked Choice Voting



## Purpose:

1. What?
2. How?
3. Why?

## Goals:

1. Educate
2. Elevate
3. Inspire

**What is  
Ranked  
Choice  
Voting?**

**Simple**

More Voice

Eliminates Vote-Splitting

Less Negative

Majority

**Fair**

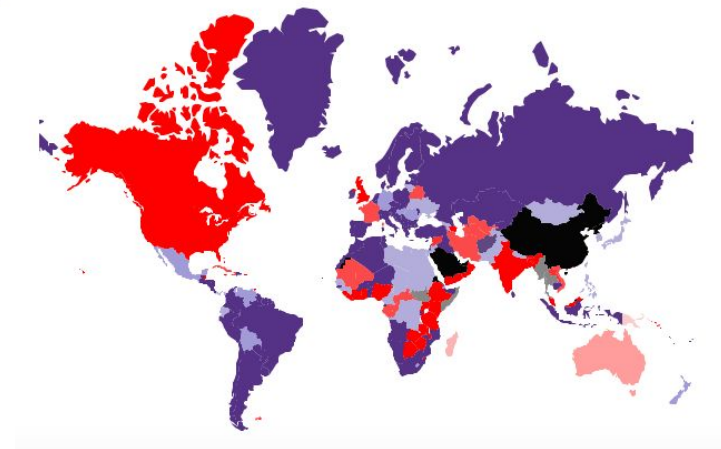
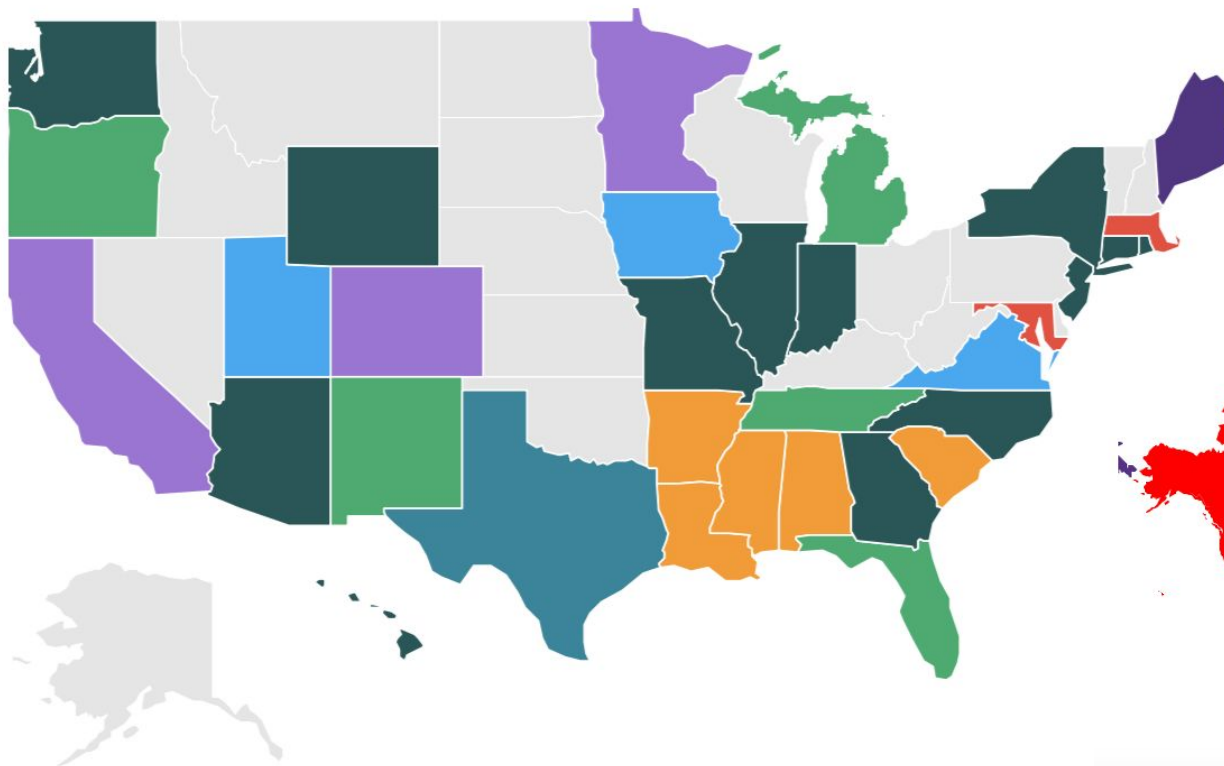
More Choice

Consensus

Instant Runoff Voting

Non-partisan

**Easy**



- Military & Overseas
- 2017 Legislation
- Cities Use RCV
- Cities Have Adopted RCV
- Party Use & 2017 Legislation
- RCV Statewide
- Cities Use RCV and 2017 Legislation
- Party Use

**How** does  
**Ranked**  
**Choice**  
**Voting** work?

**Example A:**  
**2018 Democratic**  
**Gubernatorial**  
**Primary**





# Round 1: First Choices

50%



**No Path To Victory**  
**Eliminated**

# Round 2

50%



} **Eliminated**

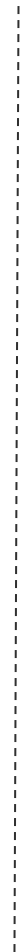


# Round 3

50%



**Eliminated**





# Round 4: Final Round

50%



# Voters Attitudes

- 85% were “very familiar” or “familiar” with Ranked Choice Voting
- 84% found Ranked Choice Voting “very easy” or “easy” to use

# Elections Results

- 95% of voters ranked more than one candidate
- 7.5% increase in voter turnout from last competitive gubernatorial primary
- 0.003% of ballots were “spoiled” (comparable to first-past-the-post)

**Example B:**

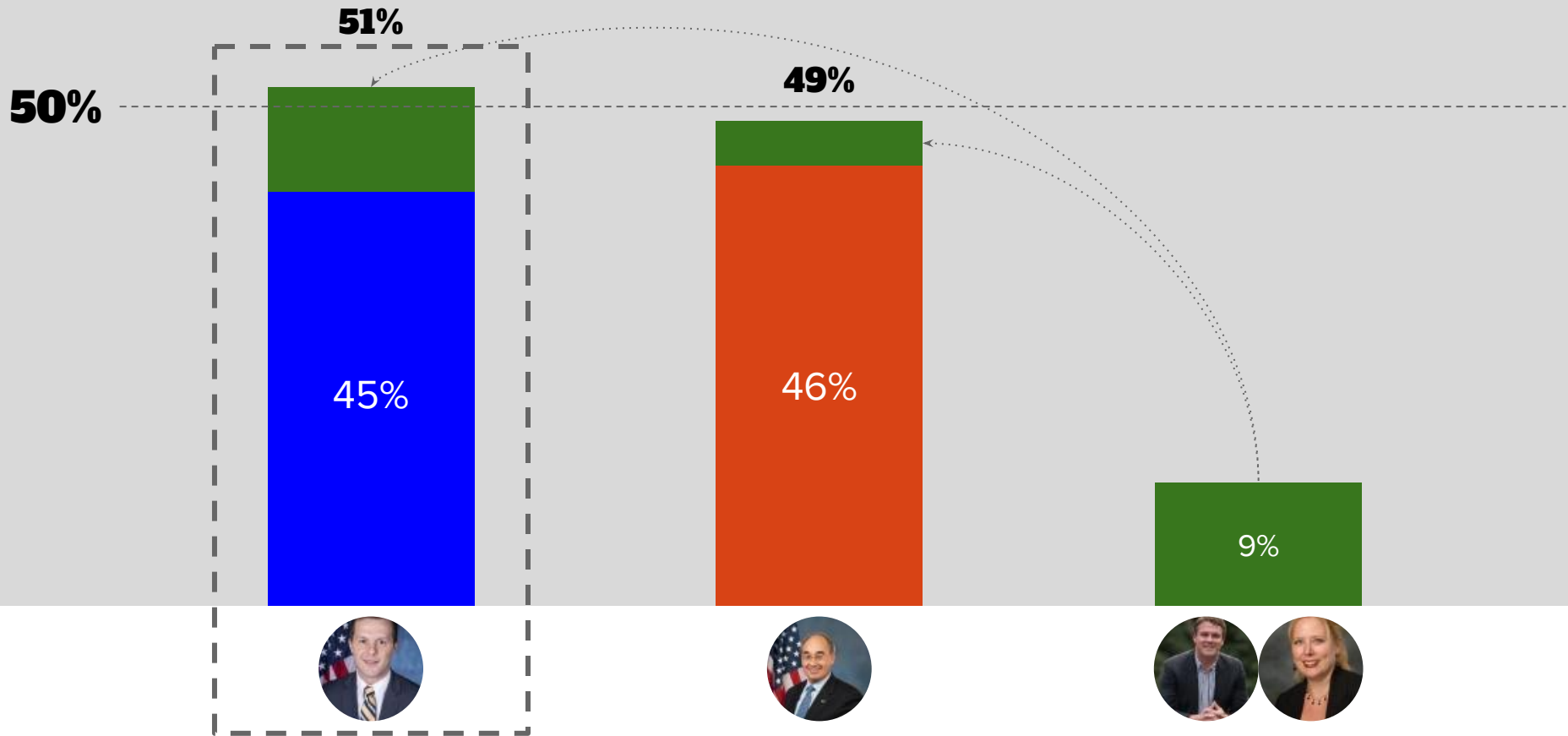
**2018 Congressional  
General Election,  
Second District**

# Sample Ballot

| <b>Rep. to Congress<br/>District 2</b>                       | <b>1st Choice</b>     | <b>2nd Choice</b>     | <b>3rd Choice</b>     | <b>4th Choice</b>     | <b>5th Choice</b>     |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Bond, Tiffany L.</b><br>Portland<br>Independent           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Golden, Jared F.</b><br>Lewiston<br>Democratic            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Hoar, William R.S.</b><br>Southwest Harbor<br>Independent | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Poliquin, Bruce</b><br>Oakland<br>Republican              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| <b>Write-in</b>  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |



**WINNER!**



# Voters Attitudes

- 74% found Ranked Choice Voting was “very easy” or “easy” to use
- 62% thought that majority winners in elections are “very important”

# Elections Results

- 95% of voters participated all the way through to in the final round
- 0.001% of ballots were “spoiled” (comparable to first-past-the-post)

**Why** does  
**Ranked**  
**Choice**  
**Voting** matter?

# Why RCV?

- RCV restores majority rule
  - Candidates who are opposed by a majority can never win
  - RCV is the most cost-effective and efficient way to conduct a runoff election
- RCV gives voters the freedom to vote for the candidate they like the best without worrying that they will help to elect the candidate they like least
  - You never have to vote for the “lesser of two evils” over another candidate you really like
  - You never have to feel like your vote is “wasted”
- RCV encourages more positive, issue-focused campaigns
  - Candidates are encouraged to reach beyond their base and appeal more broadly for support
  - Negative campaigning can backfire when voters have the power to rank their choices

**More Voice ✓ More Choice ✓ More Power**



