

1 Introduced by Committee on Government Operations

2 Date:

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

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

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

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

11 Sec. 1. CHARTER AMENDMENT APPROVAL

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

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

16 CHAPTER 3. CITY OF BURLINGTON

17 * * *

1 § 5. ELECTION TO BE BY BALLOT; METHOD OF ELECTION; RUNOFF
2 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 shall
14 be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City and posted in a
15 public place. The person or persons receiving a plurality of all the votes cast in
16 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. The
7 instant runoff retabulation shall be conducted in rounds. In each round, each
8 voter's ballot shall count as a single vote for whichever continuing candidate
9 the voter has ranked highest. The candidate with the fewest votes after each
10 round shall be eliminated until only two candidates remain, with the candidate
11 then receiving the greatest number of votes being elected.

12 (4) The City Council may adopt additional regulations consistent with
13 this subsection to implement these standards.

14 * * *

15 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on passage.