

Good morning, Please share these concerns with the Committee...

I have worked in the Town Clerk's Office for over twenty-eight years, the last eight being Town Clerk. I believe that I have made great strides locally, as has the State and Nation, in improving voter education and assistance to increase participation in elections. The automatic mail-in balloting implemented has also improved participation. The legislature also changed law in order to cure ballot mistakes, which I have seen to be very successful.

Ranked choice voting is, in short, confusing. I do not support it for my voters, my poll workers or for my Board of Civil Authority for tallying purposes. It will cause tremendous confusion on Election Day and with early voting. I don't feel comfortable with my poll workers needing to explain in detail this process to voters. In fact, I don't think they will be able to explain it, nor will they have the time with a checklist near 10,000 voters. It is hard to find qualified poll workers and this will make matters worse. I am lucky that I have machines, although there will inevitably be the hand counts and write-ins that need to be dealt with. I can't imagine being a hand count town and dealing with this. Vermont will become the next State to take weeks to be able to provide solid election results.

If S. 32 were to become law, it would be implemented for Presidential Primary 2024. There just isn't time for voter education or staff education. Not to mention, by the time Vermont's Primary happens in March, usually several of the candidates on the ballot have withdrawn their candidacy, but they still appear on our ballot.

Ranked choice voting will be a step back in voter participation and will lead to more defective ballots. It has been two steps forward, but it will be one step back.

Cassandra Barbeau
Town Clerk
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