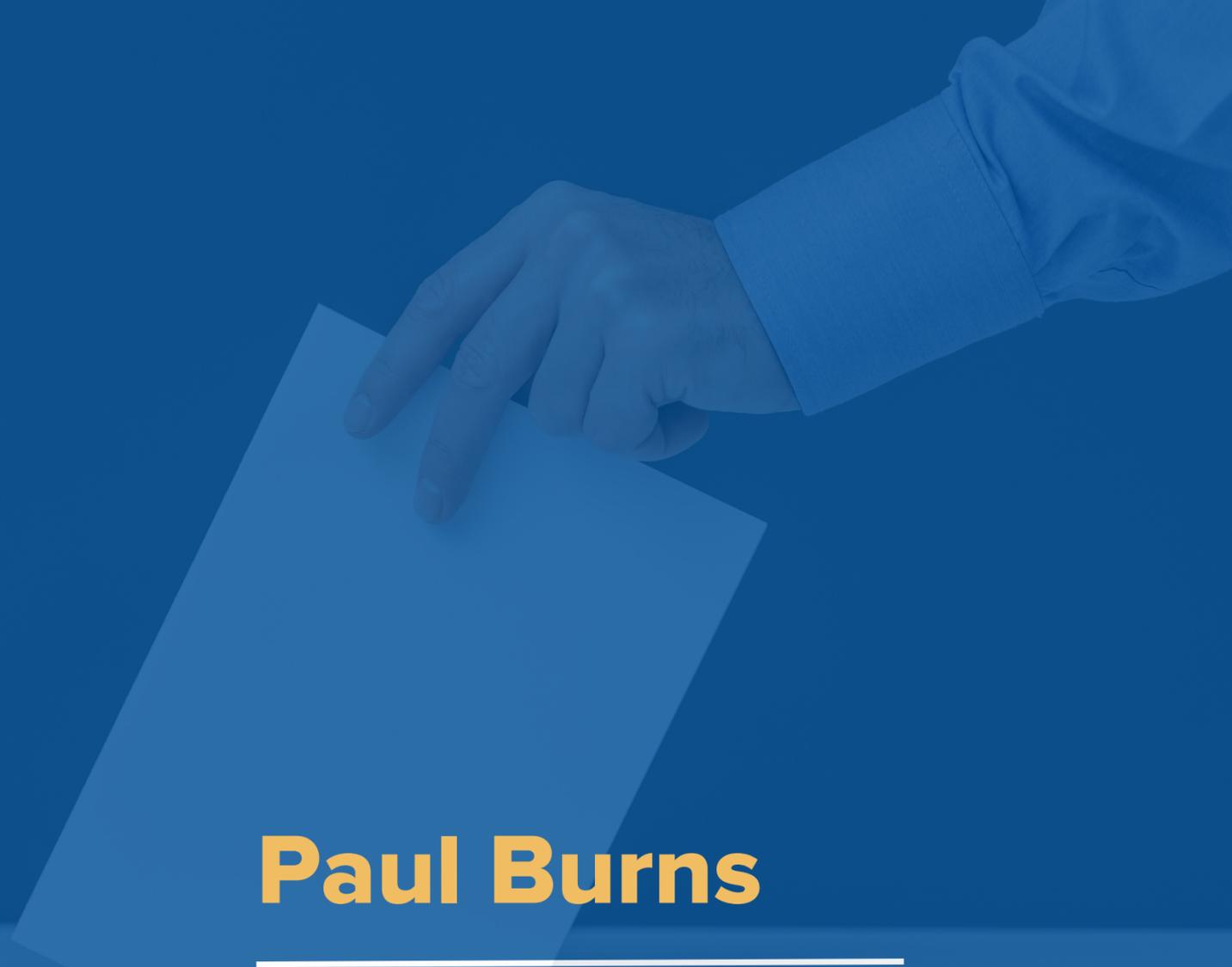




# BETTER BALLOT VERMONT



**Paul Burns**

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Executive Director, VPIRG

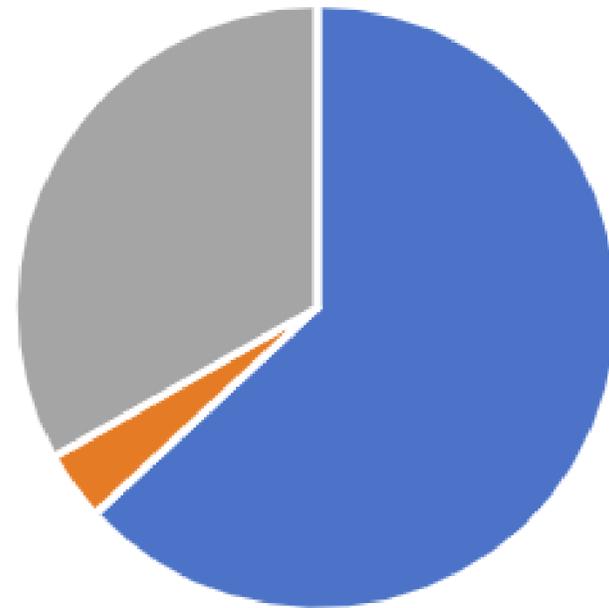
[pburns@vpirg.org](mailto:pburns@vpirg.org)

*More voice. More choice. And a stronger democracy.*



# 2016 Republican Presidential Primary

Wasted Votes - 2016 GOP Primary



- Candidates in the Race with 20% or Greater of Votes
- Withdrawn Candidates
- Candidates in the Race with 20% or Less of Votes

**Candidates 20% or more - 62.3%**

**Withdrawn - 3.69%**

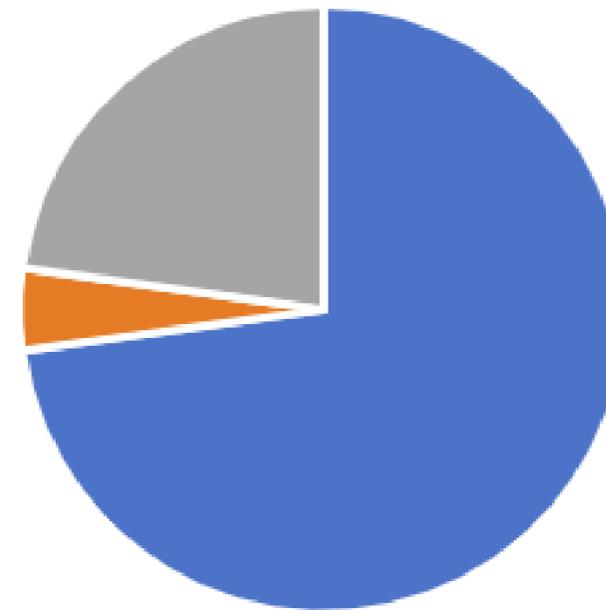
**20% or less - 32.9%**

**Write-ins - .63%**

# 2020 Democratic Presidential Primary

**Candidates 15% or more - 72.8%**  
**Withdrawn- 4.35%**  
**15% or less - 22.79%**  
**Write in/uncommitted - .06%**

Wasted Votes - 2020 DNC Primary



- Candidates in the Race with 15% or Greater of Votes
- Withdrawn Candidates
- Candidates in the Race with 15% or Less of Votes



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# DECISION 2022

RANKED CHOICE VOTING "MOCK" PRIMARY



U.S. House Democratic Primary



U.S. Senate Democratic Primary



U.S. House Republican Primary



U.S. Senate Republican Primary

## THE RESULTS ARE IN...

# YES on 4



**Governor Howard Dean**  
Former VT Governor (D)  
Co-Chair, Better Ballot Burlington

**Councilor Zoraya Hightower**  
Burlington City Councilor (P)  
Co-Chair, Better Ballot Burlington





# Burlington Special Election

**City Council  
Dec. 6th,  
2022**



**[BetterBallotVT.org/btv2022](https://BetterBallotVT.org/btv2022)**



## RANKED CHOICE VOTING: WHAT IS IT AND WHY

**Ranked Choice Voting, or RCV,** is a voting system in which voters *rank candidates* in *order of preference* instead of just voting for one candidate.

EAST DISTRICT CITY COUNCILOR		1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
Term Ending April 3, 2023 Only ONE vote per candidate. Only ONE vote per column.					
<b>MAEA BRANDT</b> Burlington	Democratic	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>
<b>DINA JOHN</b> Burlington	Progressive	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>
<b>JAKE SCHUMANN</b> Burlington	Independent	<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>
<b>(Write-in)</b>		<input type="radio"/> <sup>1</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>2</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>3</sup>	<input type="radio"/> <sup>4</sup>

### Majority Winners

Candidates need more than 50% of the vote to win, forcing them to *appeal to more voters*. This means candidates need *core support* and *broad support* to win.

### More Choices, No Spoilers

Candidates can compete *without fear of splitting the vote and spoiling the election*, and *voters are freed* from worrying about who is more or less likely to win.

### Less Negative Campaigning

Since candidates want to appeal to more voters, they are *less likely* to smear their opponents. This allows campaigns to *focus on the issues*.

**EAST DISTRICT VOTERS WILL USE RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR THE  
DECEMBER 6TH CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL ELECTION**

## HOW THE WINNER IS DETERMINED

If your first choice can't help your top choice win, it counts automatically for your backup choice(s). To win a RCV race, a candidate must get more than 50% of the final votes - ballots are counted in rounds until a candidate wins. The candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated. Voters who picked the eliminated candidate will have their vote counted for their next choice.

## FAQs and MARKING YOUR BALLOT

### Can I vote for just one candidate?

You can vote for as many - or as few - as you want.

### How does ranking effect my 1st choice?

Ranking other candidates will never hurt the chances of your first choice.

### Is it common for there to be a "comeback win"?

It's not common but it is completely normal. Often, similar candidates split the vote allowing a less popular candidate to win. This is a common problem that RCV solves. If there is a "comeback win," it simply means that one candidate had broad backup support.

### Can I give different candidates the same ranking or rank the same candidate more than once?

No. Both of these could disqualify your ballot. You can only give a candidate one unique ranking.

### Is this still one-person, one-vote?

Yes. Everyone's vote counts equally. Several court cases at the Federal and State level have upheld this.

### Under what circumstances can my 1st choice be eliminated?

The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. If your 1st choice is eliminated, your 2nd choice will be counted, and so on.

Learn more at:

[www.betterballotvermont.org](http://www.betterballotvermont.org)



**SIGN UP!**  
**TAKE ACTION!**

# See how Ranked Choice Voting works by participating in our Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Flavor election.

ICE CREAM ELECTION NOT SHOWING UP? TRY DISABLING YOUR AD BLOCKER

## Rank your vote

Rank up to four candidates. Mark no more than one oval in each column.

### Ben & Jerry's Flavor Election

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Half Baked	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Phish Food	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cherry Garcia	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Chunky Monkey	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Not selected	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Your Ranked Ballot: 1) Half Baked 2) Phish Food 3) Chunky Monkey 4) Cherry Garcia

# RANKED CHOICE VOTING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

All Burlington voters will be using **Ranked Choice Voting** to elect their city council members on Town Meeting Day.

**Election Day is Tuesday March 7**, but you may have already received your ballot in the mail - so we want you to be ready.

**Ranked Choice Voting is simple**, but it is different than how you've voted in the past. **Here's what you need to know:**



Instead of voting for just one candidate, **you can rank the candidates in order of preference**, filling in the "1st" bubble for your top choice, the "2nd" bubble for your next choice and so on.



You can **rank as many or as few candidates** as you want, including write-in candidates.



If your first choice can't win, **your vote automatically counts for your backup choice(s)** instead.



	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Candidate A		●		
Candidate B				●
Candidate C	●			
Candidate			●	

D



## RANKED CHOICE VOTING FAQs



### Can I vote for just one candidate?

You can vote for as many - or as few - as you want.



### How does ranking effect my 1st choice?

Ranking other candidates will never hurt the chances of your first choice.



### Can I give different candidates the same ranking or rank the same candidate more than once?

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**BURLINGTON  
VOTERS ARE**

 BETTER BALLOT  
VERMONT

*More voice. More choice.  
And a stronger democracy.*



<https://www.wcax.com/2022/12/06/is-ranked-choice-voting-winner-burlington-residents-weigh/>