

# Ranked Choice Voting & Jungle Primaries



# HELLO!

**AUSTIN SMITH**

**AZ State Rep. LD29**

*Enterprise Director  
at Turning Point Action*

*AZ Freedom Caucus  
Member*





# What is **Ranked Choice Voting**?



Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), also called “instant runoff voting”, is portrayed as a viable alternative to the status quo, but in reality it is a **DISASTER**.



# BACKGROUND

Funded by the **Progressive Left**, RCV advocacy organizations claim that a **massive overhaul** can improve **voter confidence**.



# WHAT ARE THE ADVOCATES SAYING?

# “ More candidate choices

# “Decreasing negative campaigning

# “ Ensuring majority rule



# THESE ARE FALSE PROMISES



**THE PROLIFERATION OF RCV WOULD BE  
HARMFUL TO AMERICAN ELECTIONS.**

**Ballots in ranked-choice  
voting elections are  
more complex than  
traditional “one-person,  
one vote” elections**



AMERICAN ELECTIONS ARE DECIDED ON THE  
“ONE-PERSON, ONE VOTE” PRINCIPLE, IN WHICH  
EACH VOTER CHOOSES ONE CANDIDATE, AND THE  
WINNER SECURES THE PLURALITY OF VOTES.

When making an  
informed decision at  
the ballot box becomes  
an **onerous** process,  
corruption becomes  
**inevitable**

## RANK-CHOICE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE COMPLEX

**OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021

Ballot 60 - Type 60 - BC- English -  
Default - SLC001

**RANKED CHOICE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS:**


To rank your candidates, fill in the oval next to their name:

- In the 1st column for your 1st choice candidate
- In the 2nd column for your 2nd choice candidate, and so on

Do not fill in more than one oval:

- In a column
- For a candidate

You may rank as many or as few candidates as you like, and you are not required to rank all candidates. If you skip a ranking, subsequent choice(s) in that contest will not be counted. If you make a mistake, mark the ballot so your intent is clear. Do not initial or sign the correction.



*Source: Salt Lake City, Utah City Attorney's Office*

# Exhausted ballots in elections with ranked-choice voting silence voters



**In traditional elections,  
every submitted ballot that  
follows the instructions is  
counted towards the result,  
this **IS NOT** the case with  
RCV**





# EXHAUSTED BALLOTS

Exhausted ballots in RCV elections do not count towards the final tally. While many RCV ballots are thrown out due to voter error in following convoluted instructions, ballots that follow the instructions to the letter can also be thrown away because the voter ranked candidates who are no longer in contention.

As candidates are eliminated through multiple rounds of tabulation, voters have their ballots exhausted if they only ranked candidates that have been removed during successive rounds.

In other words, for a voters voice to **FULLY** count in every round of an RCV election, you **MUST** vote for all candidates on the ballot, even those you **DO NOT** support

**“With Ranked  
Choice Voting,  
not all votes count**

# ↻ Maine, CD 2 Democrat Primary 2018



Although a total of **126,139** votes were cast, only **117,250** votes counted towards the final round.

This means that  
approximately **seven**  
percent of voters - nearly  
**9,000** people - had their  
voices **silenced** by ballot  
**exhaustion**

# San Francisco, CA Board of Supervisors Election 2010



**After 20 rounds of tabulation, 53 % of ballots has been exhausted, only 82,000 ballots contributed towards the final results**

More ballots  
were **THROWN**  
out than  
**COUNTED**

**“ Districts using  
RCV have lower  
voter turnout**





# The Facts

**Both Minneapolis & St. Paul, Minnesota have had RCV local elections for more than a decade.**

**Both lag well behind other major metropolitan cities in municipal election voter turnout.**



# The Facts

San Francisco elections from **1995 to 2011** show a steep **decline** in voter turnout after the **adoption** of RCV.

Lags well **behind** other major metropolitan cities in municipal election **voter turnout**.



**BETWEEN VOTER CONFUSION, HIGH RATES OF  
BALLOT EXHAUSTION, AND THE DIFFICULTY OF  
TABULATING THE RESULTS, RCV INCREASES THE  
OPPORTUNITY COSTS OF ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION.**

# Ranked-choice voting changes and delays the election counting process

The most **concerning**  
component of RCV  
elections is the required  
changes to the **ballot**  
**counting** process



**Ranked Choice Voting ballots **must** be transported to a centralized location for counting due to **multiple rounds** of tabulation in the event of an instant runoff, potentially increasing the cost of the election and **vulnerability** to mismanagement**

Because of the **convoluted** and centralized tabulation process, counting the final results in RCV elections is **time consuming**, and rarely are election results available on **Election Day**



**66 PERCENT OF ALL VOTERS ARE MORE LIKELY  
TO OPPOSE RCV WHEN THEY LEARN THAT  
DECLARING THE WINNER CAN TAKE DAYS  
OR WEEKS POST-ELECTION DAY.**





# Ranked-Choice Voting leads to lengthy delays in Election Results

# Minneapolis, MN Mayoral Race 2018



The election office estimated that, for a turnout of **70,000** voters, tabulation would take **37 eight-hour** shifts with **102** election officials working.



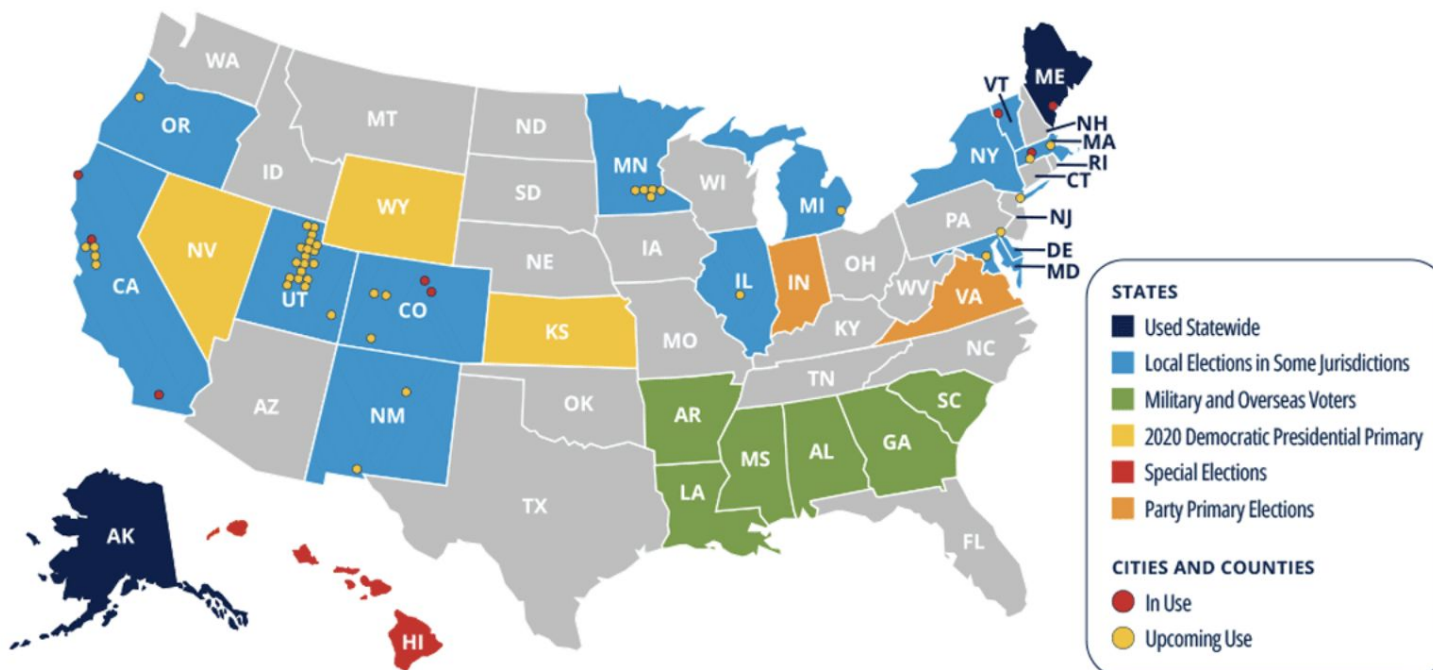
In other words,  
tabulation was estimated  
to take **30,192**  
man-hours or nearly **13**  
**days of round-the-clock**  
counting

“

# THE BOTTOM LINE:

Lawmakers should **ban** Ranked Choice Voting at **all** levels of government.

## MILLIONS OF AMERICANS LIVE IN RCV JURISDICTIONS



Source: Ballotpedia and Fair Vote

# Gavin Newsom **Vetoed** RCV



**“Ranked Choice Voting is an experiment that has been tried in several charter cities in California. I am concerned that it has often led to voter confusion, and that the promise ranked choice voting leads to greater democracy is not necessarily fulfilled.”**





# Is Ranked Choice Voting coming to Arizona?

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED




## Bring Better Ballots to Arizona with Voter Choice Arizona

Voter Choice Arizona aims to improve our elections so that voters have more choice and more voice for better governance and a better Arizona.

We are a non-partisan group primarily led by volunteers donating their time and financial support. Are you ready to help us bring Better Ballots to Arizona? Sign up below to get more information about how to volunteer!





# What is being done to stop Ranked Choice Voting?



## ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session

---

**[HB2552](#): voting; elections; tally; prohibition**  
**Sponsor: Representative Smith, LD 29**  
**Committee on Municipal Oversight & Elections**

### **Overview**

Prohibits the use of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in Arizona elections.

### **History**

In all Arizona elections, the candidate that receives the highest number of votes is declared elected ([Art. VII § 7, Const. of Arizona](#)).

RCV allows each voter to rank multiple candidates for the same office on a ballot in order of preference rather than making a single choice. After the ballots in the election have been counted, if a candidate is a majority of the electorate's first choice, that candidate is the winner of the election ([CRS Report](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. States for every election in this state, the person who receives the highest number of votes be declared elected. (Sec. 1)
2. Prohibits any city, town, county, or political subdivision of this state from using a voting method that does any of the following:
  - a) Allows voters to rank more candidates than are eligible to be elected for office;
  - b) Allows cast ballots to be tabulated in a manner that eliminates candidates through multiple rounds; or
  - c) Requires the ranking of all candidates running for a singular office. (Sec. 1)

# VETOED





**NOT SO FAST KATIE**

2024 ELECTIONS

BALLOT MEASURES

# Amendment to require direct partisan primary elections will be decided by Arizona voters in 2024

By Nicole Fisher

April 5, 2023 at 11:04 AM



## ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session

---

**[HCR2033](#): primary elections; eligible candidates**

**Sponsor: Representative Smith, LD 29**

**Committee on Municipal Oversight & Elections**

### **Overview**

Prohibits any election law in Arizona that is contrary to the direct primary election law as outlined in the Arizona Constitution.

### **History**

A regular primary election is the first Tuesday in August in any year that a general election or special election is held and at which candidates for public office are to be elected. At least 120 days before the date of a regular primary election, the Secretary of State must prepare and transmit the state and federal offices for which candidates are to be nominated for at the primary election to the Board of Supervisors of each county (A.R.S. §§ [16-201](#), [16-202](#)).

Ranked choice voting allows each voter to rank multiple candidates for the same office on a ballot in order of preference rather than making a single choice. After the ballots in the election have been counted, if a candidate is a majority of the electorate's first choice, that candidate is the winner of the election ([CRS Report](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Clarifies that the direct primary election law of Arizona supersedes any contrary law of any charter, law, ordinance, rule, resolution or policy of any city or town. (Sec. 1)
2. Requires the direct primary law to be conducted in a manner that allows each qualified political party to nominate a number of candidates equal to the number of available positions in a given office. (Sec. 1)
3. Adds that all eligible candidates who are nominated in the primary are to be placed on the ballot for the subsequent general election. (Sec. 1)



# PASSED



# THE SWAMP STRIKES BACK



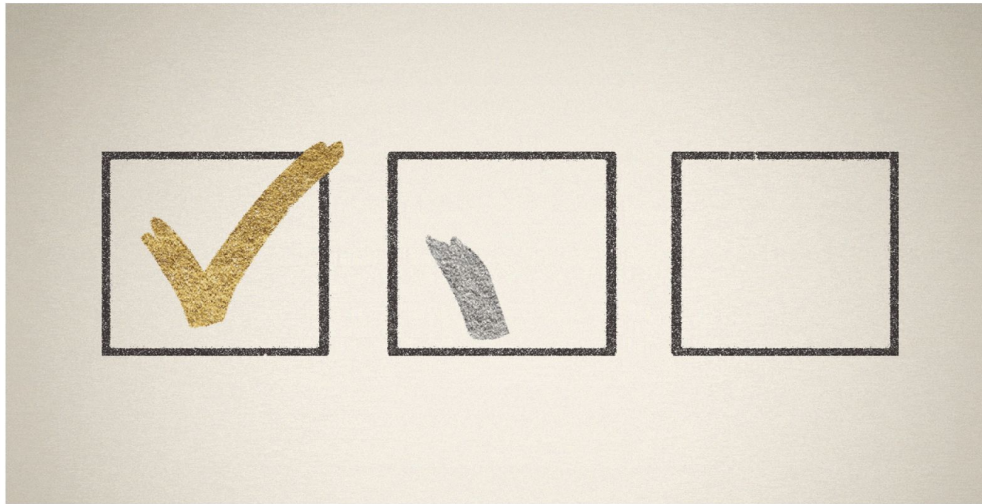




# Proposal would overhaul Arizona elections with nonpartisan open primaries



Jeremy Duda





★ MAKE  
ELECTIONS  
**FAIR**  
ARIZONA

*Every voter. Every Candidate.*



**DONATE**

Get a Petition

[Home](#) [About](#) [Who We Are](#) [Supporters](#) [News](#) [Get Involved](#)

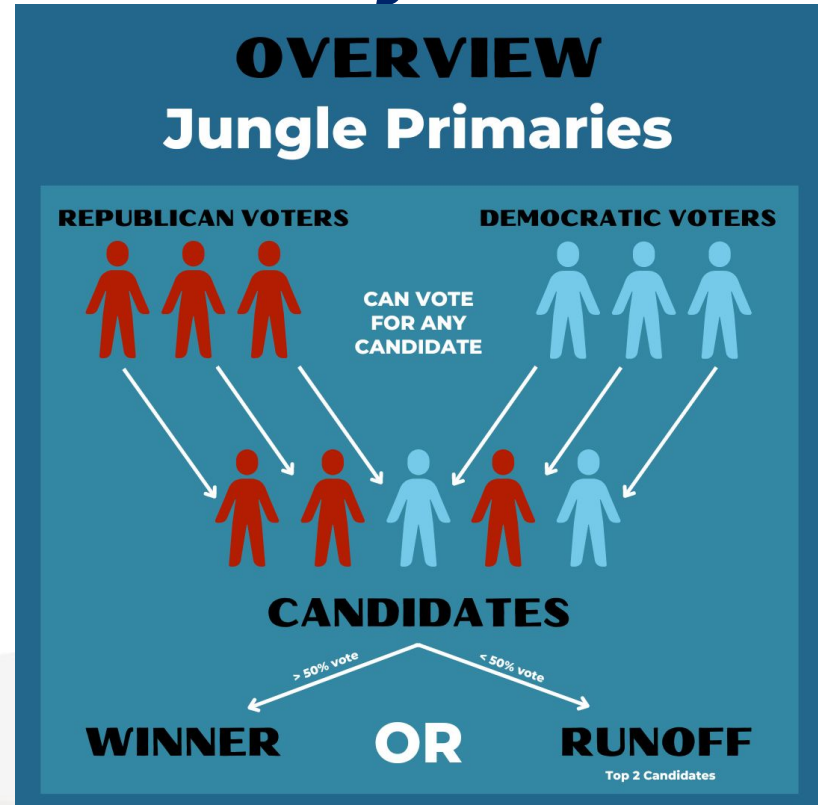


Better Choices, Better Results,  
***Better Arizona***

**“The establishment and uniparty is pushing for open primaries in Arizona to stop the grassroots from winning elections”**

# What is a Jungle Primary?

All candidates for the same office regardless of the political party compete in the primary together. The top “vote getters” move on to the ensuing general election.





# How do we stop this?



## ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session

---

**[HCR2033](#): primary elections; eligible candidates**

**Sponsor: Representative Smith, LD 29**

**Committee on Municipal Oversight & Elections**

### **Overview**

Prohibits any election law in Arizona that is contrary to the direct primary election law as outlined in the Arizona Constitution.

### **History**

A regular primary election is the first Tuesday in August in any year that a general election or special election is held and at which candidates for public office are to be elected. At least 120 days before the date of a regular primary election, the Secretary of State must prepare and transmit the state and federal offices for which candidates are to be nominated for at the primary election to the Board of Supervisors of each county (A.R.S. §§ [16-201](#), [16-202](#)).

Ranked choice voting allows each voter to rank multiple candidates for the same office on a ballot in order of preference rather than making a single choice. After the ballots in the election have been counted, if a candidate is a majority of the electorate's first choice, that candidate is the winner of the election ([CRS Report](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Clarifies that the direct primary election law of Arizona supersedes any contrary law of any charter, law, ordinance, rule, resolution or policy of any city or town. (Sec. 1)
2. Requires the direct primary law to be conducted in a manner that allows each qualified political party to nominate a number of candidates equal to the number of available positions in a given office. (Sec. 1)
3. Adds that all eligible candidates who are nominated in the primary are to be placed on the ballot for the subsequent general election. (Sec. 1)



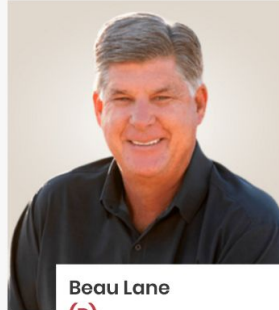
# Who is behind this?

## Our Team.

Meet our bipartisan team working to improve the fairness of Arizona's electoral system.



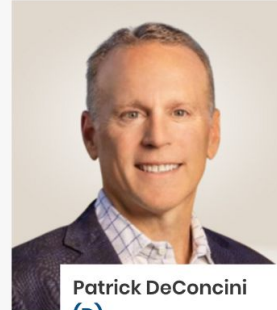
**Sarah Smallhouse**  
**(IND)**  
Chairman



**Beau Lane**  
**(R)**  
Co-Chair



**Paul Johnson**  
**(IND)**  
Co-Chair



**Patrick DeConcini**  
**(D)**  
Co-Chair





**Ted Hinderaker**

Partner, Hinderaker Rau & Weisman P.L.C.



**Nicole Barraza**

Director of Governance & Outreach, SALC



**Luis Acosta**

Partner, Oracle Strategies



**Jackie Norton**

Norton Connections



**Chuck Coughlin**

CEO & President HighGround Public Affairs



**Victor Flores**



**Christopher Volk**

Veteran Executive



**Scott Smith**

Former Mayor of Mesa



**Don Budinger**



**Heather Carter**

Greater Phoenix Leadership, Inc.

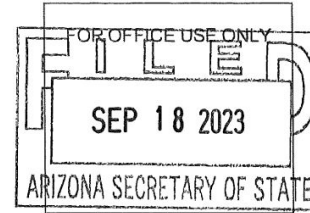


**Si Schorr**



STATE OF ARIZONA

Application for Serial Number  
Initiative Petition  
A.R.S. § 19-111



The undersigned intends to circulate and file an initiative petition and hereby makes application for the issuance of an official serial number to be printed in the lower right-hand corner of each side of each signature sheet of such petition. Attached hereto is the full title and text, in no less than eight point type, of the measure or constitutional amendment intended to be initiated at the next general election.

Statutory Measure

Constitutional Amendment

Date of Application

09/18/2023

Signatures Required

383,923

Deadline for Filing

07/03/2024

Serial Number Issued

I-07-2024

This Constitutional amendment expands voters' choices in primaries, eliminates restrictions on voter participation in elections based on party affiliation and ensures candidates for the same office compete under the same rules. The amendment limits using public monies for political party elections as described in the amendment. For primaries, all candidates for the same office collect the same minimum number of petition signatures and appear on the same ballot. Everyone eligible to vote for an office may vote for any candidate and sign any candidate petition regardless of party affiliation. Parties may still endorse or support candidates. Future legislation shall specify how many candidates advance to general election. For single-winner races, two to five candidates advance. For multi-winner races, additional candidates advance for additional seats. If three or more candidates advance in single-winner races, voter rankings must be used to determine which candidate prevails at the general election. If legislation that specifies how many candidates advance or what the process will be is not effective by a date certain, the Secretary of State must decide those issues, subject to legislative modification. The only cities subject to this measure are charter cities with partisan primaries as of 1/1/25.



# The Facts



**HCR 2033 is  
already on the  
ballot for  
November  
2024**

**Make Elections Fair  
Arizona needs  
383,923+ petition  
signatures by July 3,  
2024 for ballot  
access in November  
2024**



# Who is fighting this?



ARIZONA  
free enterprise  
CLUB





# What can you do?

# “ #DECLINETOSIGN



# #DECLINETOSIGN



**Inform your family, friends,  
neighbors, precinct  
committeemen and co-workers  
to NOT sign the Make Elections  
Fair petitions**





# Thank you!

**AUSTIN SMITH**

**AZ State Rep. LD29**

*Enterprise Director  
at Turning Point Action*

*AZ Freedom Caucus  
Member*

