



Date of Hearing: Thursday, February 27, 2025

Bill Number: SB 6 - Prohibiting the use of any form of ranked-choice voting method for the conduct of elections.

Disposition: Opponent; Written only Testimony

From: Cille King, League of Women Voters of Kansas, Advocacy Chair

To: Chair Representative Proctor and members of the House Committee on Elections

The League opposes SB 6 which would prohibit ranked choice voting (RCV) (also known as instant runoff election) in Kansas. RCV is a fairer way of representing the preferences of a majority of the voters in that jurisdiction, increases civility in political campaigning, combats a spoiler in an election, and encourages voters to vote based on their true intentions instead of on a calculation of who has the best likelihood of winning.* RCV general elections are associated with a 10 point increase in voter turnout.**

Under the current system whoever gets the most votes wins. That means that if there are multiple candidates (say five) a proposal or candidate who gets the most votes, even if only 20% + 1, wins; even though 79% of the voters do not want that outcome. This is a recipe for the dominance of motivated, extremist minorities.*

One senator in the originating committee commented that California was repealing ranked choice voting. The only reference that this writer could find was to a 2022 bill (AB 2808) that would have banned RCV statewide which died in committee.

Since 2004, there have been over 500 RCV elections in the U.S. with tens of millions of RCV ballots cast. Most places that have adopted RCV have switched from a two-round system to a single RCV election, substantially improving turnout by consolidating primary and runoff elections into a single higher-turnout general election.**

Legislators in over 20 states introduced legislation in early 2022 to adopt RCV at a statewide level, for special elections, or to make it easier for local municipalities to adopt RCV.*

League of Women Voters of Kansas

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Voters like RCV. In 2021, 77% of voters polled in New York City during the city's first RCV primary elections said they supported continued use of RCV. In 2018, 94% of Santa Fe, NM reported feeling either very or somewhat satisfied with their first use of RCV. In 2021 polling in Utah, 81% of voters believed RCV was "very or somewhat easy" to use.*

After their first regular RCV election in 2022, a majority of poll respondents in Alaska said their vote mattered more than in previous years. This sentiment was consistent across region, race, gender, and age, though Alaska Native voters were most likely to say their vote mattered more.**

Ranked Choice Voting is not new and is used in some form in 17 states. Two tabulation companies support Ranked Choice Voting, and a third has submitted its proposal for approval. Many current voting machines can support RCV.

We ask that you vote NO on SB 6 and allow our cities, counties, state and other jurisdictions to provide the most representative way to choose our elected officials.

* [https://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_\(RCV\)#Where_is_RCV_used](https://ballotpedia.org/Ranked-choice_voting_(RCV)#Where_is_RCV_used)

** https://fairvote.org/resources/data-on-rcv/#research_rcvvotersupport