

Wasatch Taxpayers Association

WasatchTaxpayersAssociation.com

Heber City Ranked Choice Voting 3-4-25
We know that public trust in elections matter.

CONFUSED
ABOUT



RANKED
CHOICE
VOTING?

RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Ranked-Choice Voting makes it harder to vote, harder to count the votes, and much harder to ensure a transparent and accountable democratic process.

RCV elections that require multiple rounds of tabulation rely on computers to make adjustments, or discard ballots in each round. There is no way to quickly confirm the accuracy of the computer processes involved.

Last year, six states banned ranked choice voting, bringing the total number of states where RCV is outlawed to eleven. Now, just weeks into 2025, legislation banning the system has been filed in Iowa, South Carolina, Texas, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Kansas. While it's still too early to tell, 2025 could surpass 2024 as the worst year ever for ranked-choice voting.

These aggressive moves by the states aren't just the result of messaging by opponents like us. They're the direct result of ranked-choice voting's many well-documented failures in places like Maine and Alaska.

HOW RANKED CHOICE VOTING WORKS

In an RCV election, if one candidate receives a majority of first-place votes, it works like any other election (the rankings are irrelevant). If no candidate receives a majority of first-place votes, then the candidate with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated. Ballots that ranked the eliminated candidate first are “adjusted” in one of two ways:

- 1.If they ranked other candidates, their next-ranked candidate is moved up to get their first-place vote.
- 2.If they did not rank other candidates, their ballot is eliminated (as if they had not voted at all).

This process is repeated until one candidate has a majority of the remaining votes. It relies on precise data entry and well-programmed computers—with more than just a few ballots, the RCV process is entirely dependent on computers to run the multiple rounds of adjustments and retabulating. (This is an [example](#) of the computer settings instructions for San Francisco.)

Note that the above is a description of the most commonly used RCV process. Laws and even election officials can alter this process, potentially changing the outcomes, such as by eliminating more than one candidate at once or changing how they treat over votes (giving more than one candidate the same ranking) or undervotes (skipping a ranking, for example, ranking candidates first, second, but then fourth).

RANKED CHOICE VOTING RISKS

RCV is harder for voters- and may be Unconstitutional

In an RCV election, rather than identifying one candidate to support, voters must research multiple candidates and form opinions about their relative preferences for as many as five or more. This benefits those who have more time and access to information—in short, RCV gives more power to elites while making it harder for everyone else.

An RCV ballot is also longer and takes more time for voters to complete. This means more delays and longer lines at polling places. It also creates many new opportunities to make a mistake, increasing the chances that a voter's intent is not correctly recorded or that ballots are disqualified and discarded.

* Discriminates against senior citizens who have been consistently voting the same way for 50 years, and now they have to learn a new process. Causes confusion and they may stop trying.

* Discriminates against ADHD-type voters, who have a hard time concentrating when too many choices are given. Creates an overly stressful situation and they may stop trying. [Citizen Clip](#)

And those voters likely will NOT vote in the NEXT election.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING- OUTSIDE MONEY-1

Big Money to Fight for Ranked Choice Voting

The Action Now Initiative provided \$6.59 million to the statewide ranked-choice voting campaigns in 2020, including \$2.93 million in Alaska and \$3.66 million in Massachusetts. John and Laura Arnold founded the Action Now Initiative as a 501(c)(4) organization in Huston, Texas, in 2011. Besides ranked-choice voting ballot measures, the Action Now Initiative has supported ballot initiatives related to redistricting commissions and criminal justice changes.

Unite America contributed \$3.84 million to the ranked-choice voting campaigns in 2020, \$3.40 million of which was donated to Alaskans for Better Actions. While Unite America provided \$445,000 to Voters Choice Massachusetts, the organization's board co-chair, Kathryn Murdoch, donated \$2.50 million and board member Katherine Gehl contributed \$250,000. Unite America, founded in 2014 as the Centrist Project, is based in Denver, Colorado, and has the stated purpose of electing officials and enacting electoral laws that reduce partisanship and achieve better governing outcomes. Unite America has a federal hybrid political action committee (PAC) and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING- OUTSIDE MONEY-2

RIVERTON, Utah – KSL- May 7, 2023 “A group offered cities money to opt in to ranked choice voting. State elections office warns accepting that is likely illegal.”

It's against state law for Utah cities or counties to take any third-party money for elections. But one group, [Utah RCV](#), offered to cover this year's additional costs for the cities in Salt Lake County to opt into Utah's ranked choice voting pilot program.---- “We caution cities against accepting such funds from any group or organization, as it likely violates state law,” Utah's Director of Elections Ryan Cowley told KSL NewsRadio in a statement. The offer to Riverton city council was in public setting, at their meeting on April 4, 2023.

Kelleen Potter, Utah RCV Executive Director, [told the city council](#) that in light of the legislature not providing funds for Utah's ranked choice pilot program, Utah RCV is willing to “cover that gap.”

Potter tells KSL NewsRadio she didn't know it was illegal when she made the offer.

“At the time, I was not aware of this law. It was passed before I was in this job, and our organization wasn't familiar with it. It was literally after this meeting someone told me that,” Potter said.

Source: <https://kslnnewsradio.com/elections-politics-government/a-group-offered-cities-money-to-opt-in-to-ranked-choice-voting-state-elections-office-warns-accepting-that-is-illegal/2004591/>

Utah RCV Address?? Utah Ranked Choice Voting- 104 East 600 South, #113, Heber, Utah, 84032

UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE- RCV STATS



***2024 HB 290 sponsor- Rep. Katy Hall clip -to cancel pilot program before 2026.**

Almost passed until outside money and lobbyists killed bill on 2nd reading of Senate floor.

Utah cities participating- yr 2019- 2 cities / yr 2021- 23 cities / yr 2023- 12 cities

***Senator Daniel Thatcher - 2025 hearing on Ranked Choice Voting pilot extension**

[Clip #2](#) [Citizen clip 1](#) [Utah Co Clerk](#) [Citizen clip 2](#) [Thatcher Summary](#)

Unanimous vote by Senate Gov't Operations Committee to hold SB 127. Bill never made it out of committee in January. No desire by committee to extend pilot program.

HEBER CITY 2023 ELECTION- RANKED CHOICE VOTING HURT HEBER VOTERS

In the Heber City 2023 Election for 3 City Council Seats, the Total Voter Turnout was 3,089 or 35.3% of registered voters. (Heber's voter turnout in 2021 was 41% and received 3,372 ballots from 8,241 voters.)

IN THE LAST ROUND of voting the amount of 'undervotes' was 1,709 voters, plus 21 'overvotes'. That means 55% of the 3,089 voters, that cast a ballot, did NOT vote at the end.

***Sen. Thatcher- "How many votes can be discarded in the first round, and not counted, and still be an acceptable election system?"**

1st Round when 69 people undervotes - 89 overvotes (chose 2 candidates as #1?)

2nd Round when 206 people undervotes- 23 overvotes

3rd Round when 359 people undervotes.

4th Round when 972 people undervotes.

5th Round had 1330 people undervotes.

6th round had 1591 people undervotes.

7th Round had 1703 people undervotes. Etc....



Go to: <https://www.heberut.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2163/Signed-Canvass-Report-for-2023-Heber-City-Municipal-Election>

CITIZEN CONCERNS

1. The vote for a certain candidate was transferred to OTHER CANDIDATES. Unconstitutional?
2. Forces a voter to rank ALL candidates. They only want to vote for who they want.
3. Discriminates against elderly and special needs voters, by being too complicated.
4. Voters did not even know if their ballot was disqualified, if they did not fill out ballot correctly.
5. There is no notification by city/county clerk of incorrect ballot, nor option to correct ballot.
6. Confusing process, no clear audit procedure if voters have concerns. No transparency.
7. Too many candidates to learn about, voters do not have time to educate themselves.
8. Statewide and local stats show less participation by voters in subsequent elections.
9. Delays election outcomes, since clerk has to receive every ballot before can they figure out which candidate had the least votes. We want quicker results, not slower.
10. 28 out of 29 county clerks in Utah had concerns about the process.
11. The Lt Governor's office is not a reliable source for info and oversight.

HEBER CITY 2023 ELECTION COMMENTS

“I can tell you this much, my brain can't even begin to wrap around all the rules and procedures for it, the confusion it caused which invalidated several ballots is super sad, and look at the results and how it could have just been the top 3 highest votes received but the process of RCV changed the outcome, additionally I have trust issues with the people behind it, so for me it's a solid NO.”

“I definitely do NOT like RC when voting for more than one seat. With RC I can not give my first choice for each seat. I can only give first choice to one, second choice to one and third choice for one. I had three candidates I wanted on the Council. I wanted to give my first choice to each. So, in fact I was only able to vote for one. PLEASE LET US GO BACK TO THE TRADITIONAL VOTING.”

“It is a big NO for almost everyone I have talked to about it.”

“On the other, it IS hard for most people to understand, which doesn't always seem transparent and can give the appearance of impropriety, even when that isn't the case. And with 12 candidates in the latest city council race, I question whether some of those who were ultimately elected are really representative of the people's choices, and it hasn't provided a clear governing mandate IMO.”

“I'm still learning more, but I had a positive opinion of it before this election, and now, my opinion is markedly less positive. It seemed like a very convoluted process that ended with a result that I don't believe the majority of voters favored. But I've got more to learn.”

WASATCH TAXPAYERS' ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Heber City Council:

1. **Vote NO on the Ranked Choice Voting option for the 2025 Heber City Election. Let's go back to traditional voting, so we can have a primary and general election process. Citizens can have trust again.**
2. **If undecided, have a Heber City RESIDENT ONLY online survey conducted in March, to get a direct voter poll on issue.**

Heber Council RCV vote is not required until May 1, 2025.





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