


What You Can Do

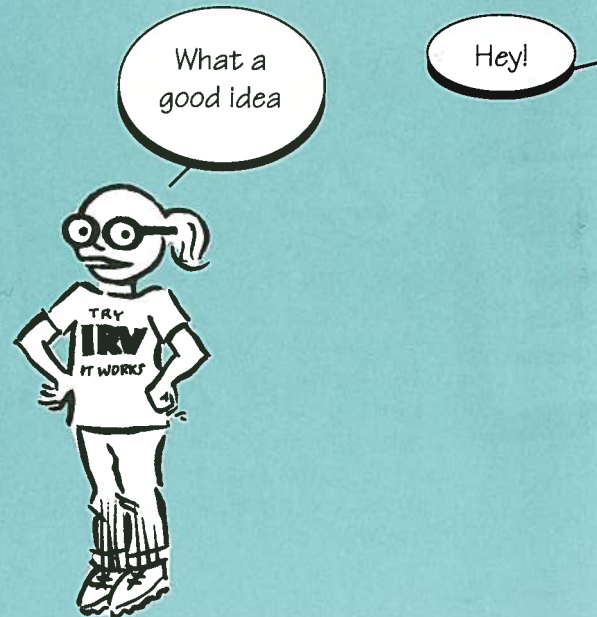
- If your city uses runoffs, talk to city council members about saving the cost of runoff elections.
- Use instant runoff voting (IRV) for elections in your organization, school or company.
- Work with local officials to ensure that new voting equipment is ready to use ranked-choice ballots.
- Ask your state representatives to introduce or support IRV legislation. More than two dozen states did so in 2003-2006.
- Conduct demonstration IRV elections using paper ballots or the Internet.
- Contact us for assistance and join FairVote by sending your donation to:

 6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 610
Takoma Park MD 20912
301-270-4616
"The Way Democracy Will Be"
www.fairvote.org

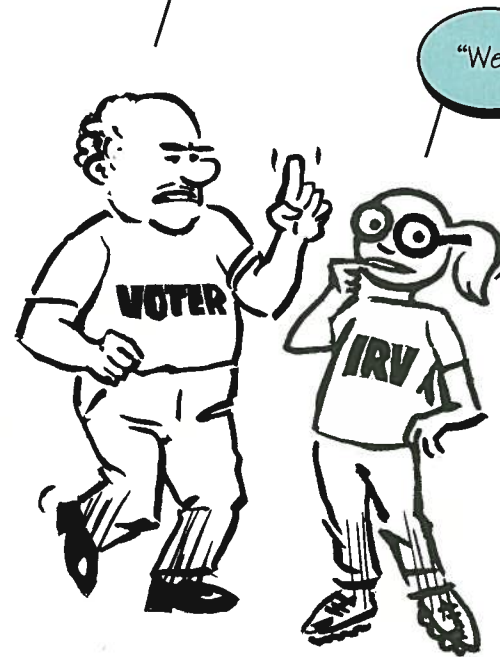


Local Organization:

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT



"Whaddya mean 'make my vote count?' It already counts - doesn't it?"



If a candidate wins **with less than 50%**, then the majority of voters split their votes between two or more candidates,

... And Their Votes Didn't Count.

If you're not happy with any of the candidates and vote for the "**lesser of two evils**" to avoid something worse, then

... Your Vote Didn't Count
... For Much.

If an independent or third party candidate "**spoils**" the race and swings it to the major party candidate you don't like, then

... Your Vote Didn't Count.

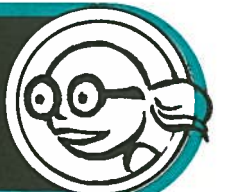
Electing leaders with majority support and accommodating voter choice are both critical demands of a vibrant democracy. Without them we can't hold our leaders accountable.

Our plurality voting system breaks down when three candidates run. Some governors win with barely a third of the vote. Victories by George Bush and Bill Clinton may have depended on splits in the majority. Why toss the dice when there's a better way?



"OK, OK - so what can we do to make sure the majority rules?"

"Well ... it's good that you asked."



MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

We could hold a second runoff election, but that means **taxpayers have to pay for a second election.** Voters have to vote a second time, and candidates have to raise and spend more money.

Ouch, who wants to pay for all that?

What we need is a way to ensure **majority rule in a single election.**

Yeah, so we save tax dollars.

We need a system that allows you to vote for the candidate you like without helping to elect the one you don't.

Yeah, no more spoilers.

We need a system that encourages **positive campaigning and coalition building.**

Yeah, something that brings us together, rather than tears us apart.

Right on! What we need is **INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING.**



Why instant runoff voting?

IRV is better than runoff elections because it:

- Saves the cost of a separate runoff election (More than \$10 million in New York City alone)
- Eliminates the problem of lower voter turnout in the runoff
- Reduces the influence of special interest cash in the runoff

IRV is better than plurality (non-majority) elections because it:

- Ensures winners have majority support
- Eliminates the problem of "spoiler" candidates swinging the outcome of the election
- Encourages positive campaigning and coalition building

Instant runoff voting is a proven system.

Voters have used IRV for decades to elect Australia's parliament and Ireland's president. London elects its mayor with IRV. Many organizations and colleges use IRV; Robert's Rules of Order recommends it (calling it "preferential voting"). Recent IRV successes include San Francisco's citywide elections and Utah Republicans nominating conventions.

Instant runoff voting gives all voters one vote.

It works like a two-round runoff. If your favorite candidate doesn't make the second round, you have to choose among the remaining candidates. If your candidate does make the second round, you continue to support that candidate. But with the instant runoff this all happens in one election.

Instant runoffs are easy for the voter.

Rates of voter error are low with IRV. The voter simply ranks one or more candidates in order of choice. It's like ordering ice cream. "If I can't have mocha fudge, I'll settle for chocolate."

IRV is constitutional.

Courts have ruled that instant runoff voting is a constitutional voting system that upholds the principles of one person/one vote and majority rule. Visit our website, www.fairvote.org, to learn more about instant runoff voting.



How Instant Runoffs Work ... It's as Easy as 1-2-3.



1 You rank candidates in order of choice, indicating both your favorite candidate as well as your runoff choices. If your first choice gets eliminated, your vote counts for your second choice.



2 If a candidate receives a majority of first choices, she or he wins. In this example, no one has a majority. But voters don't need to return to the polls because they have already picked their runoff choices. The last place candidate, Franklin in this example, is eliminated and ...



3 ... the INSTANT RUNOFF occurs. Your vote counts for your favorite candidate who is still in the race. In this example, 56% of all voters ranked Garcia ahead of Smith, so Garcia wins. If we hadn't used instant runoff voting, then Smith would have won with 41% of the vote, even though the majority preferred Garcia.