



2026 Legislative Priorities

RCV Maryland is active at the local, county, and state level. Our priorities include:

County Enabling

Allowing counties to adopt ranked choice voting for local county elections, including county executive, county council, and the board of education.

City Initiatives

Supporting municipalities across Maryland that are exploring or introducing ranked choice voting legislation. Takoma Park has been using RCV for mayor and city council elections since 2007.

County Enabling

Montgomery County - Voting Methods MC 1-26

Allows The county to adopt ranked choice voting or approval voting for local county elections only.

Why It Matters: Montgomery County has embraced innovation and led the way on democracy reforms across the state. Yet, the County has not been able to adjust its voting methods to adapt for these changes.

- **Every** Democratic Primary County Executive race has been won with less than a majority of the vote since 2014.
- In the 2022 Democratic Primary, **four out of the seven** winners in district council races won with less than a majority of the vote.

This is not about the winners but on the way we vote.

Election-Supporting Technology

SB 236 - Election Law - Certification of Election-Supporting Technology

Requires the State Board of Elections (SBE) to provide regulations for reviewing and certifying election-supporting technology that provides tabulation for ranked choice voting elections.

Why It Matters: The SBE is a trusted source for best practices and tools to run effective and secure elections. SBE’s review and certification of election-supporting technology, enables county and municipal election administrators to use such technology with new voting methods, like ranked choice voting.

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland

rcvmd.org

Michelle Whittaker

Executive Director
michelle@rcvmd.org
240-595-2317

Democracy Solutions

Ranked Choice Voting Maryland is part of the statewide democracy table, Everyone Votes Maryland. As a member of this coalition, we support legislative action to:

- Pass the Maryland Voting Rights Act,
- Reform the state vacancy appointment process,
- Ensure voter access for persons with disabilities,
- Provide ballot access for independent (unaffiliated voters), and
- Promote fair representation and stop gerrymandering.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING MARYLAND

Give Marylanders a **Stronger Voice** with Ranked Choice Voting!

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a **simple, yet powerful way to vote**. Using RCV, voters can better express their candidate preferences.

Voters rank candidates in order (1, 2, 3, etc.) and **every vote counts**. If a voter's top candidate is eliminated, their backup choice counts. Learn more at rcvmd.org.

	1	2	3
Candidate A	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Candidate B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Candidate C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Ranked Choice Voting is an investment in the future of our democracy. It's a smart reform that will strengthen democracy and trust in government across the country.

Brooke Lierman
Comptroller of Maryland



RCV is used in 51 jurisdictions across the U.S., giving **14 million voters** greater choice in elections.

Here's how:

Voter Participation - RCV empowers voters with the ability to better express their preferences, eliminates strategic voting and the 'lesser of two evils' dilemma.

Civil Campaigns - RCV reduces toxic campaigning and allows voters and candidates to focus on the issues.

Stronger Representation - RCV promotes majority rule and fair representation. Elections better reflect the community and give overlooked communities a voice on policy. RCV also gives elected leaders a stronger mandate to lead and serve.

Maryland Cities are Ready for RCV!

Municipalities have the power to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV) through ordinance.

Takoma Park uses ranked choice voting for city elections, since 2007.

Greenbelt voters approved RCV for local elections by a 2-to-1 margin in 2025.

RCV is expanding in the DMV!

D.C. adopted ranked choice voting in 2024 and will use it in 2026 for their elections.

Virginia allows ranked choice voting for local municipalities. **Arlington** used RCV for their 2022 primaries and has extended RCV for future primary and general elections.