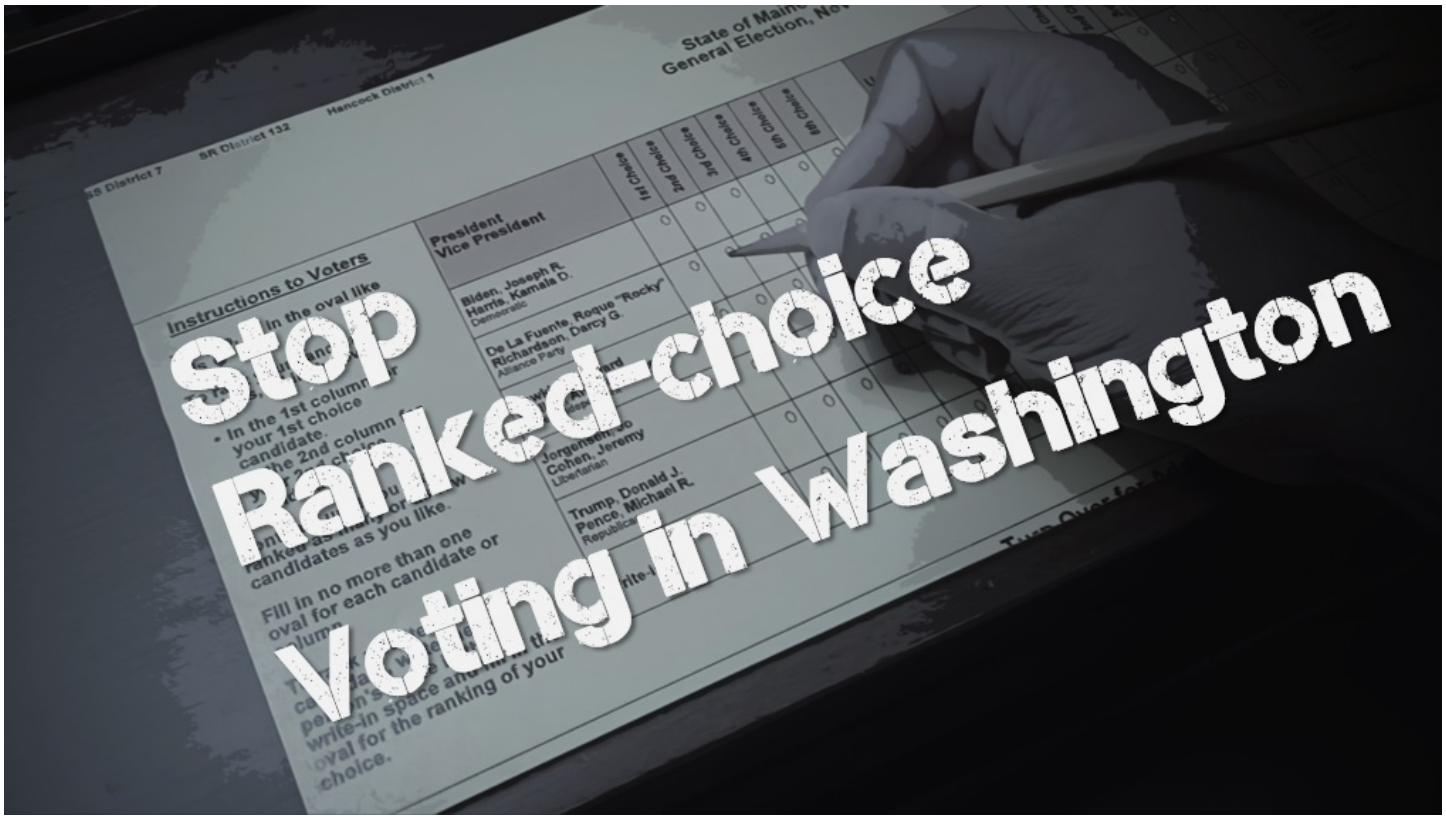
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# Oppose Washington Pro-ranked-choice Voting Bills HB 2210 and HB 1448

Members of the Washington State Legislature are seeking to pass legislation that would begin the process of implementing ranked-choice voting (RCV) in the state. ***The State Legislature must reject RCV and the detrimental effects it would have on election integrity.***

House Bill 2210 (HB 2210) and House Bill 1448 (HB 1448) would allow certain local governments to implement RCV. Additionally, the former bill would expand the use of ranked-choice voting in other elections, while the latter bill would create a working group to create rules for administering RCV. ***This bill is a major step toward implementing RCV statewide.***

**RCV threatens election integrity and undermines the electorate's ability to choose the best candidate in elections.** The May 10, 2021 issue of *The New American* magazine explains how ranked-choice voting works and why it would harm U.S. elections:

> [It] is a complicated system that requires voters to assign a rank to each candidate on the ballot, regardless of whether they support that candidate. If no candidate is ranked first by a majority of voters, the lowest-performing candidate is eliminated. Voters who gave their highest ranking to the eliminated candidate then have their second choice counted instead. This process repeats until one candidate receives a majority.
>
> As implied above, ranked-choice voting can lead to candidates with little genuine support winning elections. The system confuses voters, distracts from policy issues, and forces voters to vote for candidates they otherwise would not support. In the United States, ranked-choice voting was enacted in Maine in 2016 and Alaska in 2020. These efforts, primarily backed by liberals, led to Republican U.S. Representative from Maine Bruce Poliquin losing to Democrat Jared Golden in 2018 despite winning a plurality in the first round. Meanwhile, some political analysts believe that

> Alaska's new system, which also eliminates party primaries, will enable liberal Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski's reelection in 2022 despite her unpopularity among Republicans.

With any voting system, the more complicated it is, the greater the risk of manipulation strategies or fraud. Additionally, RCV would make hand counts much more difficult, creating an excuse for computerized vote counting. By contrast, genuine election integrity must involve hand-counted paper ballots.

**Contact your state representative and senator and urge them to oppose HB 2210, HB 1448, and any other bill that implements ranked-choice voting in any way. Instead, tell them to enact measures that strengthen election integrity in Washington.**