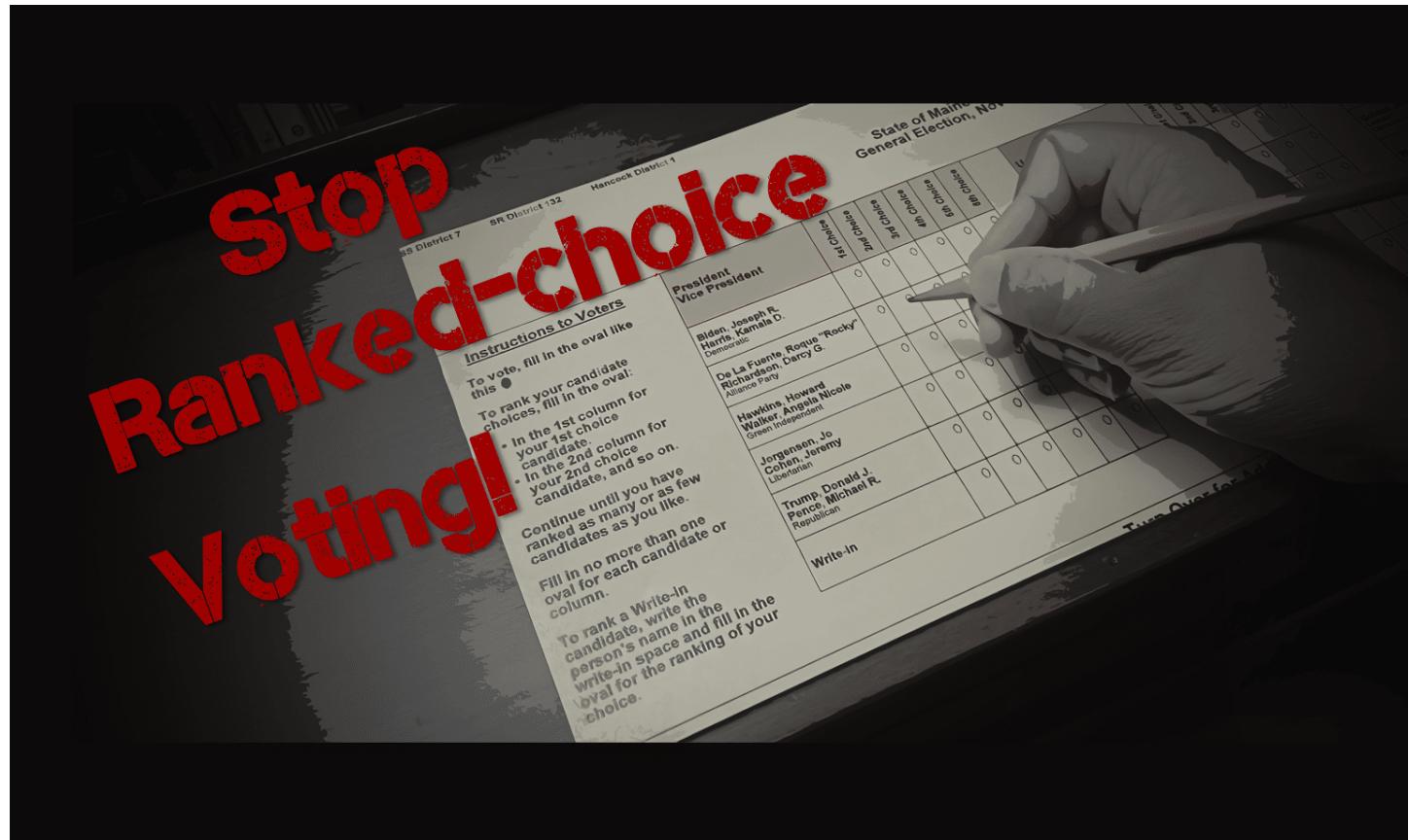


The John Birch Society

Author: [Peter Rykowski](#)

Date: July 13, 2022



Stop Ranked-choice Voting: Threat to Election Integrity

Leftists (including some posing as “conservatives”) are seeking to implement ranked-choice voting (RCV), also called instant runoff voting (IRV), in each state. 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 is a bad idea:

[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.

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Sure enough, RCV [allowed](#) U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski to win re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2022 against conservative Republican Kelly Tshibaka, [despite](#) Murkowski's inability to win a Republican primary under a traditional election system.

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.

Ranked-choice voting is already being implemented across the country. As mentioned above, Maine and Alaska have already implemented it statewide. Meanwhile, Nevada is [in the process](#) of implementing it, pending a referendum in 2024, and there have been attempts in multiple other states, including North Dakota, Massachusetts, and [Missouri](#).

Meanwhile, [dozens](#) of cities [nationwide](#) — including New York City, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and Minneapolis — have implemented RCV, and multiple states have enacted legislation allowing RCV to be used on the local level.

Contact your state legislators and urge them to oppose all attempts to enact ranked-choice voting, whether on the state or local levels.