Inclusion and Representation

RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

- Promotes more inclusive and representative political environment
- Ensures that decisive elections occur when the most voters are coming to the polls
- Discourages racially polarizing campaign tactics
- Reduces the cost of running when combining two elections into one
- Allows new voices to emerge without fear of vote splitting.

RCV creates an atmosphere where both voters and candidates who identify with historically under-represented communities, including women and communities of color, are able to more fully participate in the electoral process.

Of 52 seats elected by RCV in Bay Area cities, 46 are held by women and people of color.

Councilmember Dai Thao
St. Paul, MN

Elected in 2013 special election. First Hmong American elected to the Council.

Thao ran as a transformative leader, worked with his opponents rather than attacking them, and connected with and addressed the needs of a diverse set of voters.

"I want to thank all of my supporters for their trust in me and our bold vision," Thao stated in a press release. "And for those who didn't make me their first choice vote, I will work just as hard for you."

He thanked his opponents "for a spirited and positive campaign," and said that he "benefitted from their perspectives on the campaign trail." Thao later hired one of his opponents as an aide after the election.

Councilmember Nadeem Mazen
Cambridge, MA

Mazen, small business educator and former Occupy Boston spokesperson, embraced a grassroots organizing strategy that helped win a 2013 multi-winner RCV election, in which more people got to elect their top choice. His "Clean Slate" group ran as a team and helped defeat two incumbents. Simulating a non-RCV, winner-take-all ballot shows that Mazen and the council's first-ever Latino member needed RCV to win.

"By organizing the Clean Slate and clearly stating our principles," Mazen stated, "we have proven not only that we can work together as leaders, but that we stand for an exciting return to community organizing and community

RCV & Communities of Color

MINNEAPOLIS (MN)

- In 2013 elected its first Hmong, Somali, and Latina city councilors.

OAKLAND (CA)

- People of color make up 5 of 8 city councilors and 6 of 7 elected school board members.

SAN FRANCISCO (CA)

- Of 18 offices elected with RCV, 16 won by people of color– up from 9 when it first started using RCV in 2004.

CAMBRIDGE (MA)

- African American population under 15%, yet decades-long representation on Council

RANKED CHOICE VOTING
&
UNDER-REPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

Fair Vote

RCV & Turnout

RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

♦ Ensures that **DECISIVE ELECTIONS** occur when the **MOST** voters are at the polls

♦ Rewards candidates who reach out to **MORE** voters

Cities with two-round election systems typically see much lower turnout in the initial primary or the post-election runoff. This makes for a **SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER** and **UNREPRESENTATIVE** group of voters playing a pivotal role in who wins.

RCV & Inclusive Campaigns

RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

♦ Creates incentives for candidates to reach out to voters **BEYOND** their base of support

♦ Allows for **NEW VOICES** to enter the political arena and win in **ONE ELECTION, NOT TWO**

For historically marginalized communities, RCV means that candidates are **MORE LIKELY** to reach out to them.

LESS POLARIZING and **LESS EXPENSIVE** campaigns increase opportunities for members of such communities to run, which **INCREASES PARTICIPATION, ENGAGEMENT,** and **REFLECTIVE REPRESENTATION.**

RCV & Representation

In non-RCV elections, potential candidates can be discouraged from seeking office due to high campaign costs or splitting the vote.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING:

♦ Reduces concerns about "spoilers"

♦ Allows candidates to win in **ONE** election

♦ Creates a campaign atmosphere that accommodates **MORE VOICES**

In RCV cities, more candidates who identify with historically under-represented communities, such as **WOMEN** and **PEOPLE OF COLOR**, are **RUNNING** and **WINNING**.

Mayor Libby Schaaf
Oakland, CA

Elected in 2014, defeating incumbent and several well-funded challengers.

Schaaf's campaign worked to both educate voters about RCV, creating a number of voter education materials, and persuade them to rank her as their first choice.

After building a broad base of first choice support, Schaaf garnered enough second and third choice support to win handily.

Schaaf's campaign strategy focused on reaching the voters with her message rather than beating down her opponents, a style she intends to adopt as mayor.

"I can't wait to run Oakland the way that we have run this campaign," Schaaf told a crowd of supporters on election night.

Mayor Betsy Hodges
Minneapolis, MN

Elected in highly competitive election in 2013. It was the city's second election using RCV and first open-seat mayoral election in 12 years.

Hodges focused on bringing the community together. Reaching out for second and third choice support, Hodges ran no TV ads, but instead a campaign built upon grassroots organizing, community outreach, and positivity: "You really had to be positive and you really had to go everywhere and ask for people's vote."

RCV has helped her uphold these elements of positivity and community as mayor: "I was carrying a vision, I was carrying a set of values for people, and that was supported by the city. So it's mattered in governing because there are a lot of people on the team."

RCV & Women

MINNEAPOLIS (MN)
♦ Under RCV Minneapolis elected its second female Mayor, Betsy Hodges.
♦ Its 13-member City Council has 6 women.

OAKLAND (CA)
♦ The city's only two female mayors won since RCV was first used in 2010.
♦ In addition to new mayor Libby Schaaf, 4 of 8 city councilors are women, as are 6 of 7 elected school board members, the City **ATTORNEY, AND THE CITY AUDITOR.**

SAN LEANDRO (CA)
♦ New female mayor elected in 2014. Of its 6 other offices elected by RCV, 3 councilors are women, and 2 are men of color.