

# BETTER BALLOTS FOR BENTON COUNTY

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NEWS RELEASE

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## **BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BACK RANKED CHOICE VOTING INITIATIVE**

*County Democrats also Endorse*

All three Benton County Commissioners have now individually endorsed a Ranked Choice Voting initiative expected to be on the ballot this November. The initiative, co-sponsored by State Rep. Dan Rayfield and Benton County Planning Commissioner Blair Bobier, calls for electing county officials by Ranked Choice Voting, also known as Instant Runoff Voting or preference voting.

With Ranked Choice Voting, instead of voting for just one candidate, voters rank the candidates in order of preference; choosing a first choice, a second choice and so on. "This allows people to vote their conscience and it eliminates the spoiler problem," said Rayfield. "Every voter wants to know that their vote counts. Ranked Choice Voting gives voters a greater voice and allows people to do more with their votes," said Bobier.

Last week, the Benton County Democrats voted to endorse the initiative. The local chapter of the Pacific Green Party has already endorsed it; the Independent Party supports it and the Libertarian Party has endorsed it in the past. County Commissioner candidates Xan Augerot and Tim Dehne also endorse the measure. Rayfield and Bobier said they look forward to speaking with Paul Cauthorn and local Republicans about supporting the initiative. "Ranked Choice Voting is ideologically neutral; it favors democracy and not any political party," said Bobier.