

# Ranked Ballots and Electing 'Winners'

*Ranked ballots uphold the principle of majority rule and provide more genuine voter choice than the current system. By earning more than 50% of the overall vote, the winning candidate under ranked ballots demonstrates that they are the candidate with the most support and therefore the real winner in a truly democratic contest.*

## Under ranked ballots, voters elect the Gold Medal candidate

- With ranked ballots, voters know how the votes are counted and that the winner is the candidate with the most support who therefore most accurately reflects the will of voters
- Under first-past-the-post, the winning candidate may not have been anyone's first choice as voters must choose between 'the lessor of two evils', often denying them a chance to vote for their true first preference candidate
- Vote splitting under first-past-the-post too often results in a 'winning' candidate who was in fact rejected by a majority of voters, in effect giving the gold medal to the bronze or silver medal candidate
- In the 2010 Toronto Municipal elections, one candidate won their seat with only 19% of the vote, and three other candidates won with less than 30% of the vote



## Fact Check: Which parties use runoffs in their leadership races?

All major political parties in Canada use runoff elections to choose their party leader, either through multi-round elections until one candidate achieves majority support or through the more modern instant runoff system, a form of ranked ballots that achieves the same effect but through instant tabulations based on voter preferences.



- Current leader, Kathleen Wynne, came in second place on the first ballot with only 28% support before earning a majority of votes on the third ballot
- Dalton McGuinty, leader of the party for 16 years, was finally elected on the fifth ballot, after falling in second, third or fourth place on preceding ballots



- Current leader, Andrea Horwath, finally earned a majority of votes on the third ballot, after securing only 37% of votes on the first ballot
- The last time an NDP leadership ballot was decided in the first round was 1986



- Former leader, Tim Hudak, finally earned a majority of votes on the third ballot, after securing only 34% of votes on the first ballot
- The last time a PC leadership ballot was decided in the first round was 1990

*We're proposing a small, simple change that would make Toronto's elections more fair, diverse, inclusive and friendly. [www.rabit.ca](http://www.rabit.ca)*

