

Ranked Ballots and One Person, One Vote

The principle of 'one person, one vote' is integral to any voting system. Ranked ballots uphold this principle. In fact, ranked ballots offer a dramatic improvement over first-past-the-post in safeguarding this principle, which is why political parties use ranked ballots to elect their own leaders.

Ranked ballots mean every voter is treated equally

- Every voter gets an equal vote in ranked ballots, with no exceptions
- In each round of counting, every ballot is automatically counted as one vote for the highest-ranked candidate still in the running
- If your candidate has been eliminated, just as in a traditional runoff election, your vote will be counted for whichever continuing candidate you prefer
- The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that ranked ballots fully comply with the principle of one person, one vote, by giving equal weight to each voter



Fact Check: How do ranked ballots preserve the principle of 'one person, one vote'?

Every voter's ballot is counted in every round until one candidate earns a majority. Under ranked ballots, voters know that they can vote for their favourite candidate as their first preference, regardless of how well that candidate is doing in the polls. Voters don't settle for the lesser of two evils for fear of 'wasting their vote' as under first-past-the-post. With ranked ballots, voters are confident that their voice will be heard and that their vote will count every time.



Despite what some say, supporters of 'fringe' candidates do *not* get extra say in the election. Ranked ballots work by eliminating the least popular candidates first and redistributing voters' second (or third, etc.) preferences to the remaining candidates. There is no 'double counting', so your vote is not counted any more or less often than that of other voters. Instant runoff voting through ranked ballots means that the winner receives a majority of votes, and there is nothing fringe about that.



Fact Check: What do the courts say?

Ranked ballots have been upheld as compliant with the one person, one vote standard by every American state and federal court to decide the issue because: every voter has an equal right to rank candidates; and each voter is only allowed a single vote for a single candidate to be counted in each round of tabulation. The most recent ruling on the issue was by the Minnesota Supreme Court in 2011 (pictured), who reaffirmed what every court has ruled: that ranked ballots uphold the principle of one person, one vote to the same standard as first-past-the-post.

We're proposing a small, simple change that would make Toronto's elections more fair, diverse, inclusive and friendly. www.rabit.ca