

July 16, 2020



During this momentous year with an historic pandemic, an economy in turmoil, national and local election campaigns, and a renewed focus on racial justice, we continue to hold dearly our rights to hold public debates and to elect our leaders. And we wish to **thank you for your active participation in our democracy and in protecting its long-term health.**

**These times emphasize the need to improve the effectiveness of our voting process:**

- **Lack of progress on racial justice is one result of American political dysfunction.** Not enough politicians are doing the hard work of working together.
- **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) discourages “us versus them” political dysfunction.** Candidates can only get elected if they get broad voter support.
- **RCV improves voter turnout as voters feel their vote is more effective and representative of their preferences.** Voting – and high voter turnout – ensures all voices are heard in our election process, so no one gets marginalized.

**RCV for Texas Campaign Update:**

- **We have more than doubled our number of supporters since our last update, now surpassing 600 individuals across Texas.** Our digital outreach efforts are paying off. We have spoken virtually at several community events, and we are now on Instagram and LinkedIn in addition to Facebook.
- **We remain focused on introducing RCV legislation** in the Texas legislative session scheduled to begin in January 2021.

**How can you help?** Here are a variety of ways:

- **Spread the word:**
  - Reach out to 10 people you know. Send them our 1-page summary of the benefits of RCV, how it works, and what we want supporters to do to help get legislation passed.
  - Reach out to your social media network and post support for RCV with a link to our website or our Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages.

- **Community Outreach:**
  - Ask the head of any organization you belong to if they would be willing to pass along information about RCV to their members.
  - Host an online event where you or another volunteer presents about RCV.
  - Reach out to community groups and local political organizations to build our coalition.
  - Make calls or send emails to people in our supporter database to try to activate them to volunteer.
  - Organize other volunteers who live in your city to discuss local options for reaching out to potential supporters.
  - Submit a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.
- **Behind the scenes:**
  - Create relevant and engaging written or visual content for our website, media, or supporter newsletter.
- **Financial Support:**
  - [Make a one-time or recurring donation.](#)
  - Help raise money to support our public outreach efforts.

#### RCV in the News:

- [Indiana Republican Party](#) shifted its state convention to a virtual format in June due to restrictions on large gatherings aimed at minimizing the spread of the coronavirus. Under this virtual format, they used RCV to select their nominees, including the contested race for state Attorney General.
- [Utah Republican Party](#) in April also switched to a virtual convention and used RCV throughout. Utah GOP already used RCV in past party conventions, but not to this extent.
- In April, [Virginia passed legislation](#) allowing its municipalities to opt-in to using RCV for local elections.
- Democratic primaries in [Alaska](#), [Hawaii](#), [Kansas](#), and [Wyoming](#) used RCV ballots for the first time, as did early voters in [Nevada](#)'s caucus.
- [American Academy of Arts and Sciences'](#) Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship issued in June its final report with 31 recommendations that communities, institutions, and individuals can take to promote engaged citizenship in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. [One of their recommendations is RCV.](#)

*Follow us on social media for key updates as they happen.*

We appreciate the efforts of our current volunteers. Please **let us know how you would like to help**. Email us at [info@rcvfortexas.org](mailto:info@rcvfortexas.org)

Best regards,  
Harriet and Kathryn