

STAR Voting FAQ:

What's wrong with our current system?

- Our current system is wildly inaccurate when there are more than two candidates in an election. Voter blocks who support more than one candidate can split the vote and cause another candidate to win unfairly. This is called the spoiler effect and it can cause a candidate who is opposed by the majority to win.
- With our current system voting your conscience can backfire so badly that you would have gotten a better outcome if you hadn't voted at all.
- If you aren't in a contested area or if you are in the minority your vote doesn't make a difference. This is a huge reason so many people don't vote.

Is this just a 3rd party issue?

- No! STAR Voting is fair to all candidates from any parties as well as independent candidates, unlike our current voting method.
- Primary elections with multiple candidates often fail due to vote splitting, just like general elections. We all want the candidate with the most support to win.
- Both major parties have unfairly lost many elections where they had the most support due to the spoiler effect. 3rd party candidates like Ralph Nader and Ross Perot are often blamed, but the voting system itself is the problem.

Why do we want to eliminate the primary?

- Primaries have notoriously low turnout, which means that the candidates elected aren't very representative of the people.
- Because of vote splitting primaries often fail to advance the candidates with the most support. Advancing a weak candidate makes us more likely to lose in the general election.
- Primaries cost taxpayers and candidates a lot of time and money so eliminating them would make it more accessible to run for office without big money backing.
- There would still be a primary for Presidential races and a non-partisan multi-winner primary is an option for elections where that is desired.

What happens in the runoff if I gave both finalists the same scores?

- All your scores still make a difference and help your favorites advance.
- If you gave both finalists the same scores that is a vote of no-preference or neutral. You like or dislike them equally.
- If you have a preference you should give candidates different scores.
- The ability to give candidates a tie is important! This helps ensure that any voting system is still accurate when there are many candidates in a race.

Has STAR Voting been used for elections before?

- STAR Voting is now being used for non-governmental elections and votes. To set up a STAR election yourself go to <http://star.vote>
- STAR Voting was invented in 2014 using the accumulated knowledge of the good and bad points of previous voting systems. This is our chance to be the first to demonstrate its amazing potential!

Is this the same as Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) aka Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)?

- This is an upgrade of RCV. STAR Voting is a hybrid of Ranked Choice and Score Voting that addresses the weaknesses of both.
- Although RCV is an improvement over the current system, it has some serious flaws in elections with 3 or more viable candidates.
- Unlike RCV, STAR counts all of your preferences on your ballot and allows you to show equal preference between two or more candidates which is key if there are many candidates in a race.

Are you talking about getting rid of the electoral college?

- STAR is another piece of the puzzle and to have a truly equal vote we need both. STAR could be used with either the National Popular Vote Initiative or for choosing electors in the Electoral College.

Is STAR Voting constitutional? Does it pass One-Person-One-Vote?

- Yes! STAR Voting gives every voter an equally weighted vote and equal voting power! This is the legal definition of one-person-one-vote.

Is STAR Voting compatible with Proportional Representation (PR). Why not just start with that?

- Single winner STAR Voting is the foundation that future reforms can build upon.
- STAR-PR uses the same 5 star ballot and is recommended for multi-winner or proportional representation (PR) elections.

Is STAR Voting vulnerable to strategic voting?

- With STAR Voting honesty is the best policy. The best strategy is to give your favorite or favorites a full 5 stars and to use your scores to show your preferences between the other candidates.
- While there are some hypothetical scenarios where you *might* get an edge by putting down higher or lower scores, in practice there is no way to know when this might help and when it would hurt. This kind of dishonest voting is more likely to backfire so it's not a good strategy.
- Even when people do strategic voting STAR is still much more accurate than our current system and other proposed reforms.

Would STAR Voting cost money or save money?

- Having a single election would likely reduce the amount of money required for candidates to run a successful campaign. This should make running for office more accessible without big money backers.

Can we use STAR Voting for statewide and Presidential elections?

- Yes! We're starting local with twin ballot measures in Lane and Multnomah Counties while we build momentum doing outreach nationally.
- STAR Voting is legally and logistically viable for America, including states where RCV is not.
- STAR Voting would scale well for the statewide and Presidential elections where we need it most. This is only the beginning!