

STAR Voting FAQ:

What is STAR Voting?

- STAR Voting is a more expressive voting method using a 5 star ballot.
- Give each candidate a score from 0 - 5.
- If you don't have a preference you can give candidates the same scores.
- Those you leave blank get a zero.

What's wrong with our current system?

- "Choose One" Plurality Voting is only accurate when there are two candidates in the race. That's why we have a two party system.
- When there are more than 2 candidates, vote splitting can cause a majority coalition to end up divided and conquered. (The Spoiler Effect is one kind of vote splitting.)
- Voters in our current system often have to be strategic and vote lesser-evil.

Are you talking about the electoral college?

- The voting system itself and the electoral college are different, but vote splitting, which STAR eliminates, was a major factor every time the electoral college has failed to elect the winner of the popular vote.

Is this the "Jungle Primary" California Top 2 system?

- No! That's the system we already use for Oregon nonpartisan elections in places like Eugene, Multnomah County, Lane County, and more.

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 between those two. You like or dislike them equally.
- The ability to give candidates a tie is critical for maintaining accurate elections when there are many candidates in a race.

Is STAR Voting vulnerable to strategic voting?

- No. With STAR Voting honesty is the best policy. Strategic voting doesn't give you an edge.
- The best strategy is to give your favorite or favorites 5 stars, your least-favorite 0 stars, and to show your preference order between the other candidates.
- STAR Voting is not vulnerable to the most damaging strategies and it's more strategy-resistant than RCV or our current system.

Has STAR Voting been used for elections before?

- STAR Voting is a recent invention, but it's been used for some major non-governmental elections and other voting. To set up a STAR election yourself go to <http://star.vote>
- Similar systems have been used all over the world and STAR Voting is the upgraded version, created to address criticisms and logistical issues.

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

- No, STAR Voting is a hybrid of Ranked Choice and Score Voting that is more accurate and more strategy-resistant than either.
- Although RCV is an improvement over the current system, it has some serious flaws in elections with 3 or more viable candidates.
- In RCV, some ballots are “exhausted”, meaning that if your favorite is eliminated your vote may not be transferred to your next choice and your ballot isn’t always counted in the final round.
- STAR Voting is more transparent. It uses simple addition and is counted locally, unlike RCV which uses algebra and must be tabulated centrally.

Why should we eliminate primary elections?

- STAR Voting is highly accurate with any number of candidates in the race, so there’s no need for a 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 a party more likely to lose in the general election.
- Eliminating the need for a primary makes running for office more accessible and would save taxpayers money.
- There would still be a primary for Presidential races, and a non-partisan STAR primary is an option for elections where that is desired.

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

- Yes! Your ballot is your one vote. Our current system actually doesn’t pass this test, which is why we get vote splitting and failed elections.
- The legal definition of One-Person-One-Vote is an Equally-Weighted Vote. One person’s vote should be just as powerful as another’s. STAR Voting offers every voter an Equally-Weighted Vote.

Is STAR Voting compatible with Proportional Representation (PR)?

- Yes. PR can be done with a 5 star ballot (or any type of ballot).

Is this just a 3rd party issue?

- No! Both major parties have unfairly lost major elections where they had the most support, due to the spoiler effect.
- Partisan primary elections with multiple candidates often fail to elect the candidate with the most support due to vote splitting.

Can we use STAR Voting for statewide and presidential elections?

- Yes! This is a model that can be used locally, statewide, and nationally.
- STAR Voting is legally and logistically viable for America, including for the Presidential Primary and in states where RCV has been found to be unconstitutional.

Learn more at: www.starvoting.us