

What is IRV?

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) is a ranked choice voting system used around the world at the local, state and national levels, including:

San Francisco, CA
Oakland, CA*
Burlington, VT
Ferndale, MI*
Cambridge, MA
Takoma Park, MD*
Louisiana and
Arkansas use IRV
for overseas
military voters,
London, Ireland,
Scotland, Malta,
Australia and
New Zealand.

San Francisco saved close to \$3 million last year by avoiding a runoff election.

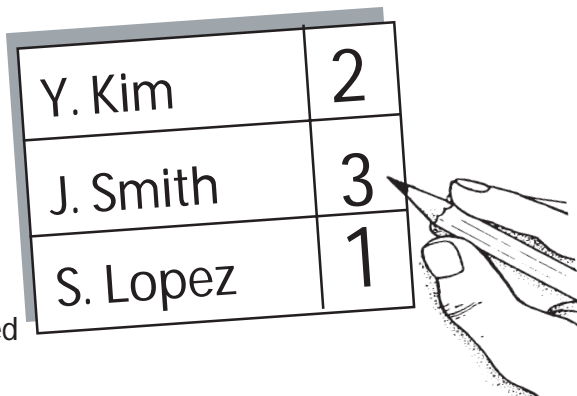
How does it work?

Voters rank the candidates in their order of preference - 1, 2, 3.

If no candidate receives a majority of first choice rankings, the candidate with the least support is eliminated.

Voters who ranked that candidate now have their vote counted for their second choice, and all ballots are recounted in an "instant" runoff.

IRV allows you to vote positively for who you really want.



*passed by voters, not yet used

IRV is fair, easy and efficient.

Majority Winners in a Single Election

When three or more candidates are in a race, votes are often split such that no one receives a majority, forcing a costly second-round runoff weeks or months later.

No More "Spoilers"

Ranking candidates liberates voters, allowing them to select the candidates they really like, instead of worrying about "spoilers" or having to choose between the lesser of two evils.

Reduce Negative Campaigning

IRV provides an incentive for candidates to reduce negative campaigning. Candidates may need the second ranking of their opponents' supporters to win. Candidates win by building coalitions and finding common ground, not mudslinging.

Less Voter Fatigue

Voters are tired of too many elections. Democracy is important but having too many elections trivializes their importance and contributes to low voter turnout.

Significant Cost Savings

Avoiding a second-round runoff can save millions. IRV also helps campaign finance reform since candidates don't have to raise money for a second election, which often benefits those who can raise quick cash.

For more information, contact the New America Foundation at www.newamerica.net/politicalreform or call 213-480-0994.