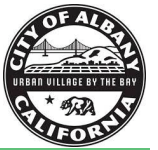# Albany Voters: Are You Ready to Rank?

On **November 5th, 2024** Albany voters will use ranked choice voting (RCV) to elect members of the City Council and the Board of Education. RCV will ONLY be used for these elections. With RCV, voters can rank candidates in order of preference. You can rank as many or as few candidates as you like.

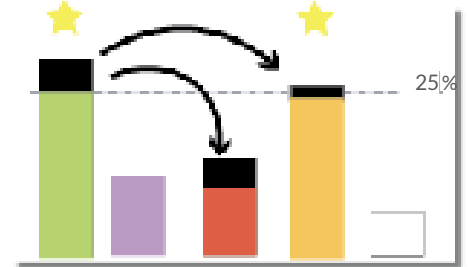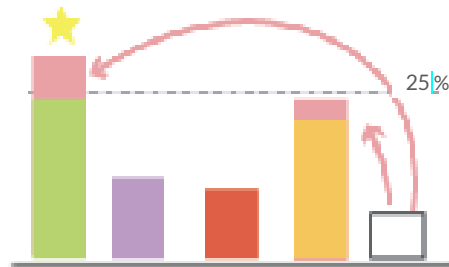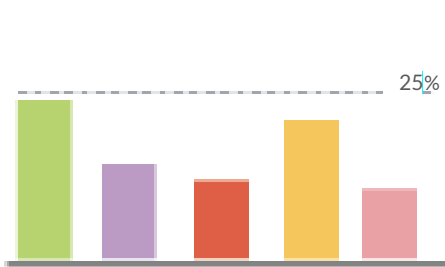## Demonstration Ballot: What do we want for lunch?

Dumplings — Burger — Pizza — Tacos — Sandwich

Candidates	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Dumplings	⬭	⬛	⬭	⬭	⬭
Burger	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬛	⬭
Pizza	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬛
Tacos	⬭	⬭	⬛	⬭	⬭
Sandwich	⬛	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭

To win one of the 3 City Council seats, a candidate must earn more than 1/4 of the votes.
To win one of the 2 Board of Education seats, a candidate must earn more than 1/3 of the votes.

Sample City Council Election

RCV elections are counted in rounds. In each round, we check to see if any candidates have enough votes to win one of the seats.

- If so, they are elected, and we go to the next round.
- If not, we eliminate the candidate in last place.
- If a voter marked the eliminated candidate as their 1st choice, their vote will instantly go to their next choice.
- If a voter's top-ranked candidate is elected and receives more votes than they need to win, that voter has a portion of their vote count for their next choice.
- This continues until all of the seats are filled.

For information: Please contact Albany City Clerk, TEL: 1 (510) 528-5710, Email: cityclerk@albanyca.org
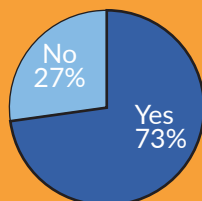
Albany Voters: Are You Ready to Rank?

Why is Albany using Ranked Choice Voting?

In the 2020 General Municipal Election, voters overwhelmingly passed Measure BB which adopted ranked choice voting (RCV) to elect members of the City Council and the Board of Education.

Measure BB (2020)

"Yes" votes from Albany voters supported authorizing the use of RCV for electing members of the City Council and the Board of Education.

No 27%
Yes 73%

Key Things To Remember

Do not vote for a candidate more than once. Only one vote per candidate will be counted.

Candidates	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Dumplings	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Burger	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Pizza	⬤	⬤	⬤	⬤	⬤
Tacos	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Sandwich	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭

Do not vote for more than one candidate in a column. A ballot cannot be counted if it lists more than one candidate in a column

Candidates	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Dumplings	⬤	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Burger	⬤	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Pizza	⬤	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Tacos	⬤	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭
Sandwich	⬤	⬭	⬭	⬭	⬭

Alameda County Website
www.acvote.org/voting/rcv

Learn more!

City of Albany Website
www.albanyca.org/rcv

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have to rank all candidates?

No. You can rank as many or as few candidates as you like.

If I really want my 1st choice candidate to win, should I rank that candidate as my 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice, and so on?

No. Your vote will only count once for your 1st choice. If you rank the same candidate 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and so on, it is the same as ranking a 1st choice and leaving your other choices blank.

Does ranking a 2nd or 3rd choice hurt my favorite candidate?

No. Ranking other candidates does not affect your 1st choice. Your 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices will only be considered if your first-choice candidate is no longer in the race.

Can I give multiple candidates the same ranking?

No. If you give multiple candidates the same ranking, this is called an "overvote." Your vote in that rank and later ranks will not be counted.

Which elections will use ranked choice voting?

RCV at-large will only be used for City Council and Board of Education. It will not affect the approval or rejection of ballot measures or the election of County, State, Federal or special district officials.

Where else is RCV used?

RCV is currently used statewide in Maine and Alaska, as well as more than 40 U.S. counties and cities including San Francisco, Oakland, San Leandro, and Berkeley. However, unlike the other Bay Area cities, Albany will be using the election method of RCV at-large, rather than RCV by district.

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