



## CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

### Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

A new voting system called Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) will be used in June 2026 when there are three or more candidates in a race. RCV lets you choose your favorite candidates in order. You can pick a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> choice. If your 1<sup>st</sup> choice does not get enough votes, your vote can go to your next choice instead. During the same time as RCV, the Primary, a special election is being held to fill the term of a council member who resigned to run for mayor. Primaries are elections that political parties use to select candidates for a general election. Winners of the primary run against each other in the general election. In DC, voters can only vote in the primary of the party in which they are registered. In other words, a voter registered as a Republican can only vote in a Republican primary; a voter registered as a Democrat can only vote in a Democratic primary. This is known as having closed primary elections.

In DC, RCV voting will be used when there are three or more candidates running for:

- Mayor
- Chairman of the Council
- Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives
- Members of the City Council
- U.S. Senator
- U.S. Representatives

Here is how you can rank (vote) for up to five candidates:

- Fill in the oval next to your 1<sup>st</sup> choice in the 1<sup>st</sup> column.
- If you have a 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, fill in the oval next to their name in the 2<sup>nd</sup> column.
- If you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> choice, fill in the oval next to their name in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column.
- You can rank up to five candidates, including write-in candidates.
- Do not give two candidates the same number.
- Do not rank the same candidate more than once.
- Do not skip numbers (for example, do not pick 1 and 3 but skip 2).

Ranking other candidates will NOT hurt your 1<sup>st</sup> choice. Your 2<sup>nd</sup> (or later) choice only counts if your 1<sup>st</sup> choice does not get enough votes. A win requires at least 50% of the votes. First, all 1<sup>st</sup> choice votes are counted. If no one wins, the candidate with the fewest votes is removed. If your 1<sup>st</sup> choice is removed, your vote goes to your next choice. This keeps happening until someone wins. Results will be ready after all ballots are counted.

If you have specific questions about ranked choice voting, please contact the DC Board of Elections (DCBOE). For general questions or a referral to the appropriate resource, you may also contact CIC Senior Program Analyst Patricia N. Marks at [Patricia.Marks@dc.gov](mailto:Patricia.Marks@dc.gov) or (202) 727-4692.

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