

## **Ranked Choice Voting Comes to New York City Primary Elections this June.**

Most New York City voters will mark their ballots by Ranked Choice for the first time in the primary in June.

Here, our goal is to provide you with basic information about Ranked Choice Voting and provide links for those who want more detail.

**What is Ranked Choice Voting?** - We are used to voting for a single candidate out of all who appear on the ballot. If the candidate we vote for loses, however, our ballot does not count. Ranked Choice Voting changes that. Its goal is to facilitate the election of candidates with more broad-based support than in the one choice only system.

Instead of voting for a single candidate, Ranked Choice Voting empowers us to rank the candidates 1-5 in order of preference (although we can still vote for only one if we prefer). If no candidate gets a majority of the first-place votes cast, the candidate with the lowest vote total is eliminated. Voters who made the last place candidate their first choice have their votes reallocated to their second choice. The reallocation process keeps going until a candidate gets a majority.

Ranked Choice Voting does not hurt our first-choice candidate. Rather, it extends the power of our vote to include additional preferences. Election experts suggest we think about our Ranked Choice Voting this way:

**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:** The candidate you love.

**2<sup>nd</sup> choice:** The candidate you like.

**3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> choice:** The candidate you like slightly less.

**5<sup>th</sup> choice:** The candidate you can stand.

The ballot in Ranked Choice Voting looks different from what we are used to. Instead of indicating just one candidate you are voting for, a Ranked Choice Voting Ballot asks you to indicate first, second and up to fifth place choices.

**Ranked Choice Voting applies to the following New York City offices-** Mayor, Public Advocate, Comptroller, Borough President and City Council. *It does not apply to District Attorney* which is a state office.

Here are the key dates for the primary election:

## KEY DATES: PRIMARY ELECTION

Early voting dates:	<b>JUNE 12—20</b>
Absentee ballot request deadline	<b>JUNE 15</b>
Mail in your absentee ballot by:	<b>JUNE 22</b>
Primary Election Day:	<b>JUNE 22</b>

If you want more information and examples of how Ranked Choice Voting works consult the following:

*Campaign Finance Board materials*- is a good place to start. The CFB provides a basic introduction to Ranked Choice Voting, a practice exercise and sample ballots

<http://nyccfb.info/nyc-votes/ranked-choice-voting/>

*Rank the Vote NYC materials* – also has a brief introduction to Ranked Choice Voting. It includes a cute practice exercise in Ranked Choice Voting based on rating snacks available at a local bodega, and answers to some frequently asked questions.

<https://rankthevoteny.org>

*The City* – is for those who want more detail. In the article linked to below, experts answer readers’ questions on Ranked Choice Voting. The article includes discussion of the reasons behind the change to Ranked Choice Voting and the strategy in casting your vote under a Ranked Choice system.

<https://www.thecity.nyc/2021/3/17/22335796/ranked-choice-voting-questions-answers-for-nyc>

[Senator Liz Krueger hosted a town hall forum on a Ranked Choice system. You can learn more and watch here.](#)

<https://www.nysenate.gov/issues/ranked-choice-voting>