

Desirability of S.B. 1050

('An Act Establishing a Task Force to Study Ranked Choice Voting')

All voting systems have complex ramifications. While I'm not yet 100% sure about RCV (but strongly leaning), I am 100% sure about the desirability of a serious study of this issue, and therefore support passage of this legislation.

RCV to all appearances seems to have several advantages over our current system: it avoids a 'spoiler' candidate throwing the election to the least favored candidate. It avoids costly run-off elections. There are other advantages which any internet search would describe.

Another appealing factor is that several countries (Australia, New Zealand, Ireland) that are ranked higher than the U.S. in the Economist's Democracy Index (see Wikipedia 2018 rankings) have adopted RCV. Two dozen U.S. municipalities already use it or are scheduled to in the near future.

There might (?) be some disadvantages to RCV. (However, to a recent [Feb 21, 2019] complaint in the Hartford Courant's Letters by a writer who resents having to bother to rank candidates, it can be answered that ranking is not mandatory – but merely an option [which many voters would like to have]).

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