

VOTER CHOICE = VOTER VOICE

**Democracy is our name. It is who we are. It is why we exist.
And it has never been more threatened. Everything is at stake.**

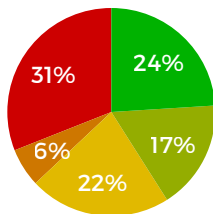
We see the assaults on our democracy every day – voter suppression, buying of elections, gerrymandering of districts, a Supreme Court that will not uphold the constitutional rights of voting access and continues to uphold money as speech in our elections.

But we also have an opportunity. DFA-AF is positioned to help *expand* democracy and *expand* the opportunity for progressive candidates to succeed – not just in the short term, but in a fundamental, systemic and sustainable way. **The number one way we can do this is through Ranked Choice Voting.**

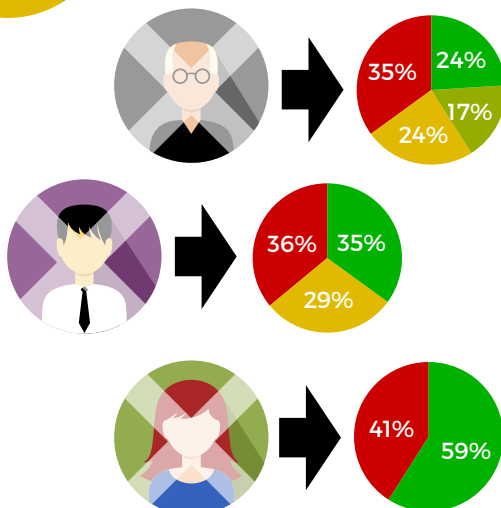
WITH RANKED CHOICE VOTING EVERYONE HAS A CHOICE

RANKED CHOICE VOTING IS THE MOST DEMOCRATIC WAY TO VOTE

Ranked-choice voting (RCV) is an election method that allows voters the option to rank candidates in order of preference (first choice, second choice, third choice, and so on).



If a candidate receives more than half of the first choices, that candidate wins, just like in any other election. However, if there is no majority winner after counting the first choices, the race is decided by an instant runoff.



The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who ranked that candidate as their first choice will have their votes counted for their next choice.

This process continues until a candidate wins with more than half of the vote.

How does this help BIPOC and progressive candidates?

Too often, when people are faced with multiple candidates they do “calculus” of who can win, hold their nose and vote for the lesser of two evils so as not to “waste” their vote, worry about ‘electability’ and then don’t vote for progressives even though they most align with their values and policies. Ranked choice voting allows you to vote your heart and your beliefs first without the calculus. **Your vote goes exactly where you want it to go.**



This allows us to:

- See how much support there really is for progressive candidates and policies
- Stop the faulty calculus
- Encourage candidates to run who might otherwise stay off the ballot
- Reduce “negative” campaigning – especially in primaries.

Our Strategic Opportunity:

There is RCV organizing going on around the country at the national, state and municipal levels. But very little effort is being made to educate voters, and rally progressive organizations and candidates to become central to these efforts.

DFA- AF can change that. We can leverage our individual members, national coalition partners and allies to rally the voter protection energy and broaden it to include this key expansion of democracy.

Our Plan

- Stand up voter education campaigns in cities and states with Ranked Choice Voting
- Become the national leader in training candidates how to run and win in a ranked choice voting environment
- Support state and municipal level RCV ballot initiatives
- Use our national position to educate and inspire voters, candidates and allied organizations to support Ranked Choice Voting through town halls, social media and direct mail
- Lead the charge to push for RCV in presidential primaries.

TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD UPON THE FASTEST GROWING DEMOCRACY REFORM IN THE COUNTRY.