



MORE CHOICE
SAN DIEGO

A Proposal by San Diegans to Increase Voters Choice in City Elections

Top-Four Nonpartisan Primaries with Ranked Choice Voting in General Elections

Purpose: To provide voters more choice and more voice in San Diego elections.

Current: Voters cast their ballot for one candidate in the primary. The top-two candidates with the most votes advance to the general election. Voters cast their ballot for one candidate in the general election.

Proposed: Voters still cast their ballot for one candidate in the primary, but now the top-four vote getters advance to the general election instead of just two. Voters rank the four candidates in order of preference (first choice, second choice, and so on). Ballots are counted in rounds where last-place candidates lose until one candidate reaches a majority and wins.

Offices: Mayor, City Attorney, City Council, School Board

Expected Outcomes:

1. More choice. With Top-Four and Rank Choice Voting (RCV), you get more choice in elections and ensure that winners are supported by a majority of voters.
2. More voice. With Top-Four and RCV, you can vote for the candidate you like the best without worrying that you will help to elect the candidate you like the least.
3. More diversity. When four candidates advance to the general election rather than two, candidates from underrepresented populations or smaller parties are more likely to make it into the general election. Candidates then have time to build majority coalitions and win based on the quality of their ideas, and not just the size of their bank accounts.
4. More civility. With RCV, you have the power to punish candidates who engage in negative campaigning by ranking them last or by not ranking them at all. As a result, voters in California cities with RCV report less negative campaigning in their elections.

Sample Ballot

Current General election
Vote for 1



Proposed General election
Rank candidates in order of your preference

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
Adam	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kate	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Steve	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Barb	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>