

RCV TX Elevator Pitch for Canvassing

[Make sure to bring a signup sheet and [sample ballot](#) when you go out canvassing.]

Hi! Have you heard of Ranked Choice Voting? [Respond accordingly.]

Ranked Choice Voting is a ***nonpartisan change*** to the way we currently vote.

Right now, when you vote, you pick one candidate.

With Ranked Choice Voting, you get to rank candidates in the order that you prefer them: 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on. If your first choice can't win, your vote automatically transfers to your second choice. This "instant runoff voting" based on voters' backup choices means you wouldn't have to return to the polls later or listen to more campaign ads! You'll also know the winner a lot sooner. Runoffs cost taxpayers a lot and fewer people turn out to vote so the winner doesn't really reflect broad voter support. Does Ranked Choice Voting sound like something you can get behind?

[If in Austin, note that voters already approved RCV in 2021 and now we need to pressure the state to allow it]

[Supporter Ask]

I am one of the local volunteers. Can you sign up to stay in touch so we can let you know when legislation is being voted on so you can contact your legislators about ranked choice voting? We also send a monthly update. [pass them the clipboard if they say yes]

[Volunteer Ask]

At the end you'll see a checkbox for volunteering: there are lots of ways to help our efforts, one of which is to talk to people and sign them up just like this. Would you like to sign up to volunteer? [point to the checkbox to volunteer]

[Donation Ask]

We are a nonpartisan, all volunteer, nonprofit organization. We are trying to raise money so we can get professional help during the legislative session. People have been donating between \$10 and \$50. Can you donate today to help us grow our supporter network? [point to the donate checkbox]. We will email or text you a link to our website to donate.

[Optional]

Here's why this is important: right now, if you want to select someone who isn't the front-runner, people will tell you that you're "wasting" your vote. Have you heard that before? **[Pause for reply.]** Well with RCV, you're empowered to choose who you *really* want to vote for and list backup options after that.

Now think about this from the candidates' perspective: right now we tell a lot of candidates, "Wait your turn," or, "drop out because you're going to 'split the vote.'" But with RCV, we can encourage more people to run for office and bring their ideas to the table. As voters, we'll have more choices.

More detailed talking points:

- **Saves money:** Eliminates the additional costs and time associated with runoff elections.
- **Greater choice:** More candidates can compete without fear of splitting the vote resulting in the election of someone voters like least.
- **Stronger Voice:** More voters cast ballots because they feel their vote is more effective.
- **Less Negative Campaigns:** Candidates have reason to be more civil and issue-focused due to the possibility of gaining second or third choice votes.

- In **special elections**, constituents are unrepresented for a shorter time because the first-round election is definitive.
- **RCV is gaining momentum around the U.S.:** Now used in Maine, Alaska, and about 50 cities around the U.S. Can be used for different types of elections such as party primaries, local nonpartisan elections, or general elections at different levels of government. It is being adopted in red and blue states and is truly a nonpartisan change in voting logistics that helps elect people with broader voter support.
- **Minimizes strategic voting:** Voters can honestly rank candidates in order of preference and not just vote against the candidate they oppose most who they fear might win.