



## **ADC Resolution in Support of Ranked Choice Voting**

**Sponsors:** *Nancy Morgan, Denny Phipps, Kathy M. Burns, Heather DeRoy, Robbin Warner, April Breslaw, Susan Flinn, Rosemari Sullivan, Marlene Walker, Kathleen Barnett, Mary Kent, Janie Smith, Dinah Wiley*

**WHEREAS**, majority rule is a cornerstone of democracy, yet in races with more than two candidates, it is common for a winner to be elected without true majority support;

**WHEREAS**, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) strengthens democratic outcomes by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, helping ensure winners better reflect the will of the majority while reducing vote-splitting and “spoiler” effects;

**WHEREAS**, RCV empowers voters to express their genuine preferences without fear of inadvertently helping elect their least-preferred candidate, leading to more honest, inclusive, and representative elections;

**WHEREAS**, RCV can replace costly, low-turnout runoff or preliminary elections, while also improving ballot access for overseas and military voters who often face challenges in two-round systems;

**WHEREAS**, studies show that RCV promotes more diverse and inclusive representation — for example, between 2010 and 2019, 48% of RCV-elected officials were women, and currently, 46% of mayors elected through RCV are women and 31% are people of color;

**WHEREAS**, RCV encourages more civil, issue-focused campaigning by motivating candidates to reach beyond their base and seek the second and third-choice support of a broader electorate;

**WHEREAS**, jurisdictions using RCV have seen benefits including:

- Increased voter participation;
- Broader and more diverse candidate pools;
- More coalition-building and cross-constituency engagement;
- Reduced negative campaigning and outside spending;
- Fewer “wasted” votes;

**WHEREAS**, RCV can reduce polarization by rewarding candidates who seek broad support and govern through consensus;

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 the Virginia General Assembly passed:

- HB1103 (Del. Sally Hudson), authorizing Virginia localities to adopt RCV for local governing body elections;
- HB506 (Del. Patrick Hope), authorizing Arlington County to implement instant runoff voting and directing the State Board of Elections to establish regulations;

**WHEREAS**, RCV is currently used in approximately 50 jurisdictions across the United States, representing over 13 million voters; and in Virginia, Arlington and Charlottesville have launched RCV pilot programs, with other localities—including Loudoun County, Fredericksburg, Fairfax City, Falls Church, and Newport News—actively considering similar reforms;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alexandria Democratic Committee:

1. **Thanks** Representative Don Beyer for championing the Fair Representation Act ([H.R.4632](#)), which would require RCV in U.S. House elections and help reduce polarization by encouraging broader voter appeal;
2. **Urges** all members of Virginia’s Congressional delegation, including Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, to support and co-sponsor federal legislation that promotes the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting in federal elections, provides resources to help states and localities implement RCV, and encourages democratic reforms that ensure elections reflect the will of the majority of voters.
3. **Urges** Alexandria’s General Assembly delegation to support legislation in the 2026 session that would authorize RCV across Virginia for local, state and federal elections;
4. **Encourages** the Alexandria City Council to include recommendations on supporting RCV in their legislative priorities for the next General Assembly as well as to study and consider adopting RCV in local elections, building on the experiences and best practices from Arlington County and the City of Charlottesville;
5. **Calls** on the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) to explore using RCV in its upcoming party reorganization processes and to advocate for its use in party and presidential primaries as allowed by state law—thereby expanding voter choice and strengthening democratic engagement.