



Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) HOW IT WORKS

(Spoiler: It Doesn't)



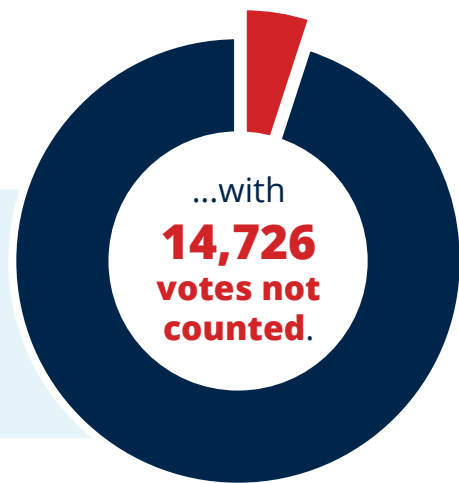
RCV candidates with the most first-place votes can lose elections! Here's how RCV worked in 2018 for Maine's 2nd Congressional District Race.

MAINE 2018 2ND CONGRESSIONAL RACE

Republican Candidate Bruce Poliquin **WON** the race under traditional voting but lost with RCV!



This election had four contenders total, with **296,077** total ballots cast...



WHAT HAPPENED?!



After two rounds of tabulation, **Golden (D)** was declared the winner of the election.







5% of all votes cast were tossed with **14,726** votes not counted.*



Only **48.11%** of the total ballots cast decided the election (not 50%+1).

ROUND #1:

Position	Candidate	Total	Percent
1	 Bruce Poliquin (R)	134,184	46.33%
2	 Jared Golden (D)	132,013	45.58%
3	 Tiffany Bond (I)	16,552	5.71%
4	 William R.S. Hoar (I)	6,875	2.37%





296,077 ballots tabulated

Bruce Poliquin (R) received 46.33% (134,184) of the vote ahead of Jared Golden's (D) 45.58% (132,013).



In round 1, **6,453 ballots** were thrown out!

ROUND #2:

Position	Candidate	Total	Percent of ballots tabulated in Round 2	Percent of all ballots cast
1	 Jared Golden (D)	142,440	50.63%	48.11%
2	 Bruce Poliquin (R)	138,911	49.37%	46.92%
3	 Tiffany Bond (I)			
4	 William R.S. Hoar (I)			

281,351 ballots tabulated → 8,273 votes exhausted

After round 2, **Golden (D) was declared the winner** with 50.63% (142,440) of the remaining ballots *but only 48.11% of the total ballots cast* (296,077).



In round 2, **8,273 ballots** were thrown out!

What's an exhausted ballot?

"Exhausted ballots" in elections using ranked-choice voting **do not count towards the final tally** and include tossed ballots, overvotes, and undervotes.

RCV DOES NOT:

- ✗ Increase fairness
- ✗ Represent the majority
- ✗ Incorporate more choice



RCV:

- ✗ Confuses voters
- ✗ Threatens voter confidence
- ✗ Throws out votes

BOTTOM LINE

Ranked-choice voting disenfranchises voters and undermines "one person, one vote," the bedrock of American elections.