



# Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) HOW IT WORKS *(Spoiler: It Doesn't)*

Here's how RCV worked in 2021 for New York City's Democratic mayoral primary. RCV required **eight rounds of tabulation over 15 days** to declare Eric Adams the winner.



## 2021 NEW YORK CITY DEMOCRATIC MAYORAL PRIMARY

There were **14 contenders** with **942,031 ballots** cast.

### WHAT HAPPENED?!



There was a total of **140,202 ballots tossed** out of 942,031 ballots cast—that's nearly 15%!



**Eric Adams was declared the winner** at 50.4% despite only receiving 42.9% of the TOTAL vote.



Adams would have won in the first round, but instead **RCV took eight rounds and weeks of tabulation** to decide this!

### ROUND #1:



**TOTAL VOTES: 942,031**

After Round 1, Candidate Eric Adams started with 30.8% of the vote (289,403 votes) with Maya Wiley in 2nd place with 21.4% (201,518). Eric Adams would have won under traditional voting, but it took seven more rounds and 15 days to declare him the winner.

ROUND #2:

 TABULATED VOTES: **941,279**

 EXHAUSTED VOTES: **752**

ROUND #3:

 TABULATED VOTES: **940,824**

 EXHAUSTED VOTES: **455**

ROUND #4:

 TABULATED VOTES: **936,717**

 EXHAUSTED VOTES: **4,107**

ROUND #5:

 TABULATED VOTES: **933,969**

 EXHAUSTED VOTES: **2,748**

ROUND #6:

 TABULATED VOTES: **915,586**

 EXHAUSTED VOTES: **18,383**

ROUND #7:

 TABULATED VOTES: **876,317**

 EXHAUSTED VOTES: **39,269**

ROUND #8:

 TABULATED VOTES: **801,829**

 EXHAUSTED VOTES: **74,488**




Total ballots tossed out:

**140,202**

*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.