FGA

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 would work if you were to vote for your favorite chicken sandwich. 296,077 voters went to the polls this election, so the number of votes needed to win a majority was 148,040.
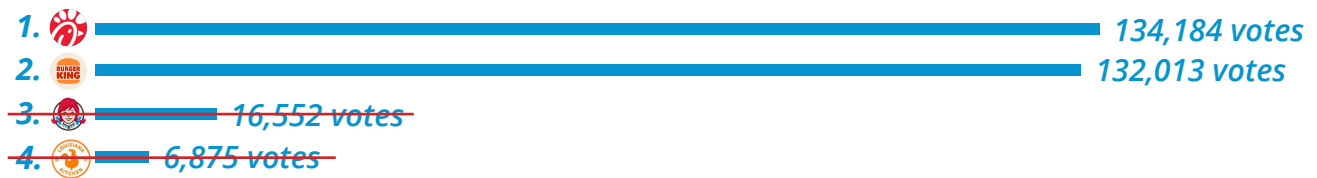
ROUND #1: Here's How You Voted

Candidate	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
Chick-fil-A	●	○	○	○
Burger King	○	○	●	○
Wendy's	○	●	○	○
Popeyes	○	○	○	●

Once all the results are tallied, **none of the candidates reach 148,040 votes** (50%+1). Both Wendy's and Popeyes receive fewer than 10% of the votes, so they are eliminated. Chick-fil-A and Burger King remain in the running for round #2. **In this round, 6,453 ballots were exhausted and do not count.***

RESULTS

1. 134,184 votes
2. 132,013 votes
3. ~~16,552 votes~~
4. ~~6,875 votes~~

The 6,453 ballots that were immediately tossed were due to overvotes and undervotes on the initial ballot. Any remaining ballots that were tossed in Round #1 were not counted because the voter did not rank the 1st or 2nd place candidate after the other two were eliminated.

ROUND #2

Now votes are redistributed to the second-ranked choices.
In this round, 8,273 people who voted for either Wendy's or Popeyes as their second choice do not have their vote counted.

RESULTS

🏆 **1.** 🍔 ————————————————————— **142,440 votes**
2. 🐔 ————————————————————— **138,911 votes**

WHAT HAPPENED?!

After two rounds of voting, **Burger King was declared the winner** of the election.

Overall, **14,726 people's votes were not counted**—including yours (since you voted for Wendy's as your second choice).

The candidate who was **the people's first choice did not win** while the second choice did.

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.** This happens when a voter has ranked only candidates that have been eliminated or have not made selections for all choices.

Examples of exhausted ballots:

Candidate	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
🐔 Chick-fil-A	0	0	0	0
🍔 Burger King	0	0	0	0
🍔 Wendy's	0	0	0	0
🐔 Popeyes	●	0	0	0

Candidate	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
🐔 Chick-fil-A	0	0	0	0
🍔 Burger King	0	0	0	0
🍔 Wendy's	0	●	0	0
🐔 Popeyes	●	0	0	0

Candidate	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice
🐔 Chick-fil-A	0	0	0	0
🍔 Burger King	0	0	0	0
🍔 Wendy's	0	0	0	0
🐔 Popeyes	●	●	●	●

**Every voter is permitted to cast one vote per candidate. If they do not select a candidate, that voter has undervoted. An overvote occurs when a voter selects more candidates than the number of candidates you are permitted to vote for. For example, if you marked both Chick-fil-A and Wendy's in the first choice column.

RCV DOES NOT:

❌ Increase fairness
❌ Represent the majority
❌ Incorporate more choice

TRASH EXHAUSTED BALLOTS

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.**