



Ranked Choice Voting for Colorado
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News Release

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Denver Clerk Recommends Ranked Choice Voting as "Viable Option" For City Council to Consider

After analyzing numerous options, Denver Clerk and Recorder Paul Lopez has recommended Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) as one of two options for the city. Denver's current system disenfranchises military and overseas voters who can't participate in the runoff election.

"Denver's charter has become antiquated with the way modern elections are to be conducted, and that's why I'm making two viable recommendations to Council to be placed on the November ballot for voters to consider," says Clerk Paul López, Denver's chief elections official.

"Denver fails our overseas military voters by leaving them out of the current runoff system. It is appalling that we simply do not deliver democracy to our active troops. We can join the growing number of cities using RCV, or we can spend well over \$1.2 million dollars on a second, three-month-long election. I think of this every day that I dodge a Denver pothole. There is a better way and it is available," says RCV for Colorado Executive Director Linda Templin.

RCV, sometimes called Instant Runoff Voting, empowers voters by ensuring the victor has a true majority and not just a plurality of support. By allowing voters to rank their choices, it frees voters to vote their conscience and ensures they aren't left with two unpalatable options in a runoff. As Denver's city elections increasingly become multi-candidate races where no single candidate will achieve a majority and even the top two combined don't achieve a majority of the vote, RCV is the best option to empower voters.

In this recommendation, Lopez notes that implementing rank choice voting would save Denver taxpayers money by eliminating the need for a runoff election and that any additional costs are significantly less than the savings. "Transitioning from a standard voting model to a ranked choice voting model would provide numerous benefits to the voters in the City and County of Denver and could provide measurable cost and resource benefits for the city..." said Lopez in a letter to Council President Gilmore.

Lopez recommended two possible options, and RCV for Colorado believes Denver residents will find the simplicity and effectiveness of rank choice voting greatly preferable to the alternative: making Denver's contentious runoffs longer. Runoff elections face multiple problems, including voter fatigue and increasingly negative elections. That's why voters in New York City overwhelmingly said they prefer the system to their previous one ([Poll](#)).

"We applaud Clerk Lopez for recognizing that RCV can be a good option for Denver," said Emma Donahue, Political Director for RCV Colorado. "We look forward to continuing conversations with the Denver City Council to hopefully implement the system before the next municipal elections."

Ms. Donahue, a resident of Denver, is available for media interviews as are a number of Denver residents who are actively supporting RCV in Denver.

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