



PRESS RELEASE
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Prop 131: Ranked-Choice Voting Experts¹ Share information about RCV

Proposition 131: Formerly (Measure 310)

	Pick-One	Ranked Choice Voting
April	June	November
Primary Ballot Access Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parties designate candidates Additional candidates petition on to the ballot 	Top-4 All-Candidate Primary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick-one ballots Plurality tally Winners have the most votes Top 4 vote-getters Are the only candidates to be on the November ballot 	RCV General Election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranked-choice ballots Instant runoff tally Winners have a majority of support Results and audit timelines are unchanged

310 Overview

June Primaries: Top-Four All-Candidate Primary

- The primaries use “pick-one” ballots
- Top-four vote-getters advance to the general election regardless of party affiliation.

Top-Four All-Candidate Primary History:

- Used twice. Alaska 2022 and 2024.
- Due to drop-out candidates, there are sometimes less than four candidates in the November election.

¹<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RnS4fcAFXBn9q25QXwJ3x0wFGWG5uBN-HyakCj4EGh4/edit?usp=sharing>

November General Election: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)

- The general election uses “ranked” ballots. Voters rank candidates in order of preference.
- The candidate with a majority of the support wins.
- The first-/choice votes are counted. If a candidate has a majority, they win.
- If no candidate has an outright majority, an instant runoff is tallied. The candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated. Those ballots are counted for the voters second-choice. The process repeats until one candidate has a majority.

RCV History:

- RCV was first used in the USA in 1915 (Ashtabula, Ohio²) and has been used in over 600 local races since then.
- Maine started using RCV for state and federal offices in 2018. Alaska started in 2022.
- In Colorado, RCV is defined as using an “Instant Runoff Voting” tally³.
- Colorado has over a decade of RCV experience, most recently in Boulder 2023.

What we know about RCV as used in Colorado:

- The same equipment for RCV as for “pick-one” plurality races.
- Contest results are announced on the same timeline as plurality races.
- A Risk Limiting Audit (RLA) was run on the Boulder 2023 Mayoral race⁴.
- Voters say that RCV is easy (90%)⁵. Voters are satisfied with it (77%)⁶

RCV FAQ

Can I rank just one? Yes. Your vote will be active as long as your candidate is not eliminated.

Can everyone use RCV ballots? Yes voters of all demographics handle RCV ballots as well or better than “pick-one” ballots.

Is RCV secure? Yes it is as secure as “pick-one.” It is still on a paper ballot that can be audited.

Graphic Example:

Blank and valid voted ballot.

 Prop 131 RCV Example: New Local Segment.pdf

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² <https://www.rcvresources.org/history-of-rcv>

³ Colorado Secretary of State Election Rules [8 CCR 1505-1]

⁴ <https://assets.bouldercounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023C-Canvass-Documents.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1002/naticivirevi.106.1.0025>

⁶ https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VVLM6fzZ9kU-YI1v6q7u4_I8G0VEP5swYh778c84IHA/edit?usp=sharing

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