

## **Ranked-Choice Voting FAQs**

### ***WHAT IF I DON'T WANT TO RANK ALL THE CANDIDATES?***

You do not have to rank all five. You can rank up to five or as few candidates as you like (even none). If you choose to vote for only one candidate, just leave the other columns blank.

### ***IF I RANK OTHER CANDIDATES, DOES IT AFFECT MY FIRST CHOICE?***

No. Ranking other candidates does not affect your first choice. Only your first choice is counted in Round one. Your second, third, fourth, and other choices will be considered only if your first-choice candidate does not win in the first round.

### ***UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES CAN MY FIRST CHOICE BE ELIMINATED?***

If no candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, the last-place candidate of the top five is eliminated. If your first-choice is eliminated, your second-choice will be counted, and so on. The process of elimination continues until there is a winner.

### ***IF I REALLY WANT MY FIRST-CHOICE CANDIDATE TO WIN, SHOULD I RANK THE CANDIDATE AS MY FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD CHOICE, AND SO ON?***

No. Your vote counts only once for your first choice. If you rank the same candidate first, second, and third, it is the same as leaving the second and third choices blank.

### ***CAN I GIVE MULTIPLE CANDIDATES THE SAME RANKING?***

No. If you give multiple candidates the same ranking, this is called an “over-vote” resulting in a “spoiled ballot” meaning none of the votes on that ballot can legally be counted.

### ***WHAT ELECTION OFFICES ARE NOT USING RANKED-CHOICE VOTING?***

The following elections are not subject to ranked-choice voting as this applies just to New York City local elections at this time:

- President
- Governor
- US Senate
- Surrogate
- Supreme Court Judges
- Civil Court Judges
- District Attorney
- Congress
- State Senate
- Assembly

### ***IS THE RANKED-CHOICE BALLOT ACCESSIBLE?***

Yes, the ranked-choice ballot is compatible with the ballot marking devices for the disabled, and so is the accessible version of the absentee ballot.

***HOW DO I VOTE FOR A WRITE-IN CANDIDATE?***

To vote for a candidate whose name is not on the ballot, write the name on the “Write-in” line, and fill in an oval to rank your choice.

***WHY NOW?***

In a 2019 ballot measure, 74% of New York City Voters voted yes for Ranked-Choice Voting.