

Preferential (Ranked) Voting – Voting FAQs

You'll be asked to rank candidates in order of preference, with "1" being your first choice, "2" being your second choice, and so on.

You can rank as many or as few candidates as you wish (i.e., you could choose to leave some candidates unranked). You can also choose to abstain from voting (i.e., choose to not rank any candidate).

Example of a ballot and how votes move

Voter's ballot rankings

1. Candidate C
2. Candidate A
3. Candidate B

Round 1

Your Vote counts for Candidate C

Round 2

If Candidate C is eliminated

↓

Your Vote transfers to Candidate A

Round 3

If Candidate A is eliminated

↓

Your Vote transfers to Candidate B

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I skip numbers on the ballot? Example, I only rank my first and last choices as 1 and 5.

If you skip numbers, the rankings will be counted in the order provided rather than by the actual numbers. For the example above:

Voter's ballot rankings

1. Candidate C (would be considered 1st choice)
5. Candidate B (would be considered 2nd choice)

What happens if I rank only one candidate?

Your vote counts for that candidate only. If they are eliminated, your ballot is considered **exhausted** and is no longer counted in subsequent rounds because it has no remaining candidates.

If I abstain, how is that ballot taken into consideration?

Abstentions count toward voter turnout numbers. They do not count as active valid votes when determining whether a candidate has achieved a majority. The number of abstentions are reported in the election results.

What is an active ballot?

Active votes are ballots that still have at least one ranked candidate remaining in the election.

What is an exhausted ballot?

A ballot that is no longer counted because all of the candidates ranked by the voter have been eliminated.