

**Resolution Calling Upon the NYSDC
to Support Ranked Choice Voting
Fall Meeting
September 2018**

Whereas, the current system of voting often results in the election of a candidate who does not have a majority support of the electorate when there are three or more candidates running for an elective office;

Whereas, when there are three or more candidates for an elective office, voters often will not vote for their preferred candidate to avoid “wasting” their vote on a “spoiler” candidate, instead voting for a leading candidate they perceive as the lesser of two evils, then resulting in the election of candidates who lack majority support;

Whereas, Ranked Choice Voting, also referred to as Instant Runoff Voting Method, provides for the majority election for elective offices by giving voters the option to rank candidates according to the order of their choice, and if no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes, then the candidate receiving the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated and each vote cast for the eliminated candidate shall be transferred to the candidate who was the voter’s next choice on the ballot – continuing the process until a candidate receives a majority of votes;

Whereas, Ranked Choice Voting allows voters to mark their ballot for the candidate they truly prefer without fear that their choice will help elect their least preferred candidate;

Whereas, Ranked Choice Voting insures that the elected candidate has true majority support;

Whereas, Ranked Choice Voting will promote higher voter turnout;

Whereas, Ranked Choice Voting encourages positive campaigning, since candidates will seek second-choice and third-choice votes from voters and will therefore be less likely to attack other candidates and alienate voters who support other candidates as their first choice;

Whereas, in situations where runoffs are already required, Ranked Choice Voting will eliminate the need for a second runoff election, with its increased costs and lower voter turnout;

Whereas, Ranked Choice Voting has been the subject of increasing interest across the nation, having been adopted by local referenda in California, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Maine – and is under consideration in other states;

Whereas, two identical companion bills in the NY State Legislature, S.5616 and A.8613, now in the respective Election Committees of the State Senate and Assembly, would allow local

governments (county, city, town, village, or school district) the option to use Ranked Choice Voting in primary and general elections in 2019;

Whereas, the use Ranked Choice Voting could be expanded for all elections in New York State after 2019;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the New York State Democratic Committee supports the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting, also referred to as the Instant Runoff Voting Method, for elections in New York State;

And, finally, be it resolved that the New York State Democratic Committee supports and endorses the “Act to Amend the Election Law in Relation to Establishing an Instant Runoff Voting Method for Certain Elections,” NYS legislation sponsored by Senator Krueger et. al. (S.5616) and Assembly Member Kavanaugh et. al. (A. 8613) which, if enacted, would allow the use of Ranked Choice Voting (“Instant Runoff Voting Method”) in certain 2019 elections in New York State.