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Ranked Choice Voting
Kansas Special Committee on Elections
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Wendy Underhill, National Conference of State Legislatures

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- Provides non-partisan research & analysis
- Links legislators with each other and experts
- Speaks on behalf of legislatures in D.C.

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Today's Question:
What is Ranked Choice Voting?



The Basic Answer:
It is one way to require that the winner of an office receives support from more than half the voters

More to Consider:
Plurality vs. majority, several ways to get to majority rule, RCV legislation, technology, and examples

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Majority v. Plurality

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Plurality Winners

- Bill Clinton won the presidency in 1992 with 43% of the vote
- Governor Paul LePage won in Maine in 2010 with 37.6%

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Ways to get to Majority Rule

Many Potential Options:

- Ranked Choice Voting
- Single Transfer Voting (aka Instant Runoff Voting)
- Approval Voting
- Proportional Voting

In Use Today:

- ✓ Primary Runoffs – 10 states
- ✓ Top Two Primaries – 4 states

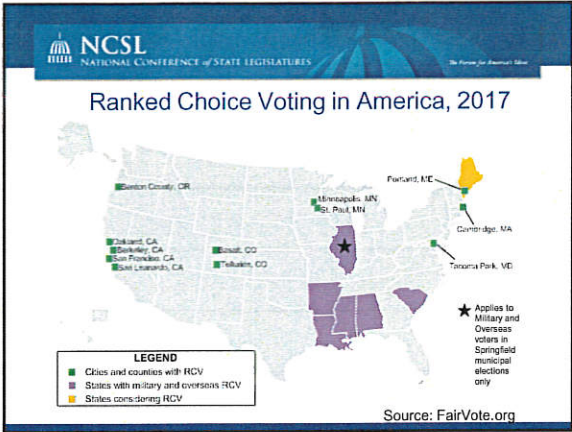
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Primary Runoffs

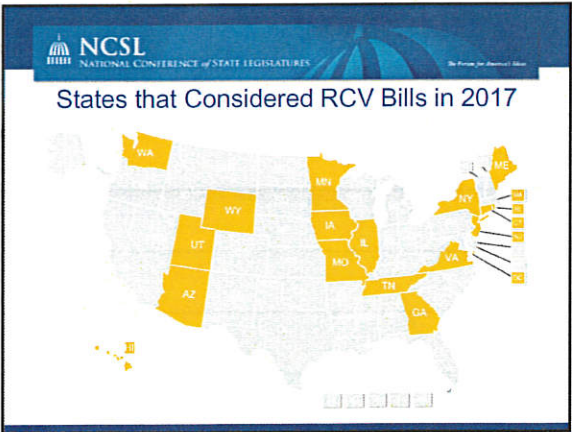
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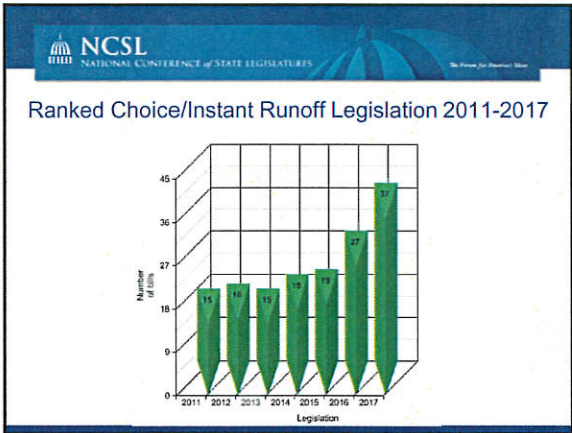
How Top Two Primaries Work

<u>ROUND 1: Primary</u>	<u>ROUND 2: General Election</u>
Queen Victoria – 20 votes	Queen Victoria – 26 votes
Frederick the Great – 5 votes	Geo. Washington – 33 votes
King Louis XIV – 6 votes	
Geo. Washington – 17 votes	
Catherine the Great – 11	




- Cities with RCV**
- Basalt, Colo.
 - Berkeley, Calif.
 - Benton County, Ore.
 - Cambridge, Mass.
 - Minneapolis, Minn.
 - Oakland, Calif.
 - Portland, Maine
 - San Francisco, Calif.
 - San Leandro, Calif.
 - St. Paul, Minn.
 - Takoma Park, Md.
 - Telluride, Colo.







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The Power of Democratic Ideas
- ### Maine's Experience
- 
- 2001: Legislation introduced for instant runoff voting (failed)
 - 2003: Legislation to study feasibility of IRV (passed)
 - 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013: failed legislative efforts
 - Nov. 2016: RCV placed on ballot and approved
 - May 2017: State Supreme Court issues advisory opinion
 - Oct. 2017: Legislature holds special session and takes up RCV
 - Oct. 2017: Legislature votes to postpone until 2021

Maine's Fiscal Note and Administrative Considerations

- \$833,664 to implement in first year
- Programming for ballot design, election night reporting
- Voter education campaign
- High speed central ballot counters
- Staffing, including police to bring ballots from in the field to central counting centers
- Time to plan

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