

Ward 3 Democrats

Resolution in Support of Ranked Choice Voting

Passed 7/24/2020

Because our democracy is strengthened by an engaged citizenry whose participation in elections makes our public institutions more responsive,

Because DC elections, both primary and general, may include so many candidates that it becomes difficult—based on each voter’s top choice alone—for any one of them to secure a majority of the vote,

Because our current system of elections has sometimes led to the selection of candidates and election of office holders by a plurality (rather than majority) of voters,

Because office holders elected by plurality may not enjoy the support or a mandate from a majority of voters,

Because requiring a majority outcome through run-off elections is costly and participation is generally low,

Because ranked choice voting allows voters to identify their second and third choice preference (and so forth) and uses these preferences if no candidate wins a majority of first choice votes,

Because ranked choice voting results in candidates and office holders who have won expressions of support from a majority of voters,

Because second and third choices matter, candidates have incentives to build bridges to supporters of other candidates,

Because Bill 23-491, the Ranked Choice Voting Act of 2019—introduced by Councilmembers Cheh, Grosso, Nadeau and Silverman and co-sponsored by Councilmember Allen—calls for adoption of ranked choice voting for elections of Mayor, Attorney General, Council Chair, Council members, and State Board of Education members in 2022 (if feasible) and beyond,

The Ward 3 Democratic Committee calls for the authorization and implementation of Ranked Choice Voting for Primary and General elections in the District of Columbia and for Presidential elections. We support enactment of legislation that would implement Ranked Choice Voting beginning in 2022 (if feasible) and all subsequent elections.

The passage of this resolution authorizes the Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee or the Chair’s designees to take action consistent with supporting and gaining passage of this legislation.

Passed by:

THE WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE