

Hello-

I was a candidate for Benton County Commissioner in our first ever "ranked choice voting" election in 2020. The system was easily understood and used by both voters and election officials. I felt that relationships between campaigns were more cordial and less confrontational because of the use of RCV. I certainly had no interest in antagonizing supporters of other candidates, which might have lost me their second choice votes. The results of both Commissioner races in that election were majority first choice victories of the favored candidates. So the ranking mechanism did not come into effect. However, I believe the conduct of the campaigns and the candidates was more civil because of the election mechanism.

I believe the "winner take all" system which allows non-majority victories is inherently undemocratic when there are more than two candidates for office. RCV ensures that no candidate is elected who lacks majority support of the voters, even if for some voters the winner is their second choice.

I strongly urge you to move SB 343 to the Senate floor for a vote, where I assume Senators will have the wisdom to pass it. Thank you for considering my opinion.