

S. 2911, An Act Providing a Local Option for Ranked Choice Voting in Municipal Elections

In 2020, Massachusetts voters decisively rejected statewide ranked-choice voting under Question 2, with approximately 54.8% voting "No" and only 45.2% in favor. This clear expression of the people's will should be respected. Nearly 80% of towns and cities across the Commonwealth opposed the measure, highlighting widespread skepticism about changing our straightforward voting system. Here are some concerns outlined below:

- Some voters might find the ranking process complicated and confusing, potentially leading to incorrect rankings or decisions not to vote.
- Voters would need to research all candidates for a particular office, including candidates they might not usually vote for, which could result in some voters not conducting the necessary research to make informed decisions.
- There is a possibility that some voters might only vote for one candidate, and if that candidate is eliminated after the first round, their vote would be excluded from subsequent rounds.
- Ranked Choice Voting involves a longer voting process and might be susceptible to errors.
- Computer tabulation would be required, making it challenging to audit the results as required by Section 301 of the 2002 Help America Vote Act.
- Hand recounts could be difficult, time-consuming, and prone to error.
- Counting cannot begin until all ballots are received, which is 15 days after Election Day, delaying the final election results.
- Ranked Choice Voting may require voters to rank candidates they do not prefer.