



TEL 801 852 6120
351 West Center Street
Provo, UT 84601

Re HB 174 Municipal Instant Runoff Voting Amendments

February 18, 2021

Dear Representative Adam Robertson,

The Provo Municipal Council is interested in the long-term benefits of voting reform.

We have had several discussions about the possibility of participating in the pilot program authorized by the legislature for municipalities to test drive Ranked Choice Voting. We have not yet made any decision to participate in the pilot.

We noted with interest the proposal in HB 174 to add two newer voting method options to the pilot program - approval and star voting. We express support for adding these options, as proposed in HB 174.

Thank you for your service in the legislature.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David S. Sewell".

David Sewell, Chair, on behalf of

David Shipley, Vice Chair

David Harding, Councilor

George Handley, Councilor

Bill Fillmore, Councilor

Travis Hoban, Councilor

Shannon Ellsworth, Councilor

HB174- MUNICIPAL INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING AMENDMENTS

PILOT PROGRAM - MUNICIPALITIES

This bill is not intended for general elections. Rather, it is simply an addition to an existing pilot program regarding municipal election. Currently, Ranked-Choice is the only alternative voting method, this bill would add the options to adopt approval and STAR voting.

APPROVAL

CURRENT BALLOT <small>VOTE FOR ONE</small>	APPROVAL BALLOT <small>VOTE FOR ALL YOU APPROVE OF</small>
Wonder Woman <input type="radio"/>	Wonder Woman <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Batman <input checked="" type="radio"/>	Batman <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Superman <input type="radio"/>	Superman <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Green Lantern <input type="radio"/>	Green Lantern <input checked="" type="radio"/>
Lex Luthor <input type="radio"/>	Lex Luthor <input type="radio"/>

The Voter

Votes for EVERY candidate for which they approve

How the Votes are Counted

Whoever has the most Approvals wins

STAR VOTING



The Voter

Gives each candidate is scored with 0-5 stars, just like how you would score a restaurant

How the Votes are Counted

1. Everyone except the two candidates with the most stars are eliminated
2. Out of these two candidates, the one who most voters prefer is elected.

BENEFITS OF IRV OVER PLURALITY

- You can still vote for the candidate you prefer even if they aren't one of the most popular and still feel like your vote counts.
- Decreases the chances of the least favorable candidate being elected due to a split vote.
- Allow for multiple candidate offices to be filled (i.e. delegates)
- Don't force voters to have to return to the polls when one candidate does not initially receiving >50% of the votes