

Examples of Voting Methods for Single-Seat Elections

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League Day, September 19, 2015

What are Voting Methods?

A **voting method** defines

- 1) the form of the ballot,
- 2) what constitutes a valid vote,
- 3) how to count votes, and
- 4) an algorithm for determining the outcome of the election.

A voting method is not to be confused with an **election system**, which is concerned with whether or not to have early voting, all-mail elections, electronic or paper ballots, etc.

Comparing Winners

	Plurality	Approval	Score	IRV
brownie				
banana split				
sugar cookie				
lemon bar				

Desirable Attributes

#1 -- Tactical:

** Favorite-Safe*

** Clone-Safe*

** Adding votes only helps your candidate (monotonic)*

** You're glad you voted (no-show paradox means
you'd be happier if you hadn't voted)*

Desirable Attributes

#2 -- Voter Turnout:

- * Nursery for 3rd parties or lesser-known candidates***
 - * Conducive to positive campaigning***
 - * Candidate preferred by most voters wins***

Desirable Attributes

#3 -- Implementation:

- * *Can use existing machines*
- * *Simple for voter*
- * *Precinct countable (not relevant in Colorado)*
- * *Minimal ballot spoilage*

Website Resources

- Approval Voting:
Center for Election Science, electology.org
- Score Voting:
Center for Range Voting, rangevoting.org
- IRV:
FairVote, fairvote.org

Approval Voting in CO

- CU student government uses approval voting.
- Representative Jonathan Singer (D – Longmont) and Senator Dave Balmer (R – Centennial) have sponsored legislation to allow approval voting in non-partisan, local elections and expect to do so again in the future.

Instant-Runoff Voting in CO

- From 1917 to 1947 city of Boulder used STV (multi-seat version of ranked voting) for city council elections.
- In 2002 Basalt (population ~4000) approved IRV for mayoral elections but hasn't had 3 candidates run for mayor yet.
- In 2008 passage of House Bill 1738 allowed local governments to conduct elections using a ranked voting method.
- In 2009 Aspen voters conducted their one-and-only IRV election. Voters repealed the voting method in 2010.
- In 2011 Telluride held its only IRV election, but winner won more than half of the votes in the 1st round so no "runoff" needed.
- In 2011 Fort Collins voters considered and rejected IRV 61% to 39%.

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**There will be a link on the Boulder County League's website
to the documents presented today,
as well as a list of resources.**

lwvbc.org