

MAKING

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LWVBC Voting Methods Team

lwvbc.org, Teams at Work, Voting Methods

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.

Candidates

Brownie

Banana Split

Sugar Cookie

Lemon Bar

APPROVAL VOTING

- Vote for one or more dessert candidates.
- You are not required to approve more than one candidate.
- To vote, fill in the circle next to the candidate or candidates of your choice.
- The candidate with the most votes wins.

<input type="radio"/>	Brownie
<input type="radio"/>	Banana Split
<input type="radio"/>	Sugar Cookie
<input type="radio"/>	Lemon Bar

APPROVAL VOTING Winner: Candidate with the most votes.

	Brownie	Banana Split	Sugar Cookie	Lemon Bar
Ballot #				
1	1	1		
2		1		1
3	1	1		1
4	1		1	1
5			1	
6	1		1	
7		1		
8	1	1		
9	1			1
10			1	
11			1	1
12			1	1
13			1	1
14	1	1		1
15		1	1	
16	1			1
17		1		1
18	1	1		
19			1	1
20		1		1
SUM	9	10	9	12
	Brownie	Banana Split	Sugar Cookie	Lemon Bar

APPROVAL VOTING Winner: Candidate with the most votes.

SCORE VOTING

- To vote, rate each choice by clearly circling one score in that dessert's row. The worst score is 0. The best score is 3.
- You may give **EQUAL** scores to different desserts.
- To determine the winner, add up the scores for each dessert. The dessert with the highest total wins.

Brownie	Circle one →	0	1	2	3
Banana Split	Circle one →	0	1	2	3
Sugar Cookie	Circle one →	0	1	2	3
Lemon Bar	Circle one →	0	1	2	3

SCORE VOTING Winner: Candidate with the highest sum of scores.

	Brownie	Banana Split	Sugar Cookie	Lemon Bar
Ballot #				
1	3	3	0	0
2	0	3	0	1
3	2	1	0	3
4	3	0	1	1
5	0	0	3	0
6	3	0	3	0
7	0	3	0	0
8	3	1	0	0
9	3	0	0	3
10	0	0	3	0
11	0	0	3	2
12	0	0	3	1
13	0	0	3	2
14	3	1	0	1
15	0	3	1	0
16	3	0	0	1
17	0	1	0	3
18	3	3	0	0
19	0	0	3	2
20	0	3	0	1
SUM	26	22	23	21
	Brownie	Banana Split	Sugar Cookie	Lemon Bar

SCORE VOTING Winner: Candidate with the highest sum of scores.

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

- Write **1** in the circle next to your favorite dessert.
- If you would like to rank some or all of the remaining desserts, write **2** next to your 2nd favorite dessert, and then write **3** next to your 3rd favorite dessert if desired, and write **4** next to your least favorite dessert if desired.

<input type="radio"/>	Brownie
<input type="radio"/>	Banana Split
<input type="radio"/>	Sugar Cookie
<input type="radio"/>	Lemon Bar

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)

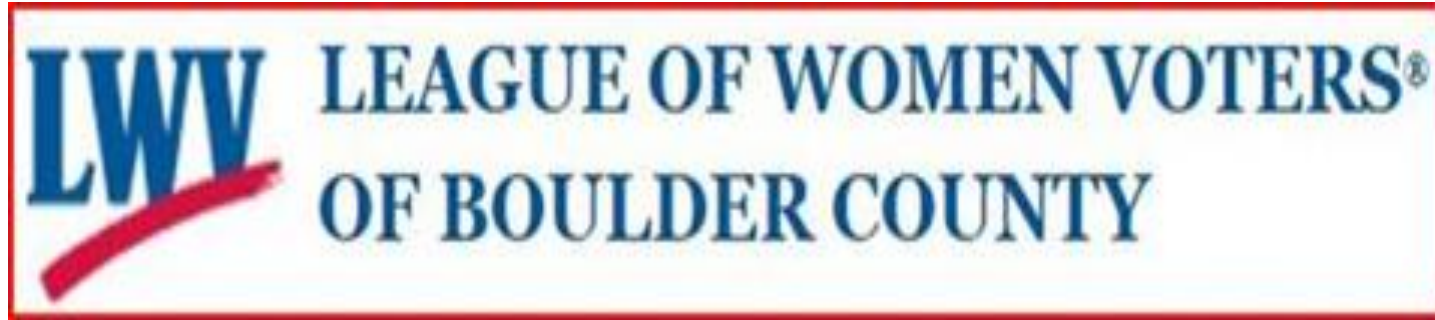
Counting the votes in rounds or “runoffs”

1st Round – If a dessert receives a majority of 1st-choice votes, it wins. Otherwise, begin the 2nd round.

2nd Round – The dessert with the fewest 1st-choice votes is eliminated, and the 2nd-choice votes on those ballots are counted and added to the first-round tally. If a dessert now has a majority of the active votes, it wins. If not, round 3.

3rd Round – The dessert with the fewest votes is once again eliminated and the next available favorite on those ballots is counted in the tally. After two desserts are eliminated, the remaining dessert with the greatest number of votes wins.

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING:					Majority Required (in 1st round)	11	Brownie	Banana Split	Sugar Cookie	Lemon Bar	Total
Only showing rankings counted in a round.					Divide # of Voters by 2 and add 1:						
									Plurality Winner		
Ballot	Brownie	Banana Split	Sugar Cookie	Lemon Bar	1ST ROUND	# of 1st-choice rankings received	4	6	7	3	20
						Did any candidate get a majority?	NO				
						Is any candidate eliminated?	Lemon Bar				
						Those who gave 1st choice rankings to the eliminated candidate now have their second choices counted in the Second Round.					
							ballots 3, 9		ballot 17		
					2ND ROUND	transfer of 2nd-choice rankings	2	1			
						Majority Required (in 2nd round)					
						Tally of 2nd Round:	6	7	7	elimin	20
						11					
						Did any candidate get a majority?	NO				
						Is any candidate eliminated?	Brownie				
						The 6 ballots with votes counted for Brownie now give those votes to the next available choice on the ballot in the Third Round.					
						Ballots 9 and 16 - exhausted.		ballots 3,8,14	ballot 4		
					3RD ROUND	transfer of votes on eliminated ballots		3	1		
						Majority Required (in 3rd round)					
						Tally of 3rd Round:	elimin	10	8	elimin	18
						10		winner			
							Banana Split				



February 2017 Report:

Voting Methods in Colorado and Beyond

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The League supports authorizing and implementing alternatives to plurality voting that allow people to express their preferences more effectively. The League supports gaining on-the-ground experience with alternative voting methods in order to ascertain whether a voting method results in outcomes that match voters' preferences as recorded on their ballots. The League supports voting methods that improve the election experience, that encourage honest voting rather than tactical voting, and that consider ease of implementation.

Considerations:

- Some voting methods are intended for single-winner elections, others for multi-winner elections. It is important that the intended use of a voting method match its actual application. Multi-winner voting methods can promote proportional representation that fosters diversity of our elected officials.*
- Election officials should conduct post-election analysis to evaluate the voters' usage of the voting method and the election's reflection of voters' stated preferences. There should be sufficient data transparency – for example, access to ballot records in anonymous form – for an independent analysis to be conducted by other interested groups.*



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Voting Methods in Colorado and Beyond

Study Packet Highlights:

Sample ballots: p. 5

Evaluating and comparing voting methods: pp. 9-20

Where alternative voting methods are used: pp. 21-23

Positions of other Leagues: pp. 26-28

Explanatory videos: p. 37

...and check out the other resources too on pp. 35-37!