

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) FAQs for Localities

*Note that this is not an exhaustive list of RCV considerations. ELECT is providing this document to inform localities that are considering RCV. More information will be provided as it is determined.

Cost to Localities

- Localities **will not** be splitting the cost to change VERIS or anything related to Election Night Reporting (ENR). ELECT is working internally to create easily implemented solutions for entering and displaying election results, and localities will not be financially responsible for these initiatives.
- Localities **will** be responsible for payment related to upgrading software and voter outreach. In order to utilize the tabulation software, your locality's voting machines MUST be able to produce a Cast Vote Record (CVR). Localities will be responsible for any upgrades to their voting machines to accommodate this requirement. ELECT encourages you to speak with your voting machine vendor about available options and potential costs.
- ELECT and localities **both** are responsible for voter outreach initiatives and certain costs associated. More information will be provided in the coming months. Localities should plan to host education events and develop material to educate voters on the RCV process.
- Localities should also consider costs related to ballot design. ELECT encourages you to speak with your vendor about potential costs.

Tabulation Rounds

- If no candidate reaches the election threshold in the first round of rankings, then additional tabulation rounds are required.
- VERIS will not conduct the tabulation; instead, a tabulation software will be used to calculate the rounds utilizing the CVR. ELECT is working to contract a tabulation solution for localities. Further information on specific tabulation processing will be released as it is determined.

Results on Election Night

- ELECT is currently working to provide procedures and layout of election night report (ENR) for RCV results. Updates will be provided as they are determined.
- Since ballots can be received until noon on the third day after Election Day, any RCV rounds beyond the initial round cannot be tabulated or displayed until after all ballots are received. Therefore, unofficial winners cannot be declared on election night unless a candidate unofficially reaches the election threshold, or majority, in the initial totals. This may lead to delays.
- While all results on election night are unofficial until the Canvass and certification by the SBE, it is important to be prepared to explain the RCV tabulation timeline to voters and/or the media.

Candidate ranking limits

- The SBE Ballot Standards allow for a maximum ranking of 10 candidates in a RCV race. Additionally, ELECT's voting system certification standards require the capacity for at least 3 rankings.
- The capacity of your vendor is going to determine how many rankings you will ultimately be able to administer in the RCV election. It is highly recommended you speak with your vendor on the options and use this information in discussions with local decision makers.
- Note that the ranking limit does not impact the number of candidates allowed on the ballot. It only impacts how many of those candidates on the ballot a voter can rank.