

Good day Commissioners please find herein 4 emails concerning changing Section 6 C of the Charter to allow for Ranked Choice Voting.

1. To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent. I am a co-owner of Escape New Haven on Whitney Ave. I am writing to suggest that the Charter Commission amend the New Haven charter (specifically **Article II, Section 6C**) to **allow ranked choice voting**. It is likely that state law will permit a local option for ranked choice voting in the near future: our governor supports this option, as does a growing group of CT legislators, and ranked choice voting is in use in more and more state & local elections around the country. As currently written, our city charter would *not* allow us to take advantage of this option, and I think that this should change.

It is my personal belief -- and, I believe, the belief of most voters who have tried it -- that ranked choice voting is superior in many ways to "plurality" or "first-past-the-post" voting methods. These methods often force voters to choose candidates they don't care for because they are afraid of "throwing" the election or "wasting" their vote on a candidate seen as "unelectable." This limits our ability to choose moderate, consensus, and alternative (e.g. third-party) candidates, and encourages candidates to spend more time slandering the opposition than making a positive argument for their own candidacy.

In sum, the city should revise its charter to permit ranked choice voting in the future, if & when it is agreed upon by residents and consistent with state law.

Sincerely,
Ethan Rodriguez-Torrent

2. To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Annie Stutzman, a resident of New Haven for 10 years and going. I am writing to suggest that the Charter Commission amend the New Haven charter (specifically Article II, Section 6C) to allow ranked choice voting. It is likely that state law will permit a local option for ranked choice voting in the near future: our governor supports this option, as does a growing group of CT legislators, and ranked choice voting is in use in more and more state & local elections around the country. As currently written, our city charter would not allow us to take advantage of this option, and I think that this should change.

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Thank you for taking the time to think about how and why the city should revise its charter to permit ranked choice voting in the future, if & when it is agreed upon by residents and consistent with state law.

Sincerely,
Annie Stutzman

3. Hi Charter Revision Committee,

I'm writing in my capacity as a private citizen. These views are my own.

I am writing to request that the charter revision committee remove the plurality voting requirement in Section 6.C. This language would preclude New Haven from adopting ranked choice voting if the state were to allow for municipalities to opt into ranked choice voting elections of local officials. If we remove this language it will give us the flexibility to adopt ranked choice should the people of New Haven decide to use that method of voting.

Here is the current section 6.C.:

C.

Plurality *Vote* 57 . Each of said Elected Officials shall be elected by **plurality** vote; but, if by reason of equality of votes, there shall be no choice of any of candidates for said office(s), then the Board of Alders shall provide for the holding of a new election within thirty (30) Days from and after the time when such failure to elect shall be made known.

Thanks for your consideration,

Steven Winter
459 Dixwell Ave, New Haven, CT 06511

4. Hello,

I would like to testify in support of modifying the Charter to allow for Ranked Choice Voting in New Haven.

Ranked Choice Voting would offer so many benefits to our city that I think it would be a big mistake to not make this change. RCV would make sure that in any election with more than 2 candidates (like our upcoming primary) the candidate with the most support would win. With our current system, a candidate could get fewer than 50% of the votes and still win. RCV would also mean that there wouldn't be any 'spoiler' candidates, letting more people feel able to run.

Last, in RCV elections, candidates conduct more civil campaigns by addressing issues and working to appeal to a broader range of voters because they actively seek second and third choice support. The value of attacking opponents is diminished because candidates don't want to alienate voters who might vote for them as their backup choice.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lior Trestman
396 Orange St, New Haven, CT