

FILED
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
OAKLAND

18 OCT 31 PM 2:07

Approved as to Form and Legality


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: 87394 = C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB

RESOLUTION URGING THE ALAMEDA COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO IMPLEMENT COMPREHENSIVE RANKED CHOICE VOTING REPORTING

WHEREAS, the three cities in Alameda County with ranked choice voting (RCV) are Berkeley, San Leandro, and Oakland; and

WHEREAS, elections in Alameda County, including RCV procedures, are conducted by the Alameda County Registrar of Voters (Registrar); and

WHEREAS, RCV in Bay Area cities permits voters to rank up to three candidates; and

WHEREAS, in an RCV election contest, if no candidate receives a majority of votes, the candidate receiving the smallest number of first place votes is eliminated and every ballot counting towards that candidate is instead counted for the next-ranked continuing candidates, with this process continuing until the candidate reaching more than 50% of continuing ballots is identified and becomes the winner; and

WHEREAS, while the winner of RCV election is determined once the more-than-50% threshold is reached, RCV jurisdictions such as the City & County of San Francisco and the State of Maine continuing running the RCV count until two candidates remain; and

WHEREAS, by contrast to San Francisco and Maine, the calculation for RCV elections in Alameda County is discontinued, without all ranked votes being counted, as soon as the winner is identified; and

WHEREAS, FairVote, a non-partisan organization championing electoral reform, notes that running RCV until the top two candidates are identified, even if the winner of the contest has already been identified earlier, is a best practice for RCV elections, as it provides a greater sense of the relative support of the winner and helps clarify the election results for the public; and

WHEREAS, for example, in the 2016 Berkeley Mayoral race, the Registrar reported an official final tally, with Jesse Arreguín winning by 50.04% of the vote, while there were still five candidates (Arreguín, Capitelli, Worthington, Gould, and Runningwolf) that had not been eliminated in the counting, whereas running the RCV count until only two candidates remained would have showed Arreguín leading by 60%; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Department of Elections administratively implemented comprehensive RCV reporting down to two candidates, even if the winner had already been determined; and

WHEREAS, FairVote reports that the capacity to run the RCV rounds until two candidates remain is a feature built into the current system used by the Registrar for counting the votes in RCV elections and that always running the count until two candidates remain should incur no additional software costs; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2018, the Berkeley City Council approved issuing a formal letter to the Registrar urging implementation of a comprehensive RCV vote count to provide RCV reporting until the final two candidates remain; and now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council urges the Registrar to immediately implement unofficial, cost-neutral reporting of the RCV count until the final two candidates remain, to be conducted concurrently with the Registrar's official reporting, in order to provide greater election result transparency to the public while the election is on the mind of the voters and to ensure that all votes are fully counted; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council directs the City Administrator to, within 48 hours of adoption of this Resolution, to transmit copies of it to the Mayors of Berkeley and San Leandro, the Alameda County Registrar of Voters, and each member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council respectfully requests that the Registrar respond in writing to the City Council and the City Clerk about the request for unofficial RCV reporting for full transparency purposes.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: **OCT 30 2018**

AYES - ~~XXXXXX~~ CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN, KALB, KAPLAN,
AND PRESIDENT REID - 7

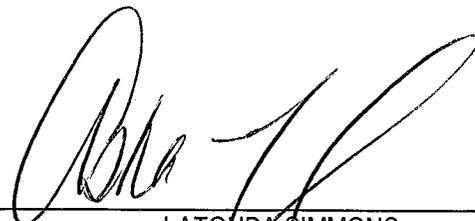
NOES - 0

ABSENT - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

Excused - Brady - 1

ATTEST:



LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City
of Oakland, California