

Ranked Voting Information

New Voting Method in 2011

In 2009, Saint Paul voters approved the Ranked Voting method to elect the mayor and members of the city council. Starting this year, voters will be able to rank up to six different city candidates in order of preference.

The Saint Paul School Board will continue to use the traditional voting method. The school board races will be located on the other side of the ballot. You may vote for up to four school board candidates.

How to Mark Your Ballot for City Council

Step 1

Pick your **first choice** by filling in the oval next to that candidate's name.

Step 2

If you have a **second choice**, fill in the oval next to that candidate. This candidate must be **different** than your first choice.

1st choice	2nd choice (if any)	3rd choice (if any)
Select one	Select one	Select one
<input checked="" type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS
<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS	<input checked="" type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS	<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS
<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input checked="" type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON

4th choice (if any)
Select one
<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS
<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS
<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Step 3

Continue this process to pick your remaining choices, if you have any. Remember that you cannot rank the same candidate more than once.

You may rank up to six choices, or the total number of candidates in the race, whichever is less.

You are not required to rank more than one candidate.

Do Not Make These Mistakes!



Do not choose more than one candidate for a single choice

1st choice	2nd choice (if any)	3rd choice (if any)
Select one	Select one	Select one
<input checked="" type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS
<input checked="" type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
<input checked="" type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS	<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS	<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS
<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Do not choose the same candidate for more than one choice

1st choice	2nd choice (if any)	3rd choice (if any)
Select one	Select one	Select one
<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS
<input checked="" type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input checked="" type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input checked="" type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS	<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS	<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS
<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Do not write rankings next to your choice

1st choice	2nd choice (if any)	3rd choice (if any)
Select one	Select one	Select one
<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS 1	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="radio"/> ABIGAIL ADAMS
<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input type="radio"/> BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS 2	<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS	<input type="radio"/> BETSY ROSS
<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input type="radio"/> ALEXANDER HAMILTON

If you make a mistake, you may request a new ballot from an election judge.

Absentee voters may call the Elections office at **651-266-2171** to receive a new ballot.

Winning the Election

Candidates win the election by getting an absolute majority of the first choice votes cast for the office, 50% + 1, on election night. The first choice votes will be counted by voting equipment at each polling place. On election night, the vote totals will be available online at www.rcelections.org.

If no candidate gets a majority of first choice votes on election night, counting will resume on Monday, November 14.

In each round, the candidate receiving the fewest number of votes, plus all other candidates who do not have a mathematical chance to win, will be eliminated. The voters' next highest choice for a candidate still in the running will be added to that candidate's vote total. Ballots that have no votes for a candidate still in the running are set aside.

The counting and reallocation continues in rounds until one candidate receives a majority of votes. If only two candidates remain and neither has received a majority of votes cast, then the candidate with the most votes is the winner.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Am I required to rank more than one candidate when voting?

A: No, you have the option to rank only one candidate.

Q: How many candidates can I rank?

A: You can rank as many candidates as are on the ballot, up to a maximum of six.

Q: Can I have more than one first choice?

A: No, you can only rank one candidate per choice.

Q: Can I rank my favorite candidate for more than one choice?

A: No, you can only rank a candidate once.

Q: Do I rank the candidates for the school board?

A: No, school board members are elected using the traditional voting method.

Q: Will I be able to rank the candidates for the 2012 state elections?

A: No, ranked voting is only used to elect candidates for Saint Paul city offices.

Q: When will we know who has won the election?

A: The winner of the election will be known on election night if a candidate gets a majority of first choice votes on Election Day. If additional counting is required, the official winner will be known no later than two weeks after the election.

For More Information Contact Us:

elections@co.ramsey.mn.us
(651)266-2171

Or Visit

www.rcelections.org



Saint Paul Ranked Voting Information



Prepared by
Ramsey County Elections