



Ranked Voting - How are the Votes Counted?

To win on election night, a candidate needs 50% + 1 of the first choice votes. If no candidate receives a majority of first choice votes, counting will resume with the reallocation of votes. For these examples, there are 100 first choice votes cast, so a candidate needs 51 votes to win.

First step of the reallocation: The ballots are piled and counted by first choice. The candidate with the lowest number of votes is always eliminated. The ballots that have a first choice for a candidate that is eliminated are then redistributed to the remaining candidates.

Example #1

Candidate A
Candidate B
Candidate C
Candidate D
Candidate E
Inactive Ballots
Total Number

	1st Choice Votes	1st Round Reallocation	
	Total	Gains/Losses	Total
Candidate A	46	+12	58
Candidate B	30	+10	40
Candidate C	11	-11	
Candidate D	10	-10	
Candidate E	3	-3	
Inactive Ballots	0	+2	2
Total Number	100		100

In round 1, **Candidate C**, **Candidate D** and **Candidate E** are eliminated together, since **Candidate E** has the fewest votes, and **Candidate C** and **Candidate D** can never gain enough votes from lower candidates' ballots to overtake **Candidate B**.

After reallocating the ballots that had first choice votes for **Candidate C**, **Candidate D** and **Candidate E**, **Candidate A** gains enough votes (+12) to achieve a majority of the votes and is declared the winner.

Two ballots are **inactive** - there are no remaining rankings on these ballots for either **Candidate A** or **Candidate B**.

Example #2

Candidate A
Candidate B
Candidate C
Candidate D
Candidate E
Inactive Ballots
Total Number

	1st Choice Votes	1st Round Reallocation		2nd Round Reallocation	
	Total	Gains/Losses	Total	Gains/Losses	Total
Candidate A	38	+2	40	+7	47
Candidate B	30	+3	33	+19	52
Candidate C	26	+1	27	-27	
Candidate D	4	-4			
Candidate E	2	-2			
Inactive Ballots	0	+0	0	+1	1
Total Number	100		100		100

In round 1, **Candidate D** and **E** are eliminated at the same time. **Candidate E** is eliminated because it has the fewest number of votes, and **Candidate D** is eliminated because **Candidate D** can never gain enough votes from **Candidate E's** ballots to overtake **Candidate C**.

After round 1, no candidate has achieved 51 votes. Another round of reallocation is needed.

Candidate C has the lowest amount of votes of the remaining candidates and is eliminated.

In round 2, after reallocating **Candidate C's** ballots, **Candidate B** now has a majority of the votes and is declared the winner.

Example #3

Candidate A
Candidate B
Candidate C
Candidate D
Candidate E
Inactive Ballots
Total Number

	1st Choice Votes	1st Round Reallocation		2nd Round Reallocation		3rd Round Reallocation	
	Total	Gains/Losses	Total	Gains/Losses	Total	Gains/Losses	Total
Candidate A	28	+4	32	+2	34	+5	39
Candidate B	27	+0	27	+8	35	+9	44
Candidate C	20	0	20	-20			
Candidate D	16	+5	21	+3	24	-24	
Candidate E	9	-9					
Inactive Ballots	0	0	0	+7	7	+10	17
Total Number	100		100		100		100

In round 1, **Candidate E** has the lowest number of votes and is eliminated. The ballots that have first choices for **Candidate E** are reallocated to the remaining candidates (4 ballots go to **Candidate A**, 0 ballots go to **Candidate B**, 5 ballots go to **Candidate D**).

In round 2, **Candidate C** has the lowest number of votes and is eliminated. Those ballots are reallocated to the remaining candidates. 7 ballots are **inactive**- there are no remaining rankings on these ballots for either **Candidate B** or **Candidate A**.

Candidate D now has the lowest number of votes, and is eliminated.

After receiving nine votes from **Candidate D's** pile, **Candidate B** now has the greater number of votes of the two candidates remaining with 44 votes and is declared the winner.