



Blue Ribbon Review Panel on Ranked Choice Voting

Pierce County Auditor's Office

April 11, 2007



Agenda

- Introductions
- Mission Statement
- Elections 101
- Ranked Choice Voting 101
- Filing for Office Scenarios
- Questions and Comments

Introductions

- Keri Rooney
Chief Deputy
- Lori Augino
Elections Manager
- Mike Rooney
Elections Supervisor
- Rebecca Brauhn
RCV Staff

Blue Ribbon Review Panel

Jeff Even	Office of the Attorney General
Katie Blinn	Office of the Secretary of State
Nathe Lawver	Pierce County Democratic Party Chair
Deryl McCarty	Pierce County Republican Party Chair
Ruth Bennett	Libertarian Party of Washington State Chair
Kevin Phelps	Chamber of Commerce
Patty Rose	Pierce County Central Labor Council
Dennis Jones	Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council
Nancy Pearson	League of Women Voters of Washington

Mission Statement

- The mission of the Pierce County Auditor is the successful implementation and sustainability of Ranked Choice Voting for Pierce County
 - Required by July 2008
- The mission of the Blue Ribbon Review Panel will be to review options and scenarios provided by election staff and give feedback and input to the Auditor as the voting protocols are established

Ground Rules

- Meetings are open to the public
 - A period for public comment will be held in conjunction with the May 30th meeting

- Meetings are:
 - Tape recorded
 - Minutes taken

- At each meeting we will provide the panel with information, issues and scenarios for review
 - Please review between meetings
 - Come to the next meeting prepared to discuss the item in more detail

- Role of BRRP is advisory

- Housekeeping items

Meeting Schedule

Wednesday	April 11, 2007
Wednesday	April 25, 2007
Wednesday	May 9, 2007
Wednesday	May 23, 2007
Wednesday	May 30, 2007

- All meetings will begin at 6 pm
- All meetings will be held at the Election Center

Four Major Discussion Topics to Cover

- Candidate filing
- Hardware/Software changes related to RCV
 - Ballot design and voter instructions
 - Election setup
- Vote by mail/polling place considerations
 - Postage
 - Envelope design
 - Pros and cons
- Education and Outreach

Meeting Format and Tasks

- Each week we will introduce a discussion topic with numerous scenarios for your input, feedback and reactions
- BRRP members will review discussion topics between meetings
- Come prepared to discuss and provide feedback at the following meeting

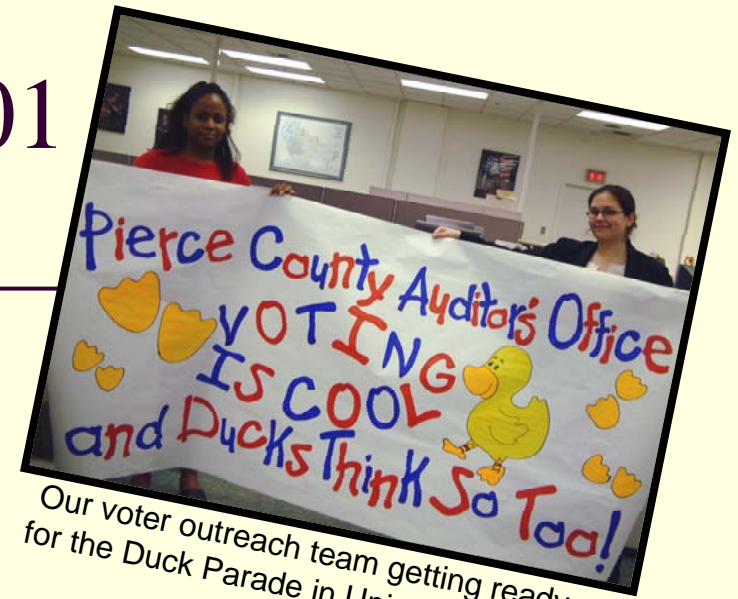
Elections 101



Election Staff accepting candidate filing declarations



CPT John Ramirez voting his ballot from Iraq in 2004



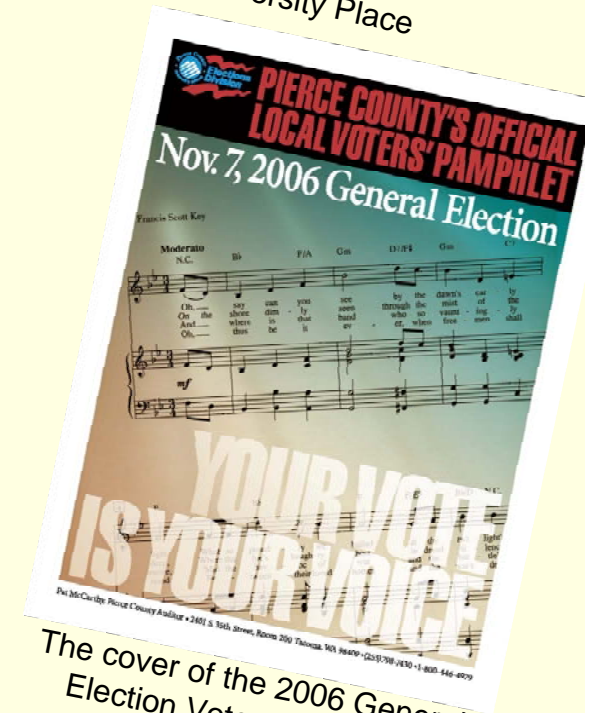
Our voter outreach team getting ready for the Duck Parade in University Place



A voter utilizing one of our Vote by Mail Express Booths



A polling place on General Election Day in 2005



The cover of the 2006 General Election Voters' Pamphlet

Pierce County Facts

- Total Registered Voters in Pierce County
 - 403,054
 - 374,589 Active
 - 28,465 Inactive
 - Total Absentee Voters
 - 276,396 Regular Absentee Voters
 - Approximately 6,000 Military, Overseas and Out of County Voters
- Total Poll Voters
 - 98,193

Pierce County Facts

- We conduct up to six elections per year
- Upcoming Elections
 - Primary Election – August 21, 2007
 - General Election – November 6, 2007
- Spring Special Elections 2008
 - February, March, April and May
 - Date of Presidential Preference Primary to be determined
- Fall 2008 Elections
 - Primary Election – August 19, 2008
 - **General Election – November 4, 2008**
 - **First RCV Election!**

Pierce County Election Equipment

- Sequoia Voting Systems
 - Absentees
 - 400-C
 - Polls
 - Insight (Tabulator)
 - Edge (Touch Screen)



Washington State Election Facts

- State law establishes the timing for conducting elections in Washington
- Non-partisan elections are typically held in odd years
- Partisan elections are conducted in even years

Types of Elections in Odd Years

- Port Commissioners
- City and Town Council Positions
- School District Directors
- Fire Commissioners
- Park and Recreation Commissioners
- Water and Sewer District Commissioners

Types of Elections in Even Years

- Partisan Elections
 - President
 - US Senator and Representatives
 - State Offices
 - State Legislature
 - Pierce County Offices
- Non-Partisan
 - Superintendent of Public Instruction
 - State Supreme Court
 - Court of Appeals
 - Superior Court
 - District Court

Washington State Primary Facts

- As a result of court challenges and legislative action, Washington State adopted the Pick-a-Party Primary in September, 2004
 - Replaced the blanket primary
- Required extensive voter and staff education
- \$6,000,000 allocation from Governor to offset implementation costs
- Top-Two Primary currently under US Supreme Court review

Current Even Year Primary Facts

- Pick-a-Party Primary format applies to the election of all partisan offices
- Voters must affiliate with one political party
 - There is pending legislation to no longer require the party affiliation box to be checked, provided the voter selects candidates from only one party

What's on our plate in Elections?

- New Federal Standards - EAC
- Statewide Voter Registration Database
- Conduct Pick-a-Party Primary
- Gearing up for the 2008 Presidential Election
- Extensive reconciliation requirements in Washington State
- RCW and WAC Changes
- Voter Education
- Voter Accessibility
- Training
- Grant Application Process and Tracking
- Redistricting
- Implementation of Multiple Languages

Ranked Choice Voting 101

- RCV in other jurisdictions
 - Burlington, Vermont
 - San Francisco, California
 - Australia and Ireland

- 2010-2013 Implementation
 - Alameda County
 - Oakland, Berkeley, San Leandro
 - Minneapolis, Minnesota

- RCV is still in its infancy in United States elections

- Pierce County will be the first Washington State County to conduct a RCV election

RCV Charter Amendment No. 3

Approved by the Voters

- On November 7, 2006, Charter Amendment No. 3 was approved by the voters of Pierce County
- It requires the Pierce County Auditor to implement instant runoff voting for county offices by July, 2008
 - Excluding Judges and Prosecuting Attorney

We Changed the Nomenclature

- **IRV = RCV**

- **Why?**

- To assist the voter education process
- More descriptive of how it works

RCV...How does it work?

- Voters will rank their choices in order of preference...1-2-3
- The election will be conducted in rounds
- Every first choice selection is counted
- The candidate with the fewest votes after each round is eliminated
- Voters who selected the eliminated candidate as their first choice, will have their second and third choices distributed appropriately
- These rounds will continue until only two candidates remain
- The candidate with the greatest number of votes is elected

DEMONSTRATION BALLOT

BALOTA DE MUESTRA / 模擬選票

CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION / ELECCIONES GENERALES CONSOLIDADAS / 聯合普選
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO / CIUDAD Y CONDADO DE SAN FRANCISCO / 三藩市市縣
NOVEMBER 2, 2004 / 2 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2004 / 2004年11月2日
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8, SENATE DISTRICT 8, ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 12, SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 00, BART DISTRICT 9

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: Mark your first choice in the first column by completing the arrow pointing to your choice, as shown in the picture. To indicate a second choice, select a different candidate in the second column. To indicate a third choice, select a different candidate in the third column. To vote for a qualified write-in candidate, write the person's name on the blank line provided and complete the arrow.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ELECTORES: Para marcar su primera opción en la primera columna, complete la flecha que apunta hacia su selección, tal como se indica en la imagen. Para indicar una segunda opción, seleccione un candidato distinto en la segunda columna. Para indicar una tercera opción, seleccione un candidato distinto en la tercera columna. Para votar por un candidato calificado no listado, escriba el nombre de la persona en el espacio en blanco provisto, y complete la flecha.

選民指南: 在第一列中標記你的第一個選擇，將指向你的選擇的箭頭畫線連接起來，如圖所示。標記第二個選擇時，在第二列中選擇一位不同的候選人。標記第三個選擇時，在第三列中選擇一位不同的候選人。投選合格寫入候選人時，在提供的空位上填寫此人的姓名，並將箭頭畫線連接起來。

1 FIRST CHOICE PRIMERA SELECCIÓN 第一選擇 <small>Vote for One / Vote por Uno / 投票一人</small>	2 SECOND CHOICE SEGUNDA SELECCIÓN 第二選擇 <small>Vote for One/Vote por Uno/投票一人</small>	3 THIRD CHOICE TERCERA SELECCIÓN 第三選擇 <small>Vote for One/Vote por Uno/投票一人</small>
MEMBER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MIEMBRO, CONSEJO DE SUPERVISORES 市參議員 DISTRICT 00-DISTRITO 00-第00選區	MEMBER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MIEMBRO, CONSEJO DE SUPERVISORES 市參議員 DISTRICT 00-DISTRITO 00-第00選區	MEMBER, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MIEMBRO, CONSEJO DE SUPERVISORES 市參議員 DISTRICT 00-DISTRITO 00-第00選區
ELEANOR ROOSEVELT 愛麗諾·羅斯福 Incumbent Titular 現任者	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT 愛麗諾·羅斯福 Incumbent Titular 現任者	ELEANOR ROOSEVELT 愛麗諾·羅斯福 Incumbent Titular 現任者
CESAR CHAVEZ 西薩·查瓦茲 Labor Organizer Organizador Laboral 勞工組織者	CESAR CHAVEZ 西薩·查瓦茲 Labor Organizer Organizador Laboral 勞工組織者	CESAR CHAVEZ 西薩·查瓦茲 Labor Organizer Organizador Laboral 勞工組織者
WALTER LUM 沃爾特·林 Publisher Editor 出版商	WALTER LUM 沃爾特·林 Publisher Editor 出版商	WALTER LUM 沃爾特·林 Publisher Editor 出版商
JOHN HANCOCK 約翰·漢考克 Physician Médico 醫生	JOHN HANCOCK 約翰·漢考克 Physician Médico 醫生	JOHN HANCOCK 約翰·漢考克 Physician Médico 醫生
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 小馬丁·路德·金 Minister Pastor 牧師	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 小馬丁·路德·金 Minister Pastor 牧師	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 小馬丁·路德·金 Minister Pastor 牧師
ANNA MAE PICTOU AQUASH 安娜·瑪·皮克托·阿夸施 Indigenous Rights Organizer Organizadora para Derechos Indígenas 土著權益組織者	ANNA MAE PICTOU AQUASH 安娜·瑪·皮克托·阿夸施 Indigenous Rights Organizer Organizadora para Derechos Indígenas 土著權益組織者	ANNA MAE PICTOU AQUASH 安娜·瑪·皮克托·阿夸施 Indigenous Rights Organizer Organizadora para Derechos Indígenas 土著權益組織者
WRITE-IN / NO LISTADO / 寫入	WRITE-IN / NO LISTADO / 寫入	WRITE-IN / NO LISTADO / 寫入

Guidelines Established in the Amendment

- Who?
 - All county officials except judges and prosecuting attorney

- When?
 - Implementation of voting protocols by the County Auditor by July, 2008

- How?
 - Candidates will be ranked in order of preference
 - RCV shall be conducted in rounds
 - Each voters highest ranked candidate shall be counted as a single vote for any continuing candidates still remaining
 - The candidate with the fewest votes after each round shall be eliminated
 - Continues until only two candidates remain
 - County Council may adopt additional regulations consistent with 29A.53 to implement standards

Candidate Requirements Established in the Amendment

- File a petition statement containing signatures of 25 registered voters in the district
 - County Council may change signature requirements
- County Central Committee of each major political party may determine which candidates may use their party label for each county level office
- Minor party and independent candidates shall be nominated by nominating conventions as set forth by state law
- There will be no publicly financed primary for effected offices

Election Guidelines:

The devil's in the details

- Constitution
- RCW
- WAC
- Charter and local laws
- Canvassing Board Manual

Charter Amendment Guidelines:

The amendment is vague

- It didn't provide a detailed structure to follow
- It is up to the Auditor to define in detail the rules regarding how to conduct RCV elections
- State law may be required to carry out RCV elections

RCV Timeline, Events and Milestones

- It will be necessary to take a very aggressive implementation strategy in order to meet the July, 2008 deadline

- This project involves a number of unknowns and factors which may be outside of our control
 - Software development
 - Independent Authority testing
 - Federal Certification
 - Compliance with current and future EAC Standards
 - State Certification

Blue Ribbon Review Panel

Tonight's topic:

**Ranked Choice Voting
Candidates Filing for Office**

Current Filing Guidelines

- Anyone possessing the qualifications required for an office can file for that position
- A candidate self designates their party affiliation
- Primary elections nominate the top partisan candidates for each major party and the top two candidates for the non-partisan offices
 - Independent and minor party candidates do not participate in primary elections
- Nominees appear on the general election ballot

RCV Filing Guidelines

- All RCV candidates provide petition statements supporting their candidacy with signatures of no less than 25 persons qualified to vote for the office
- The County Central Committee of each major political party may determine which candidates may use their party label
- Minor/Independent party candidates are nominated according to state law
- All candidates properly filed will appear on the General Election ballot
- No Primary will be held for these offices

Discussion Topic No. 1

- Candidate Filing
 - Three possible scenarios for RCV candidate filing

Filing Week Scenarios

- Scenario No. 1

- Accept all filings “as is”

- Scenario No. 2

- Each major party provides a list of approved candidates prior to filing week

- Scenario No. 3

- Each major party approves the list of candidates after filing week

Scenario No. 1

- Accept all filings “as is”
 - Candidates self designate their party on their filing form
 - Pay the filing fee
 - Submit signature petition

Scenario No. 2

- Each major party approves their candidates ***prior*** to filing week
 - Candidates must follow a pre-determined protocol for party approval prior to filing for office
 - Pay the filing fee
 - Submit signature petition

Scenario No. 3

- Each major party approves their candidates ***after*** filing week
 - Candidates self designate their party on their filing form
 - Pay the filing fee
 - Submit signature petition
 - The Auditor transmits a list of candidates to each major party for approval

Homework Assignment

- Review these three scenarios
- Brainstorm other scenarios
- Provide feedback and input
 - The Pros and Cons of each scenario
- Come to the meeting on April 25th prepared to discuss candidate filing

Blue Ribbon Review Panel

■ Questions

and

Comments