

## CHAPTER XI – Ranked Choice Voting

### **Section I – Write-In Candidates for RCV Offices**

In an election involving hundreds of thousands of ballots, Ranked Choice Voting requires the use of a computer programmed vote tabulation system, see County Charter 4.10(1). To tabulate ranked votes in a timely and accurate fashion using a machine algorithm, write-in candidates for all RCV offices must be identified and logged into the computer program before the election occurs.

To be included in the algorithm process, then, a write-in candidate must file a declaration of candidacy with the Auditor’s Office during the period commencing on the Monday following official filing week and ending 31 days prior to the General Election. Such candidates will also be required to complete an RCV Candidate Filing Petition and pay the filing fee. Upon doing so, a candidate will be a certified write-in candidate and the algorithm will be applied to that candidate’s votes.

Write-in candidates who file a declaration after the deadline or who otherwise do not comply with the foregoing will be deemed uncertified. The algorithm will not be applied to votes for uncertified write-in candidates. The total votes cast for uncertified write-in candidates in each RCV race will be reported. Individual votes for uncertified write-in candidates will not be tallied.

### **Section II – Ranked Choice Voting Advancement Table**

RCV votes shall be counted in accordance with the Ranked Choice Voting Algorithm. Rules related to advancement, over votes and skipped rankings are outlined in the Ranked Choice Voting Advancement Table (Appendix J).

### **Section III – RCV Results Reporting**

1. Traditional reporting (raw totals) will be released at the end of Election Night. Interim unofficial RCV algorithm reports will be released each Friday until certification. Only the final RCV algorithm will be included in the Auditor’s Abstract of Votes at certification.

2. When a candidate has a majority of votes cast in the first round of the final totals, the RCV algorithm will not be applied and votes will not be redistributed.
3. The final RCV algorithm will be applied at certification. The algorithm will be run in rounds for each office, as provided in Charter 4.10(2), only until a candidate receives a majority (fifty percent plus one) of the votes from the continuing ballots.