

Ranked Voting

Delynn Coldiron

City Clerk

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Larimer County Clerk & Recorder



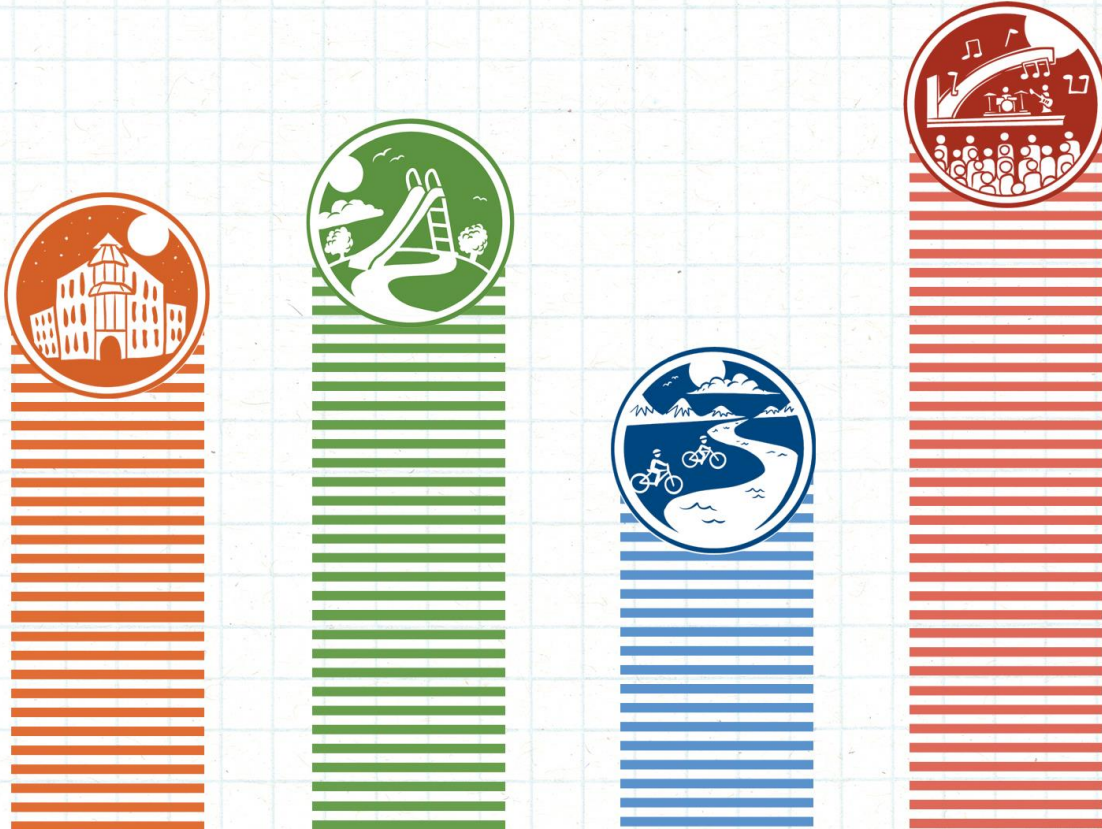
What is Ranked Voting?

- A method that allows voters to rank candidates in their order of preference in a race with three or more candidates.
- Voters choose their first-choice candidate, then their second choice, third choice and so on.
- If a candidate receives more than 50% of first-choice votes, they win and are elected.



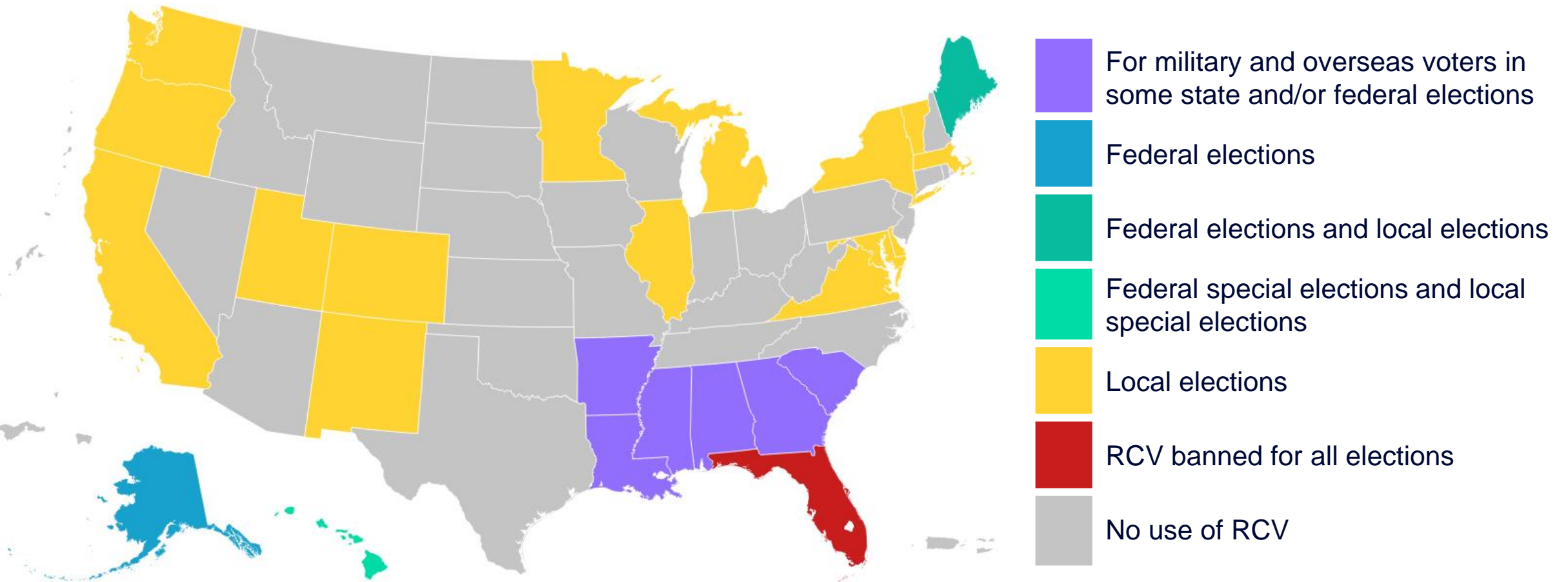
How Ranked Voting Works (When No One Gets a Majority)

50%

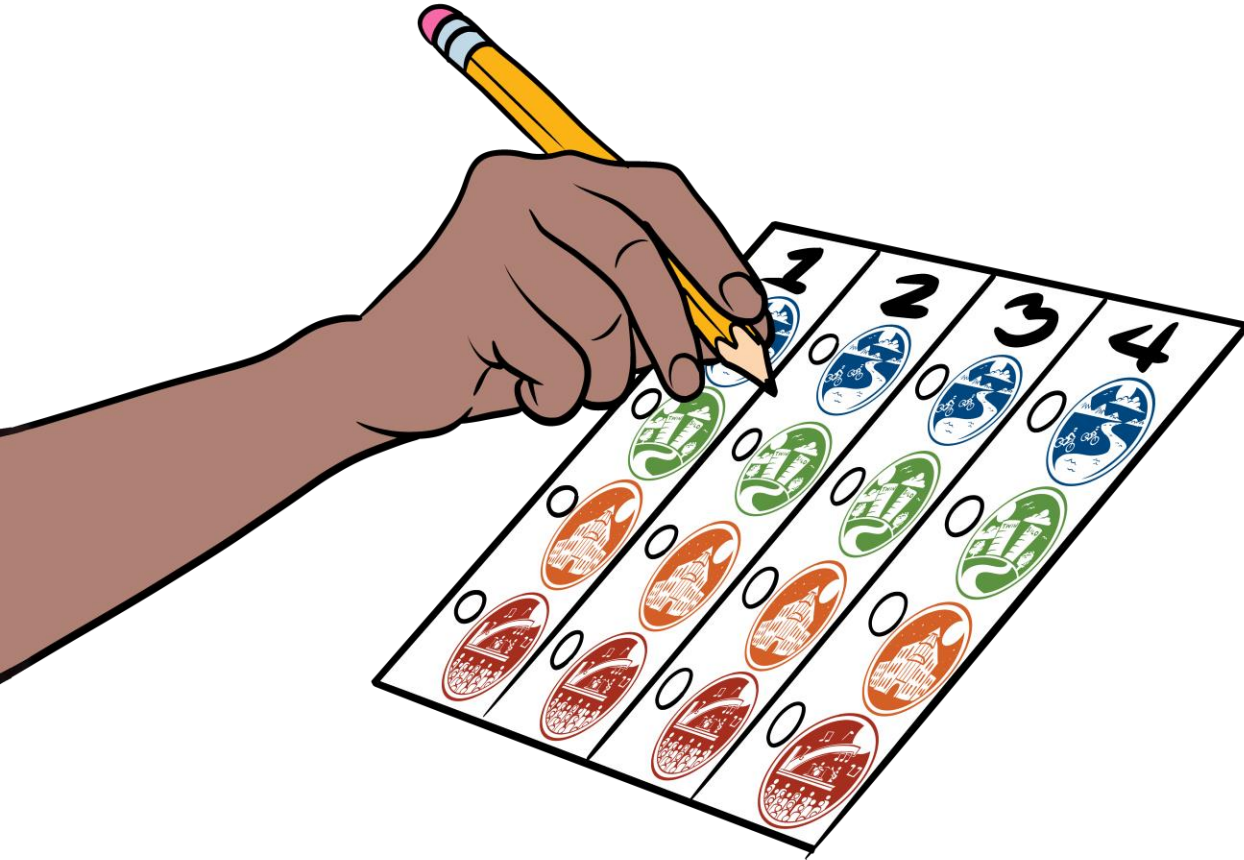


- If a candidate does not get more than 50% of the vote, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated.
- Voters who chose the eliminated candidate will have their votes transferred to the second-choice candidates indicated on those ballots.
- This process continues – eliminating the lowest-ranked candidate and reallocating votes - until one candidate receives more than 50% of the vote and is declared the winner.

Map: Use of Ranked Choice Voting in the States, 2023



Why Ranked Voting?



- Gives voters a say in the outcome, even if their first-choice candidate doesn't win.
- Helps build consensus and reduces splitting votes.
- Winners earn majority support.
- Encourages more candidates to run.
- Eliminates the need for separate run-off elections.
- Fort Collins voters chose to move to ranked voting.



2022 Ballot Measure

- Passed with 58.15% of the vote
- Applies to Mayor and Councilmember races with three or more candidates
- Begins in November 2025

Council Action:

- Ordinance No. 080, 2022
- Charter Amendment – Article VIII, Section 7
- Opinion:
 - ✓ More expressive voting for electors
 - ✓ Encourage more participation
 - ✓ Ensure better representation of the preferences of Fort Collins electors

Do voters understand ranked voting?

Ranked voting is a new process in Fort Collins, but it's designed to be straightforward. Instructions will be provided on every ballot, and the City is providing robust outreach and education throughout 2025 to help voters know what to expect.

How long will it take to determine the winner?

Counting ranked voting races is expected to take the same amount of time as traditional methods to get preliminary results. Larimer County is planning for ranked voting and is prepared to meet all Colorado Secretary of State tabulation and verification deadlines, regardless of voting method.

Does ranked voting mean some votes are counted more than others?

Ranked voting is designed to give every voter an equal opportunity to express their preferences, but not to count more than one vote per voter. It's similar to a series of runoff elections, but instead of having to cast new ballots, voters have already indicated their preferences.

View more FAQs at fcgov.com/RankedVoting

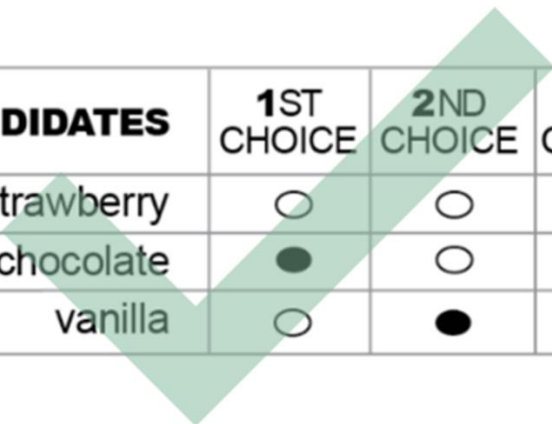
What Will Ballots Look Like?

- Voters mark (rank) candidates in order of preference by filling in the ovals in each choice column.
 - Select a first-choice candidate by completely filling in the oval next to your top pick in the **1st Choice** column.
 - Then, fill in your next preferred candidate in the **2nd Choice** column, and so on for as many choices as you'd like to make.

Fill in the ovals by ranking candidates in order of preference		1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
●	Candidate A	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3
●	Candidate B	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input type="radio"/> 3
●	Candidate C	<input type="radio"/> 1	<input type="radio"/> 2	<input checked="" type="radio"/> 3

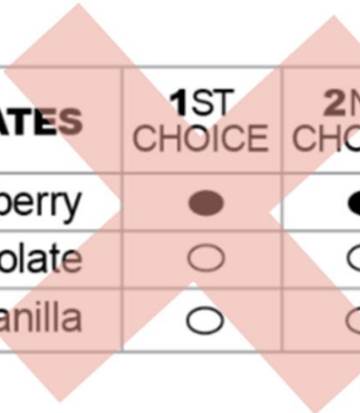
Any race with three or more candidates will use ranked voting.

Completing Your Ballot



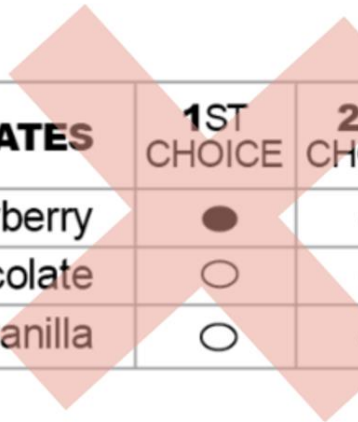
CANDIDATES	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE
strawberry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
chocolate	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
vanilla	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

This is a correctly marked ballot with the voter's 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices indicated.



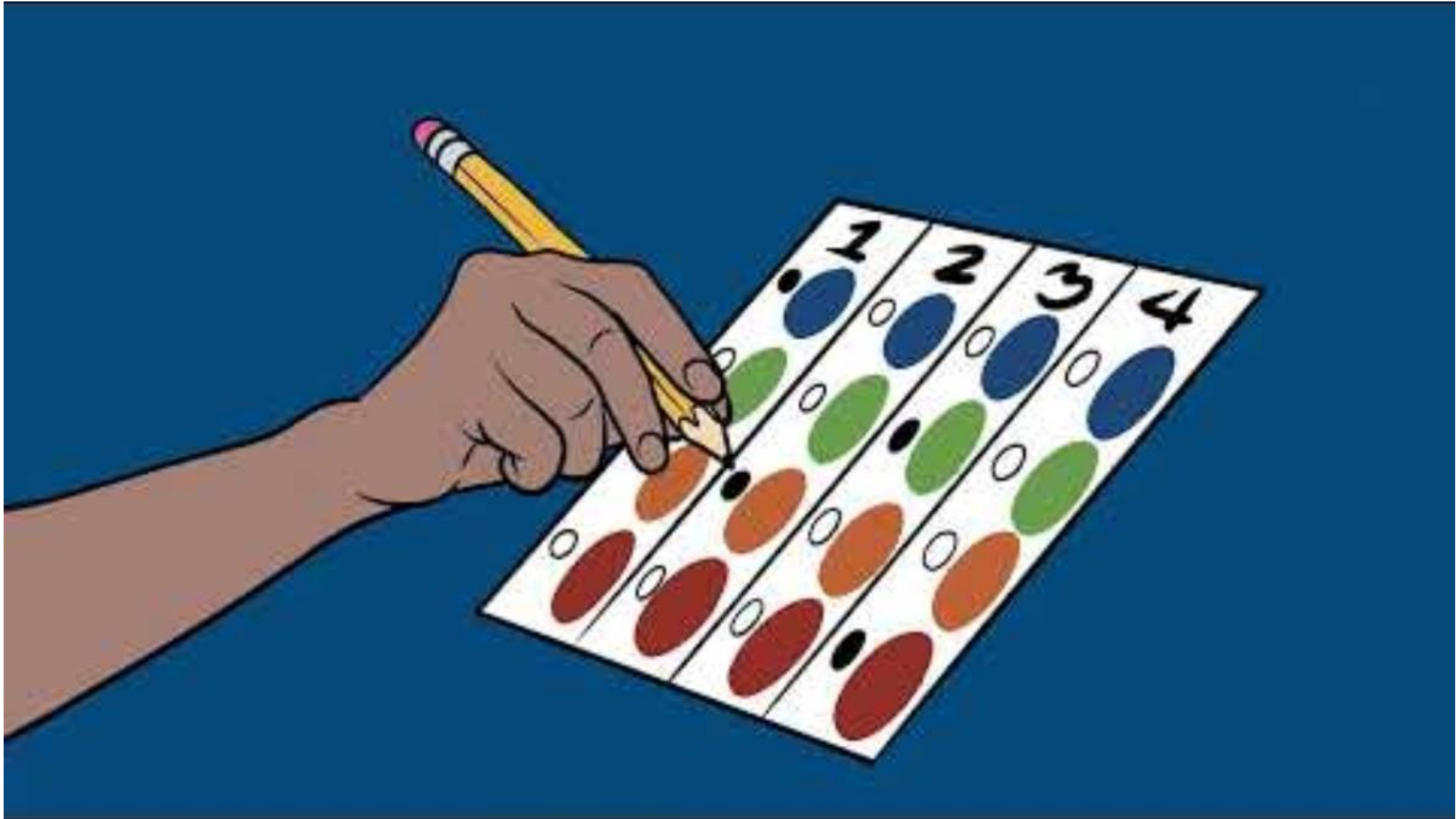
CANDIDATES	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE
strawberry	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
chocolate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
vanilla	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Voters cannot rank one candidate multiple times. This voter's 1st choice would be counted and would continue until their candidate either won or was eliminated. If their 1st choice was eliminated, the voter's 2nd and 3rd choices would not count since the candidate would no longer be in the race.



CANDIDATES	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE
strawberry	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
chocolate	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
vanilla	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Voters cannot give multiple candidates the same ranking. This voter's 1st choice would be counted but if their candidate was eliminated there would be no way to determine the voter's intent for second choice. At that point, the voter would have no further active choice in the race.





RCV123 - Ballot

rcv123.org/ballot/1/PpvHJp6FWP5wq77Q3HHP9X27

RCV123.org

Set up ballot

Help

RCV pros & cons

Sample ballots

Donate

Sign in

Most "Fort Collins" Activity

Instructions ?

1

2

3

4

1st Choice

2nd Choice

3rd Choice

4th Choice

Ride to the River	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Listen to Live Music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dine Downtown	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Play in a Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Candidates ranked on your ballot will appear below, in order.

Not Ranked

Ranked

Ride to the River

Listen to Live Music

Dine Downtown

Play in a Park

Reset votes

Vote and see results

RCV123.org © 2025

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fcgov.com/RankedVoting

Most "Fort Collins" Activity

322 votes cast

Winner: Dine Downtown 

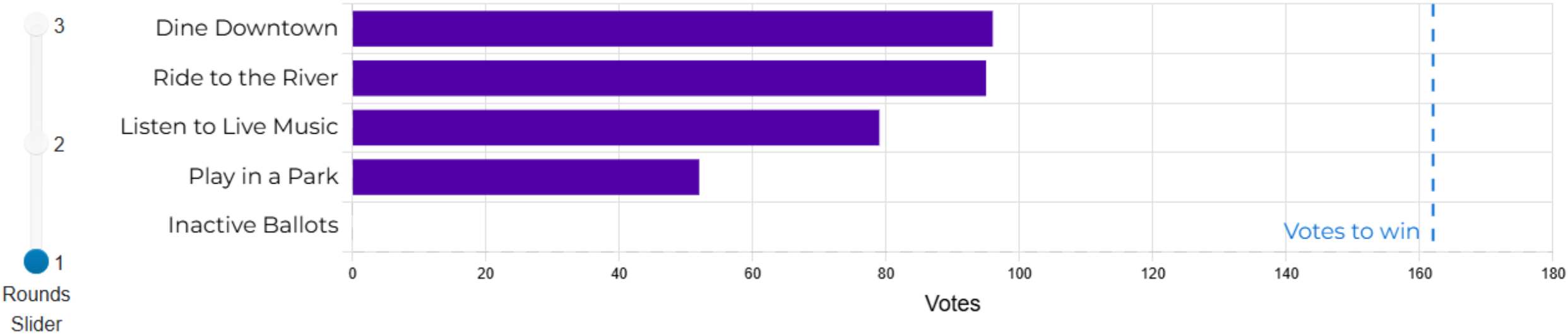
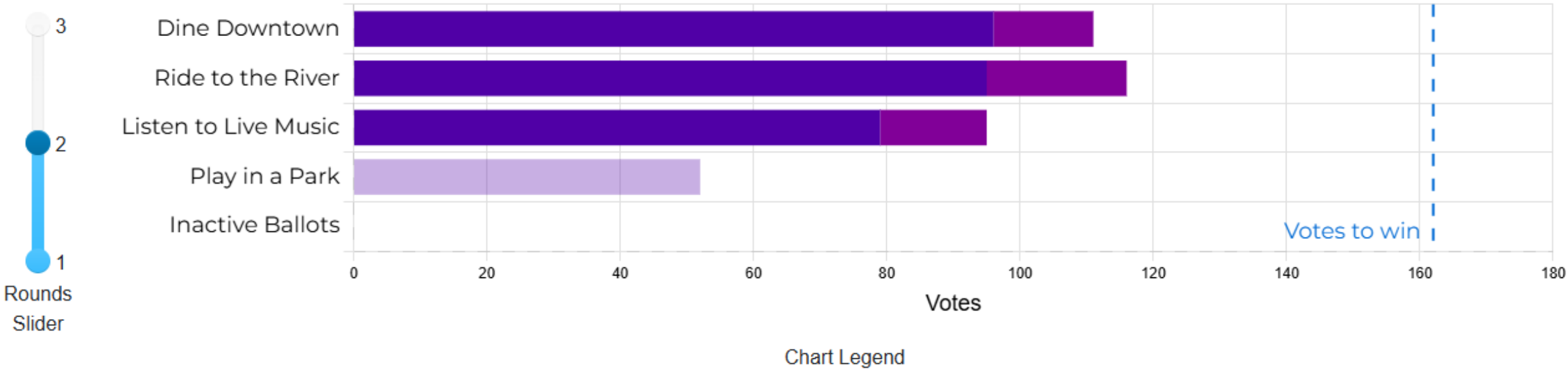


Chart Legend

Most "Fort Collins" Activity

322 votes cast

Winner: Dine Downtown 



Most "Fort Collins" Activity

322 votes cast

Winner: Dine Downtown 

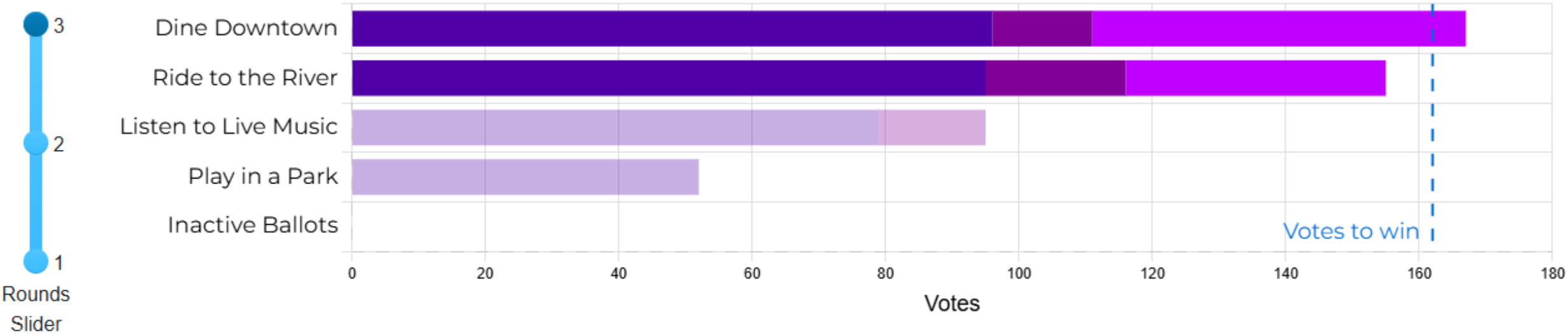
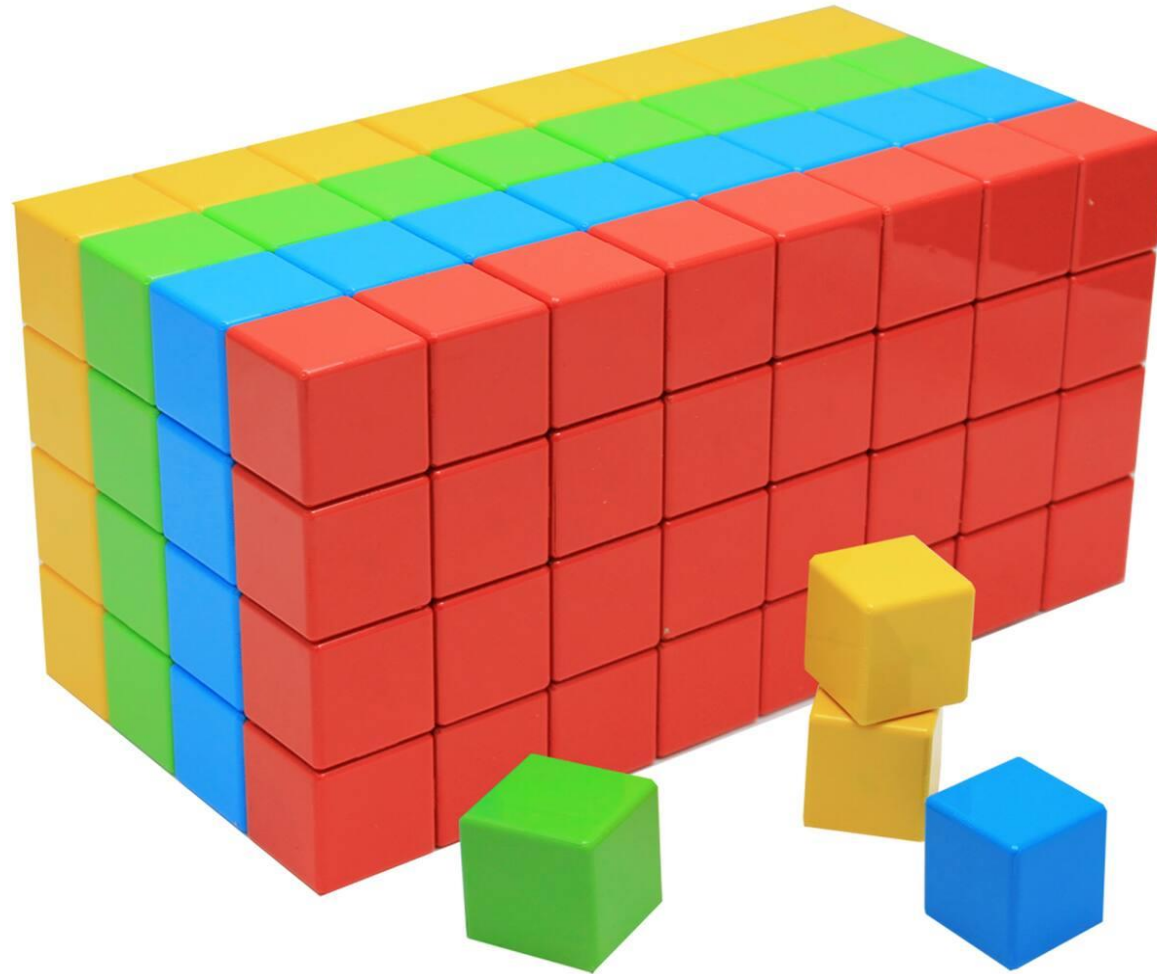


Chart Legend



Council Races

- Mayor
- Councilmembers – Districts 1, 3 and 5

Charter Amendments

- 5-6 expected

TABOR Question

- At least 1 expected

Citizen Initiative

- 2-3 expected



Outreach & Education

- Collaboration with Larimer County Elections team
- Working with stakeholders and community partners (e.g., League of Women Voters, Chamber, Library, CSU Strayer Center)
- Website, handouts, door hangers, social media, video, newsletters, utility bill insert, mailing, etc.
- Events
 - ✓ Candidate Information and Orientation Sessions
 - ✓ Super-Issue meeting for boards/commissions
 - ✓ Community & City events
 - ✓ CSU events (ASCSU, Lagoon Concerts)
 - ✓ Chamber meetings
- Local Blue Book - online



Fort Collins Elections Team



- Delynn Coldiron, City Clerk
- Cecilia Good, Senior Deputy City Clerk
- Amani Chamberlin, Assistant City Clerk
- Kim Holbrook, Records & Info Governance Manager
- Davina Lau, Public Engagement Specialist
- Tyler Robbins, Business/Systems Analyst
- Heather Walls, Deputy City Clerk
- Sara Arfmann, Assistant City Attorney II
- Amy Resseguie, Lead Communications Specialist

Contact Information for Fort Collins Elections



300 LaPorte Avenue – City Clerk's Office



Elections @ fcgov.com



970-221-6515



<https://www.fcgov.com/elections/>





Larimer County Elections

Ranked Voting and the 2025 Coordinated Election

Tina Harris, Larimer County Clerk & Recorder

What Is a Coordinated Election?

A Coordinated Election is one that the County Clerk and Recorder conducts on behalf of two or more political subdivisions that are hosting an election on the same day in November.

- Held on the first Tuesday of November in an odd-numbered year.
- Mix of local subdivisions – school districts, municipalities, special districts.
- Those subdivisions certify content, such as ballot contests and measures, to the County Clerk.
- The County Clerk conducts the Coordinated Election in compliance with Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 1.



2025 Coordinated Election Key Dates

- **September 5:** Deadline for political subdivisions to certify ballot content to the County Clerk.
- **October 10:** Ballots mailed to all active, eligible voters.
- **October 27:** Last day to request a mail ballot.
- **October 27 – November 4:** Voter Service and Polling Centers open for in-person voting.
- **November 4:** Election Day!
- **November 12:** Last day to cure a signature discrepancy or missing signature or to provide missing ID.
- **November 26:** Last day to canvass and officially certify the results for the Coordinated Election.

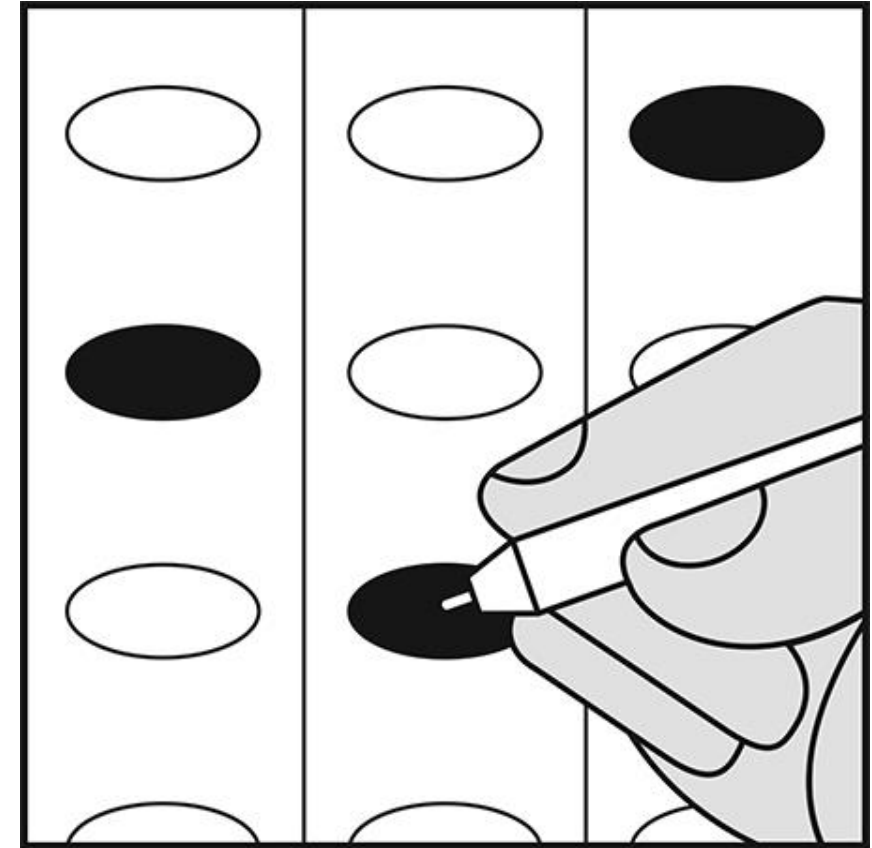
Secretary of State		Coordinated Election: November 4, 2025
2025 Election Calendar		
20-October (Monday)	Last day for the designated election official to appoint an audit board to conduct the risk-limiting audit. (No later than 15 days before election day)	Rule 25.2.2(c)
	Counting of mail ballots may begin. No results may be disclosed until after 7:00 p.m. on Election Day. (Beginning 15 days prior to the election)	1-7.5-107.5
24-October (Friday)	Equipment inventory lists due to the Secretary of State. (No later than 10 days before the election)	Rule 11.2.3 1-1-106(5)
	The election notice must be posted in the designated election official's office. (At least 10 days before the election and until 2 days after the election)	1-5-205(1.3) 1-1-106(5)
27-October (Monday)	Last day to submit an application to register to vote through the mail, a voter registration agency, a local driver's license examination facility, or online to receive a mail ballot for the Coordinated Election. (Through the 8th day prior to the election)	1-2-201(3)(b)(III) 1-2-201(4) 1-2-508(3)(a)(I)
27-October to 4-November	The minimum number of required voter service and polling centers must be open for the November 4th Coordinated Election. (Beginning at least 8 days before and on election day, except Sundays)	1-7.5-107 (4.5)(a)(III)(c) Rule 7.8.1(b)
28-October (Tuesday)	Elections Setup Records are due to the Secretary of State for the Coordinated Election. (No later than 5:00 p.m. on the 7th day before the election)	Rule 11.4.3
	First day the minimum number of required Drop Boxes must be open for the November 4th Coordinated Election. (Beginning at least 7 days before an election, including Saturdays and Sundays)	1-7.5-107(4.3)(b)
	If the county clerk receives a voter registration application 7 days or less before the 2025 Coordinated Election, the clerk must process the application and inform the applicant that they will not receive a mail ballot. To receive a ballot, the applicant must visit a Voter Service and Polling Center.	1-2-201(4) 1-2-508(3)(a)(I)
November, 2025		
4-November (Tuesday)	Coordinated Election (Polls open 7:00am to 7:00 p.m. First Tuesday in November)	Art. X, Sect. 20(3)(a) 1-1-104(6.5) 1-7-101 1-41-102(1)
	All ballots must be in the hands of the county clerk by 7:00 p.m.	1-7.5-107(4)(b)(III)
6-November (Thursday)	Deadline for the county clerk to send missing signature, signature verification, and missing ID letters and emails for mail and provisional ballots. (Within 3 days from signature/ID verification but no later than 2 days after election day)	1-7.5-107(3.5)(d) 1-7.5-107.3(2)(a) 1-8.5-105(3)(a) Rule 7.5
	Deadline for the Secretary of State to select target contest(s) to be audited in the risk-limiting audit. (No later than 5:00 p.m. MT on the Friday after election day)	Rule 25.2.2 (j) 1-1-106(5)
10-November (Monday)	Deadline for the Secretary of State to give public notice of the meeting to establish the random seed for the RLA Tool. (At least seven calendar days before the meeting to be held on the thirteenth day after the 2025 Coordinated Election)	Rule 25.2.2(i)
11-November (Tuesday)	Veterans Day and Armistice Day	

Ranked Voting in the Coordinated Election

The County Clerk and Recorder must follow all requirements of Colorado Revised Statutes and Colorado Secretary of State Rule.

When conducting an election using a ranked voting method, the County Clerk must:

- Collaborate with the City to plan a voter education and outreach campaign to familiarize electors with ranked voting.
- Include voter instructions with every ranked voting mail ballot packet that provide a brief explanation of ranked voting, instructions on how to properly mark a ballot, a description of how ballots will be counted, and an example of a properly marked ballot.
- Include additional instructions on the ballot itself showing how to properly mark the ranked voting contest(s) on the ballot.
- Tabulate, adjudicate, audit, and report results for all ranked voting ballots.



Ranked voting election results will be posted on the same schedule as the results for any other ballot contest or measure.

IN-PROCESS UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

- No later than 8 pm, 9 pm, and midnight on election night.
- At least once per day until tabulation of election day returns is complete.

FINAL UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

- After the cure period has concluded, no later than November 14.

FINAL OFFICIAL RESULTS

- After the canvass and certification of the election, no later than November 26.

Getting Ready for Ranked Voting

The County Clerk and Recorder and the Elections Office have been working since 2024 to guarantee the upcoming 2025 ranked voting election will be conducted accurately and in full compliance with Rule and Law.

Our dedicated team has been:

- Attending work sessions with the Colorado Secretary of State's office.
- Meeting with Boulder County, another Colorado jurisdiction that has successfully run a ranked voting election in 2023 to learn from their experience and apply best practices.
- Working with our voting system partner to understand all technical requirements of a ranked voting election.

Coming soon:

- A ranked voting “mock election” with participation from key City of Fort Collins staff.
- Ranked voting FAQs on vote.larimer.gov.
- Educational events and community outreach.




Here's where you'll find the County Clerk in 2025:

- **June 1:** FOCO Farmers' Market (Harmony Rd)
- **July 19:** Larimer County Farmers' Market
- **August 1 - 5:** Larimer County Fair
- **August 16:** Fort Collins Peach Festival
- **September 14:** Fort Collins Farmers' Market
- **October 11 - 12:** Applewood Fall Festival



Get in Touch with Larimer County Elections

-  200 W Oak St, Suite 5100, Fort Collins
-  elections@larimer.gov
-  (970) 498-7820
-  vote.larimer.gov
-  <https://www.larimer.gov/clerk/elections/voting-and-drop-locations>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/larimercountyclerkandrecorder>
-  https://x.com/Larimer_Clerk
-  https://www.instagram.com/larimer_clerk/



LARIMER COUNTY
**CLERK &
RECORDER**



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PO Box 1280

Fort Collins, CO 80522

larimer.gov/clerk



Questions?

fcgov.com/elections