

Report from Albemarle Board of Elections

Virginia Code 24.2-673.1-B

“....The decision to conduct an election by ranked choice voting shall be made,
in consultation with the local electoral board and general registrar”

Rank up to 5
candidates

Rank no more than 1
in each column.

**Marie Altman
Party**

**George Hovis
New Party**

**Dee Sharp
New Party**

**John Tawa
Party**

**Independent
Wilkie**

First
choice

1st



Second
choice

2nd



Third
choice

3rd



Fourth
choice

4th



Fifth
choice

5th



Use of RCV in Virginia

- Only local election in Virginia conducted using RCV
- Arlington County Democratic Primary June 2023

- Exit Polling reported that 41% of those polled did not like RCV
- and would like to return to regular voting

- Questions were brought by candidates who questioned the
- ballot tabulation methods

- Richmond City Council voted in 2022 to have no RCV thru 2024*

Example Election for Illustration of Tabulation

Following example is presented as an illustration of how a RCV election might be counted

1st Round Results

Candidates	# 1st place votes	1st Round		Remarks
Valarie Altman Red Party	250	25%	2nd	<p>Since no candidate has received more than 50% of the vote, the next step is to eliminate the last place candidate and redistribute the 40 ballots which placed Wilkie first.</p> <p>Note: Red Party gets 56% of the first place votes</p>
George Hovis Yellow Party	220	22%	3rd	
Alice Sharp Green Party	180	18%	4th	
Mary Tawa Red Party	310	31%	1st	
Phil Wilkie Independent	40	4%	5th	
Total ballots counted	1000	100%		

2nd Round Results

Candidates	# 1st place votes	2nd Round	#Gain	Final Percentage	
Valarie Altman Red Party	250	280	+30	28%	Next step: Since still no winner, eliminate last place and redistribute their votes
George Hovis Yellow Party	220	220	0	22%	
Alice Sharp Green Party	180	190	+10	19%	
Mary Tawa Red Party	310	310	0	31%	Note: Red <u>Party</u> now has 59% of the votes
Total ballots counted		1000		100%	

Out of Running

Phil Wilkie
Independent

40

Of the 40 Wilkie ballots, 30-2nd place votes went for Altman and 10 for Sharp

2nd Round Elimination

Of the 180 first-round Sharp ballots, 30 voters chose Wilkie as their second choice and voted no third choice, 150 of Sharp's first-place ballots chose George Hovis as their second choice and had no third choice. The 10-2nd round ballots Sharp picked up from Wilkie all chose Valarie Altman as their third choice.

Out of Running					
Alice Sharp Green Party	190				Of the 180 first round Sharp ballots, 30 Sharp ballots chose <u>Wilkie</u> as second choice, 150 chose Hovis as second choice. The 10-2nd round ballots she picked up all chose <u>Altman</u> as third choice.
Phil Wilkie Independent	40				

BUT NOW WE HAVE A PROBLEM

As we go to redistribute Alice Sharp's ballots, 30 of them chose Phil Wilkie as their second choice, but Phil **Wilkie is no longer part** of the election. Those 30 votes for Phil Wilkie **cannot legally be given to anyone** else. The ballots can no longer be used, they contain no votes which can be given to anyone. They are **“exhausted.”** 150 votes go to George Hovis and 10 go to Valarie Altman. There are now only **970** ballots remaining in the election.

3rd Round Elimination

Result: Neither of the two remaining candidates picks up additional votes. Altman's 300 votes are no longer part of the election. The total votes still assigned to each candidate are now a percentage of the votes remaining in the election, which is **680**.

Out of Running				
Valarie Altman Red Party	290/10			Of the 290 first round Altman ballots, 200 chose Wilkie as second choice, 90 chose Sharp as second choice, the 10 third round ballots she picked up from Sharp voters <u>had no fourth choice</u>
Alice Sharp Green Party	180/10			
Phil Wilkie Independent	40			

Final Results

Note that Hovis wins with **370** votes from what was initially 1000 ballots (37%)

Candidates			#Gain	Final Percentage	
George Hovis Yellow Party	370		0	54%	Declared Winner
Mary Tawa Red Party	310		0	46%	
Total ballots counted	680			100%	

Out of Running

Valarie Altman
Red Party

290/10

Alice Sharp
Green Party

180/10

Phil Wilkie
Independent

40

Of the 290 first round Altman ballots, 200 chose Wilkie as second choice, 90 chose Sharp as second choice, the 10 third round ballots she picked up from Sharp voters had no fourth choice

New York City mayoral race

Tabulation of the most recent NYC race using RCV

Over 3 weeks to tabulate final results

First round won by 10 points

After 9 rounds of elimination winner won by 2 points

THE DISADVANTAGES OF RCV

- New, proprietary, RCV ballot-tabulating software must be **purchased**.
- If you undervote, your ballot is **eliminated** after all votes are exhausted and you are, at that point, **no longer part of the election**.
- RCV counts 2nd and 3rd place votes the same as 1st place votes (once distributed)
- This encourages you **to vote for all candidates, even of the opposite party**, if you want your ballot to remain in the redistribution.

Problems for voters

- **Less well informed and less well educated will have difficulty marking a RCV ballot and**
- **may be disenfranchised**
- Voter **must** vote for candidates other than first choice or candidates voter doesn't like

Delayed Results

Election Night results will report ONLY First Round Results

All results must be reported by Precincts, but to report RCV

All ballots MUST be counted together

**This RCV redistribution of votes cannot be done until all ballots
can be counted**

Mailed-in and Provisional ballots will be delayed for Over a week

Virginia Department of Elections

- **ELECT report 2023** states that the law requiring that
- all votes be reported By Precinct

Cannot be followed using RCV

Problems Understanding of Ballot

- **The elderly who have been voting a regular, one candidate vote will be confused, will have difficulty learning how to mark the RCV ballot**
- **The less well informed voter will know about only their favorite candidate and will be unable to mark the RCV ballot**

Polling Place Problems

- **Lines** in the polling places will be **long** as voters try to correctly **mark the RCV ballot**
- **Many “spoiled” ballots, so more ballots will be required**

NO Need

- **Albemarle County has no more than**
- **two or three candidates per race.**
- **Frequently only one candidate per race.**

QUESTIONS?

