

Ranked Choice Voting: What You Need to Know Before November 4

A Twin Cities voter's guide to Ranked Choice Voting.

What's on The Ballot This Fall?

On **Tuesday, November 4, 2025**, Minneapolis and St. Paul voters will use **Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)** to elect:

- Mayor
- All 13 City Council members
- Park and Recreation Board Commissioners (district and at-large)
- Members of the Board of Estimation and Taxation

This voting method allows voters to **rank up to three candidates** in order of preference, rather than selecting just one. RCV has been used in Minneapolis and St. Paul elections since 2009 and is designed to give voters more voice in the outcome.

What Is Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked Choice Voting is a system that allows you to rank multiple candidates for the same office, selecting your first, second, and third choices. If your top choice does not receive enough support to win, your vote automatically transfers to your next highest-ranked candidate who is still in the race.

This process continues until a candidate receives more than 50% of the active votes. RCV helps ensure the winning candidate has a majority support and avoids the need for a separate runoff election.



Key Dates

Candidate Filing Deadline: August 12, 2025

Election Day: November 4, 2025

Cities Using RCV in 2025

- **Minnetonka:** Mayor and at-large council members
- **Bloomington:** Mayor and city council
- **St. Louis Park:** Ward council seats and school board

Each city sets its own rules for the number of candidates voters may rank. In Minneapolis, the limit is three. In St. Paul, there is no limit.

How to Fill Out Your Ballot

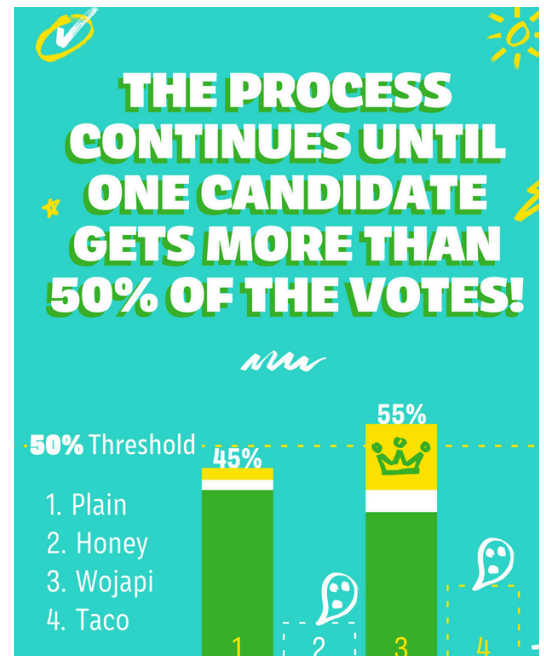
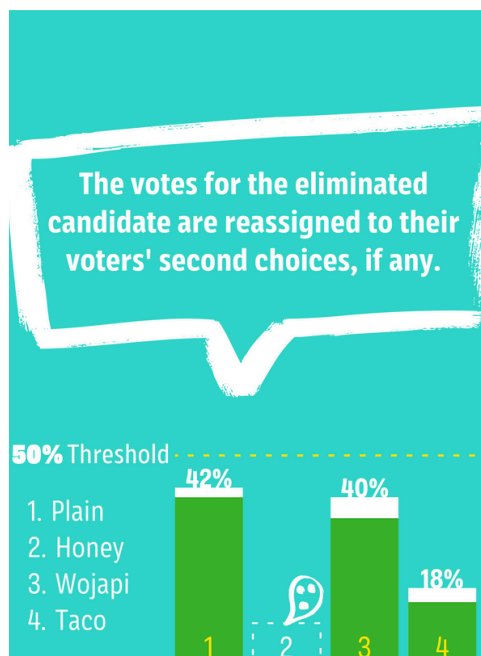
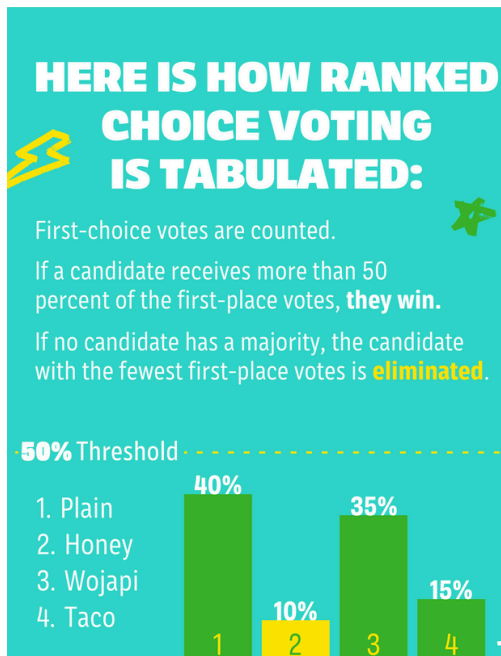
1. For each race, you select your first, second, and third choice candidates. Each city sets its own rules for the number of candidates voters may rank.
2. You are not required to rank all three. You may vote for just one candidate if you prefer.
3. Do not rank the same candidate more than once.
4. Only mark one candidate per column (first choice, second choice, third choice).
5. If you make a mistake, ask an election worker for a new ballot.

How the Counting Works in Ranked Choice Voting

Here is how Ranked Choice Voting is tabulated:

- First-choice votes are counted.
- If a candidate receives more than 50 percent of the first-place votes, they win.
- If no candidate has a majority, the candidate with the fewest first-place votes is eliminated.
- Voters who chose that candidate as their first choice will have their votes reallocated to their next-ranked candidate.
- This process continues in rounds until one candidate has a majority.

This tabulation ensures that the winner has support from a broader base of voters.



Where to Learn More

- **Minneapolis Elections Office:** vote.minneapolismn.gov
- **St. Paul Elections Office:**
<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting/voters/prepare-vote/ranked-voting>
- Visit makevotingatradition.org to learn more and **pledge to vote**.

