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Pierce County History of Ranked Choice Voting

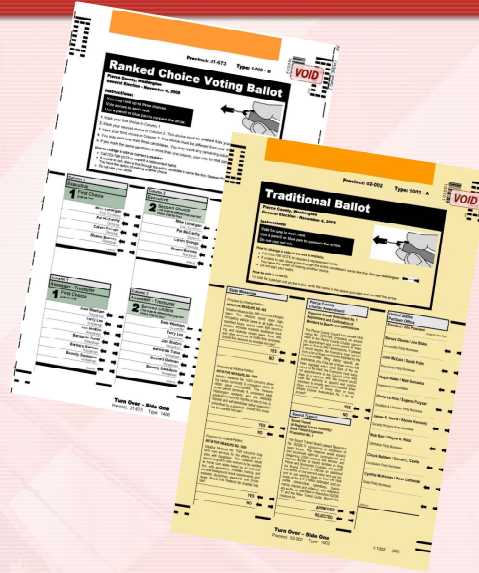
- Pierce County's Charter Commission submitted Charter Amendment No. 3 to the voters to adopt Rank Choice Voting
 - Approved by the voters of Pierce County in November 2006
 - 52.93%
 - Eliminated the Pick-a-Party Primary for these offices
- Required the Pierce County Auditor to implement instant runoff voting for certain county offices by July, 2008
 - Executive
 - Assessor-Treasurer
 - County Council Members
 - Excludes Judges and Prosecuting Attorney
 - Sheriff
 - Auditor

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2008 – A Busy Year

The Election Begins – Ballot Design

- Pierce County Voters received two ballot cards
 - Traditional Card
 - RCV Card
- Many hours spent developing instructions and ballot design

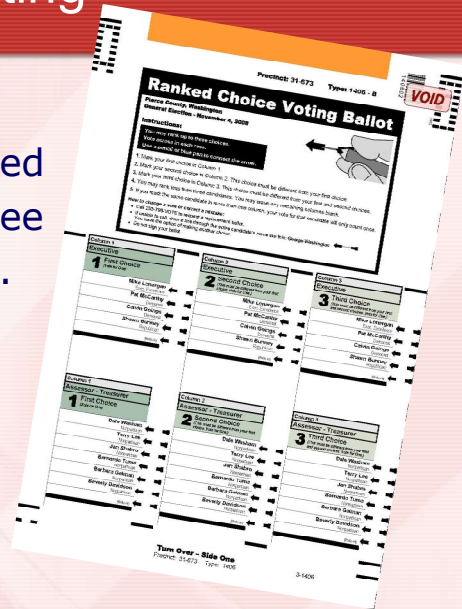


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Ranked Choice Voting

The Ranked Choice Voting Ballot card allowed voters to rank up to three candidates in each race.

- Executive
- Assessor – Treasurer
- Sheriff
- County Council



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How did we educate our voters?

- Enhanced website
- Speakers Bureau
- Two Mailers
 - Postcard
 - Pamphlet
- Billboard
- Ballot insert
- Enhanced Voters' Pamphlet
- Polling place instructional posters
- PSAs on all major networks



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How much did it cost?

2008 General Election Costs	<u>\$1,664,542</u>
RCV One Time Costs	<u>\$857,025</u>
- Software, Education, Equipment	
RCV Ongoing Costs	<u>\$769,773</u>
- Printing, Paper, Envelopes, Education, Staff	
RCV Subtotal	<u>\$1,626,798</u>
Total Costs	\$3,291,340

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Did voters participate?

Voter Turnout 2008:

Traditional Ballot Cards counted	333,824
RCV Ballot Cards counted	312,771
Total Ballot Cards Counted	646,595
Overall Turnout	81.20%

Voter Drop-off/Voter Fatigue Stats:

Executive's Race

Voters who didn't return an RCV ballot	21,053
Voters who didn't select a 1 st Choice	13,330
Voters who didn't select a 2 nd Choice	91,510
Voters who didn't select a 3 rd Choice	140,439

Assessor – Treasurer's Race

Voters who didn't return an RCV ballot	21,053
Voters who didn't select a 1 st Choice	50,431
Voters who didn't select a 2 nd Choice	125,270
Voters who didn't select a 3 rd Choice	150,833

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Did voters like it?

- We surveyed all voters and 90,738 responded
 - 29,206 **Liked** Ranked Choice Voting
 - 33.98%
 - 56,751 **Didn't Like** Ranked Choice Voting
 - 66.02%
 - 4,781 Undecided/Miscellaneous

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Repeal of Ranked Choice Voting

- In January 2009, the Pierce County Council passed a Charter Amendment to repeal RCV
- General Election of 2009, Pierce County voters repealed RCV by a margin of 70.65% to 29.35%.
- 336 Precincts in the County only three (66 ballots cast) had majority support to keep the system.

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RCV in Washington since 2009

- In 2022 three jurisdictions voted on RCV
 - City of Seattle Charter Amendment passed with 51% support.
 - Clark County Charter Amendment failed with 58%
 - San Juan County Charter Amendment failed with 54%

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Looking ahead at RCV in Washington

- Seattle will have RCV primary elections starting in 2027
- The primary will be RCV, resulting in two candidates moving towards the general.
- No current statewide standards have been established

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Ranked Choice Voting

Questions?