

Primary Voting History

- **1935**
 - Washington State establishes the "blanket primary" system in 1935, allowing voters to select candidates from any party without party affiliation declarations.
- **2000**
 - U.S. Supreme Court rules California's blanket primary unconstitutional in 2000, prompting challenges to Washington's system.
- **2003**
 - Federal District Court in Tacoma upholds Washington's blanket primary as constitutional in 2002, but it's later deemed unconstitutional by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2003.
- **2004**
 - U.S. Supreme Court denies review in 2004, leading to the implementation of a pick-a-party primary.

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Primary Voting History

- **2004**
 - Initiative 872, proposed in January 2004, aims to establish a "top two" primary system. This system allows voters to cast ballots for any candidate regardless of party preference. The top two candidates with the most votes advance to the general election, irrespective of party affiliation.
- **2004**
 - Initiative 872 is approved by voters in November 2004.
- **2008**
 - Legal challenges ensue, with courts ultimately upholding Initiative 872's constitutionality in 2008.
- **2008**
 - The first Top Two Primary is held in Washington in 2008, proving popular with 76% voter approval.

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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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How did we implement RCV?

- Hired RCV staff and a consultant to study and develop a project plan
- An internal legal review was conducted of the newly passed amendments and the changes to the charter
- Consulted numerous times with our tabulation vendor
 - Product availability and timeline
 - Software parameters

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Blue Ribbon Review Panel

- A Blue Ribbon Review Panel was formed
 - Five meetings were held
 - Provided feedback and input regarding new charter rules and implementation
 - Major topics included:
 - Filing for Office
 - Results Reporting
 - Voting Options
 - Voter Education
 - Presented 11 action items to the County Council

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Additional Charter Amendments

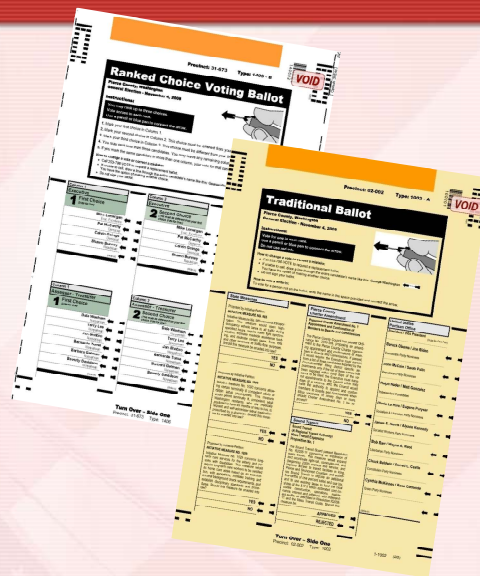
- Four additional Charter Amendments were presented to the voters in November 2007
- These amendments sought to clarify the implementation of RCV
 - Ranking of three candidates
 - Minor Party Candidate Filing Requirements
 - Implementation Dates
 - Allowing for the Multiple Elimination of losing candidates
- Algorithm stops when a candidate has a majority

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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

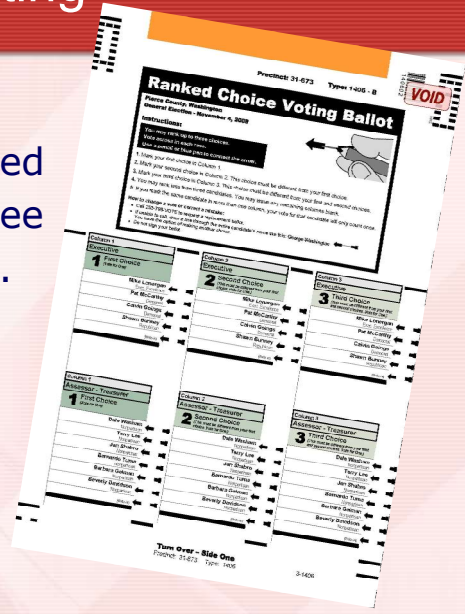


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Ranked Choice Voting

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



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PSAs on all major networks

How much did it cost?

2008 General Election Costs	\$1,664,542
RCV One Time Costs	\$857,025
- Software, Education, Equipment	
RCV Ongoing Costs	\$769,773
- Printing, Paper, Envelopes, Education, Staff	
RCV Subtotal	\$1,626,798
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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Tacoma Elections

- Since 2011 the City of Tacoma has had 15 Primary elections and 41 General Elections

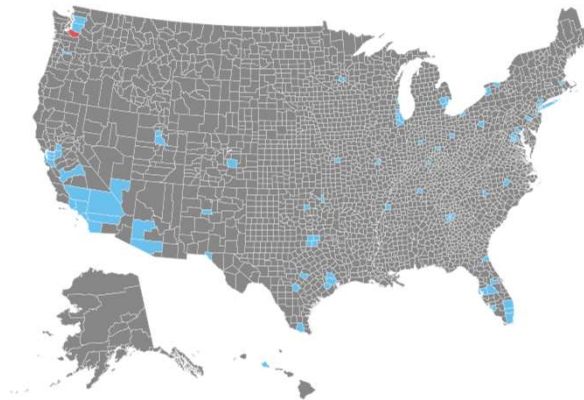
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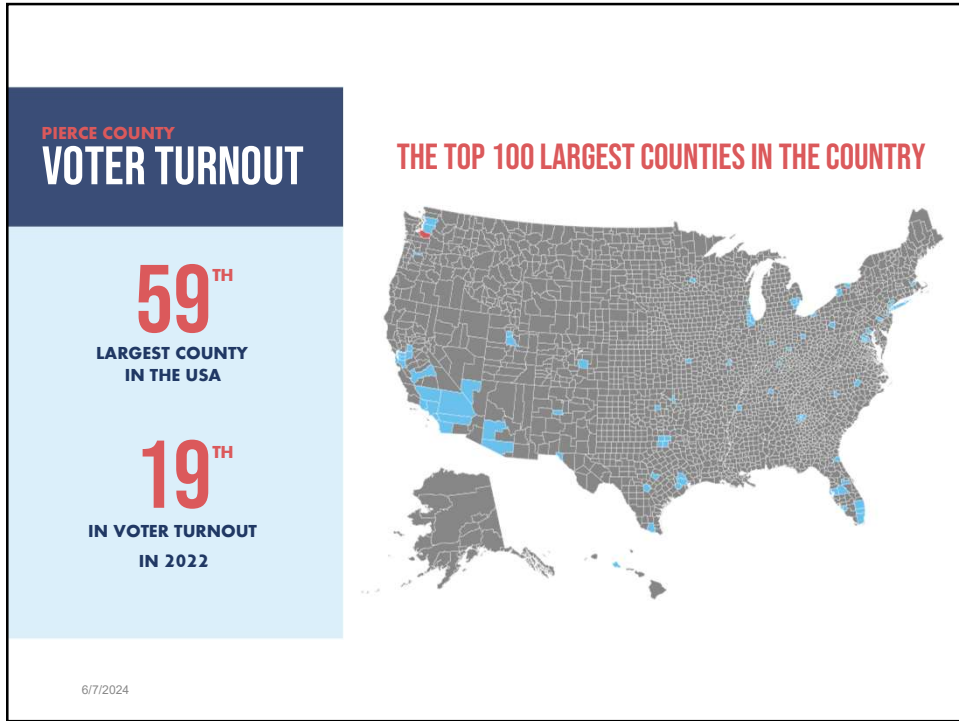
PIERCE COUNTY VOTER TURNOUT

59TH
LARGEST COUNTY
IN THE USA

18TH
IN VOTER TURNOUT
IN 2020

THE TOP 100 LARGEST COUNTIES IN THE COUNTRY





Ranked Choice Voting

Questions?

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This slide features a red header with the text 'Ranked Choice Voting'. Below the header, the word 'Questions?' is written in a bold, dark blue font. The background of the slide is a light pink and white geometric pattern with star-like shapes. A date '6/7/2024' is located in the bottom left corner.