Thank-you for supporting SSB 3161 and the codification against Ranked Choice Voting in Iowa. In an ABC poll released January 2022, only 20% of Americans were very confident about the voting system. Americans want their votes to be counted. Ranked choice voting throws out ballots that have fewer choices marked in each round of tabulation resulting in thousands of voters being disenfranchised:

“Pushed almost exclusively by the Left as an alternative to America’s traditional “one person, one vote” system, ranked-choice voting is actually an *alternative voting scam* that leads to thousands of trashed ballots, widespread errors, delayed election results, and diminished voter confidence.

That’s why [five states have banned ranked-choice voting](https://thefga.org/research/ranked-choice-voting-partisan-plot-to-disrupt-elections/) in just the last two years—Florida, Tennessee, South Dakota, Idaho, and Montana.” <https://thefga.org/ranked-choice-voting-is-a-disaster/>

If a person just votes for one of the choices? Too bad, the ballot will be “trashed,” “exhausted,” or eliminated. In Maine 2018: 8,000 eliminated ballots. In Alaska 2022: 15,000 eliminated ballots. In New York City 2021: 140,000 (almost 15%) eliminated. In Alameda County 2021: the third place finisher had actually won, a software glitch caused a miscount.

An analysis of 96 Jurisdictions by the Alaska Policy Forum, October 2020, showed greater voter disenfranchisement among voters whose first language is not English due to the confusing nature of the ballots and lower voter turnout among minority groups:

“When individuals leave columns blank on their ballots, and the candidate(s) they vote for are eliminated from contention, their ballots are not counted in the final tabulation. Therefore, if these voters only choose one candidate on their ballots, they are more likely to become exhausted, thereby giving those who fully complete their ballots more influence over the electoral process. In other words, African Americans, Latinos, voters with less education, and those whose first language is not English are more likely to be disenfranchised with a ranked-choice voting system. Further, in his analysis of San Francisco elections between 1995 and 2001, Jason McDaniel, an associate professor at San Francisco State University, found that ranked choice voting is likely to decrease voter turnout, primarily among African Americans and white voters. McDaniel also found that ranked-choice voting increases the disparity between “those who are already likely to vote and those who are not, including younger voters and those with lower levels of education.” In short, the complexity of a ranked choice ballot makes it less likely that disadvantaged voices will be fully heard in the political and electoral process.” <https://alaskapolicyforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020-10-APF-Ranked-Choice-Voting-Report.pdf>

Further many benefits that are supposed to be found by Ranked-Choice voting do not exist:

“Ranked-choice elections perpetuate the two-party system, artificially inflate those parties to make one appear dominant, further empowers extreme partisans — then generate even more close red vs. blue contests

And the prospect of razor-thin margins of victory enable foreign governments to meddle in elections, exacerbate the money-in-politics arms race and cement the status quo.” <https://thefulcrum.us/why-ranked-choice-voting-is-bad>

I have tried to find examples of articles from a wide spectrum of political beliefs, Right to Left. In general, any process, such as ranked choice voting that is shown to discriminate against voters feels like a return to Jim Crow laws found in the 1860’s South. Please support SSB 3161 as it is written.

Thank-you,

Lois Lawler