

Senate File 459 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 459
BY COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1128)

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act prohibiting the use of ranked choice and instant runoff
- 2 voting in elections in this state.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. Section 43.37, Code 2025, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **43.37 Number of votes permitted per office — prohibited**
4 **methods.**

5 1. The elector shall be permitted to vote for no more
6 candidates for any office than there are persons to be elected
7 to the office. If an elector votes for more persons for any
8 office than the number permitted, the elector's ballot shall not
9 be counted for that office.

10 2. a. An election in this state shall not be conducted
11 using ranked choice voting or instant runoff voting, including an
12 election for any statewide, local government, or other office.

13 b. For purposes of this subsection:

14 (1) "Local government" means an incorporated city or town, an
15 unincorporated city or town, a county, a school, or any other
16 political subdivision of the state.

17 (2) "Ranked choice voting" or "instant runoff voting" means
18 a method of casting and tabulating votes in which a voter ranks
19 candidates in order of preference, tabulation of ballots proceeds
20 in rounds such that in each round either a candidate is elected
21 or the candidate receiving the fewest votes is defeated, votes
22 are transferred from elected or defeated candidates to a voter's
23 next-ranked candidate in order of preference, and tabulation ends
24 when a candidate receives the majority of votes cast or the
25 number of candidates elected equals the number of offices to be
26 filled, as applicable.

27 Sec. 2. Section 49.93, Code 2025, is amended to read as
28 follows:

29 **49.93 Number of votes for each office — prohibited**
30 **methods.**

31 1. For an office to which one person is to be elected, a
32 voter shall not vote for more than one candidate. If two or more
33 persons are to be elected to an office, the voter shall vote for
34 no more than the number of persons to be elected. If a person
35 votes for more than the permitted number of candidates, the vote

1 for that office shall not count. Valid votes cast on the rest of
2 the ballot shall be counted.

3 2. a. An election in this state shall not be conducted
4 using ranked choice voting or instant runoff voting, including an
5 election for any statewide, local government, or other office.

6 b. For purposes of this subsection:

7 (1) "Local government" means an incorporated city or town, an
8 unincorporated city or town, a county, a school, or any other
9 political subdivision of the state.

10 (2) "Ranked choice voting" or "instant runoff voting" means
11 a method of casting and tabulating votes in which a voter ranks
12 candidates in order of preference, tabulation of ballots proceeds
13 in rounds such that in each round either a candidate is elected
14 or the candidate receiving the fewest votes is defeated, votes
15 are transferred from elected or defeated candidates to a voter's
16 next-ranked candidate in order of preference, and tabulation ends
17 when a candidate receives the majority of votes cast or the
18 number of candidates elected equals the number of offices to be
19 filled, as applicable.

20 EXPLANATION

21 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
22 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

23 This bill prohibits ranked choice and instant runoff voting,
24 defined in the bill, from being used to cast or tabulate ballots
25 in any election in this state, including in elections for local
26 government offices, defined in the bill.