

City of Hyattsville Board of Supervisors of Elections
Tuesday, June 3, 2026: 4pm
In Person: Multipurpose Room City Building
4310 Gallatin Street

Attendees:

- Staff: Quianna Taylor, Nate Groenendyk
- BOSE: Zach Peters, Erin Payne, Lisa Pineda, Greta Mosher, Nicole Konigkramer
- Public Comment: Malik Ferguson (RCV Supporter), Dan Broder (RCV Supporter), Owen Anderson (Deputy Director, RCV MD)

1. Call to Order – 4:03pm
2. Public Comment
 - a. Owen Anderson – Dep Dir of RCV MD
 - i. Here to say hello and check in
 - ii. Berwyn Heights voted to explore it
 - b. Malik Ferguson (Ward 3)
 - i. Current voting system is literally the worst
 - ii. Prefers Condorcet voting over Instant Runoff
 - iii. Paper from Columbia Univ – can share details as needed
 - c. Dan Broder (Ward 2) – town/community rep for RCV MD
3. Approval of Minutes - Greta – Move; Zach – second; Unanimous approval
4. Clerk Update-Charter/Code Vacancy
 - a. Sought clarity from Skip
 - b. Gives UP TO 140 days to put on a special election, but does not give 140+150 = 290 days
 - c. We have 150 days plus however long BOSE believes it will take to put on an election – there is also a 30-day extension if there are equipment/other issues.
 - d. No action to be taken right now
 - e. Comment:
 - i. If this is in ONE ward, this potentially could work, but if it is for a city-wide election, this may be challenging.
 - ii. BOSE has the leeway to determine when within the timeframe might make the most sense
5. Research Update RCV
 - a. Went through timeline and criteria spreadsheet

- b. Nicola going to look at data for neighbor municipalities – should have an update to share for July meeting
 - i. Zach/Erin to take on populating information for Hyattsville
 - ii. Nicola will reach out in a couple weeks if she needs some additional support
- c. Zach presented some of the research he went through on RCV
 - i. Hyattsville 2025 – 18% turnout
 - ii. A lot of the touted benefits of RCV won't apply – we don't have runoffs (we use plurality), we're non-partisan
 - iii. Some other things are unmeasured – negative campaigning (should it factor into our assessment)
 - iv. How often does plurality reflect majority opinion?
 - 1. If RCV is used, in races with 3+ candidates where one has nearly 50% of first place votes (say 45+%), the second place candidate would need to get a very large majority of second ranked votes to change the outcome.
 - 2. RCV is more likely to impact outcomes when the first round of votes produces a candidate with 45% or less of votes.
 - 3. In Hyattsville elections, 1 in 10 races have a candidate who wins with 45% or less of the vote.
 - 4. Zach walked through a few theoretical scenarios to highlight these points.
 - v. Why should some people's second choice votes be counted the same as other people's first choice votes?
 - 1. People's first choice votes represent their most preferred candidate. Therefore their second or third choice votes represent candidates they are less excited about. Yet in instant runoff voting, those less enthusiastic votes get counted the same as other people's "Yes!" votes.
 - 2. It seems that if RCV requires second and third votes to be counted, those votes should not count as whole votes but are weighted less or discounted? Like, maybe 2 second place votes would equal one first place vote? This was not the suggestion, but just an example. If second and third place votes were weighted less, it would take more of them to raise a second place candidate past a first place candidate in getting to majority.
 - vi. What are we trying to understand using RCV?

1. We want to know what candidate is more supported than others.
 2. But RCV doesn't give people the option to say "No, I do not want this candidate to win AT ALL".
 3. If people do not rank a candidate, that could represent a "no" vote for that candidate. However, RCV does not account for "No" votes, but instead it exhausts voters' ballots if they do not rank candidates.
 4. So, not only are second place votes counted the same as first place votes in subsequent rounds of RCV, but unranked ballots that could represent "No" votes are disqualified from subsequent rounds of tallying.
 5. If people could provide a "no" vote for certain candidates, then "no" votes could cancel out "yes" votes in subsequent rounds, thereby better capturing voter preferences. But this is not currently allowable in RCV.
- vii. When people don't rank all choices, their ballot will be exhausted in subsequent rounds of RCV counting, meaning their vote is not actually reflected in the final tally.
1. Again, not ranking a candidate could reflect their dislike for a candidate, but that is not captured.
 2. So the number of voters in the election is not the final tally of votes that determine the winner (understanding that small amounts of under and over voting currently exist).
 3. Messaging to voters that their ballot is not counted even if they have strong preferences about all candidates would be challenging.
- viii. Question for consideration: What is the role of the BOSE to weigh in on?
6. New business
- a. July 7 – next meeting
 - b. 1-page on Hyattsville Elections was held back – but could work on it soon.
 - c. Coordinate Summer Jams table over email
7. Adjournment – 5:04pm