

1 A5

2 American Medical Student Association

3 House of Delegates 2022

4 Resolution:

5 **Introduced by:** Zoreed Mukhtar, Nadiya Yerich, Israa Ismail, Raj Patel

6 **School(s):** Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine,
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8 **Subject:** Principles Regarding Campaign Finance, Elections, Political Action, and Activism

9 **Type:** Addition to Principles

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11 WHEREAS with a traditional ballot, also known as plurality voting, the candidate with the most
12 votes wins, even if that candidate does not win over 50% of the votes [1].

13 WHEREAS ranked-choice voting, also known as ranked voting or preferential voting, is an
14 election voting system in which voters rank candidates in order of preference on the ballot. If none
15 of the candidates receive a majority of first-choice votes, the last-place candidate is eliminated,
16 and their votes are distributed to their voters' second-choice candidates. This process is repeated
17 until one of the candidates collects more than half of the votes [1].

18 WHEREAS research suggests that ranked-choice voting encourages more candidates to enter
19 races, especially female and minority candidates. Candidates who may be unpopular no longer
20 have to feel discouraged from entering races and potentially 'taking votes away' from another
21 candidate with similar views who may be more favored [1].

22 WHEREAS while critics of ranked-choice voting state that this system delays outcomes and
23 confuses voters, according to exit polls conducted by FairVote, voters who participated in ranked-
24 choice elections reported that they understood the process [2].

25 WHEREAS as of May 2021, 21 jurisdictions used ranked-choice voting, including: Berkeley,
26 California; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Las Cruces, New Mexico; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New
27 York City; Oakland, California; Portland, Maine; San Francisco, California; Santa Fe, New
28 Mexico; and St. Paul, Minnesota [2].

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33 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding Campaign Finance,
34 Elections, Political Action, and Activism (pg. 150-151) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to
35 state:

36 The American Medical Student Association

37 **1. SUPPORTS the use of ranked-choice voting in all national, state, and local elections.**

38 Fiscal Note: None

39 Citations:

40 1. Stevens, H. (2021, June 21). How ranked-choice voting could change the way democracy
41 works. The Washington Post. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2021/ranked-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2021/ranked-choice-voting-guide/)
42 [choice-voting-guide/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/interactive/2021/ranked-choice-voting-guide/).

43 2. FairVote.org. (2021). Where is ranked choice voting used? FairVote.
44 https://www.fairvote.org/where_is_ranked_choice_voting_used.

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