



# Peace and Freedom Party of California

## Legislative Committee

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March 14, 2022

Honorable Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell  
State Capitol, Room 4001  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0070

Subject: AB 2808 (O'Donnell) Elections: Ranked Choice Voting

OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember O'Donnell:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Peace and Freedom Party of California to oppose AB 2808, a bill that would prohibit the use of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in state and local elections including charter cities. This is an affront to local control and to democracy itself.

AB 2808 appears to be part of a national effort to prevent the use of Ranked Choice Voting at a time when it is growing in popularity across our country. Ranked Choice Voting simply allows voters to rank the candidates in their order of preference, first choice, second choice, third choice, fourth choice, etc. Then the voters' jobs are complete. Tabulation of the vote, as is done in a number of San Francisco bay area cities, is conducted by computer programs. In single-winner districts, if no candidate has a majority of the vote the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated and the voters' preferred choices are transferred to the voters' second choices. This process continues, eliminating choices with the fewest number of voters and transferring them to the next available choice until one candidate has a majority of the final count. The choices then become votes and the candidate with a majority, not a plurality, of the vote, is declared the winner. The result is one person, one vote – the very keystone of democracy.

There is a modest start-up cost, but that evaporates as government entities save their taxpayers millions of dollars by eliminating the need for a primary or a costly runoff election. In fact, voters will have more choices because now most candidates are eliminated in low turnout primaries. There have been a few sore losers but as soon as candidates learned that negative campaigns cost them second and third choices the campaigns have become more civil.

Peace and Freedom Party has supported the use of proportional representation since the early 1980s, supporting a list system for partisan races and the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) (now called Ranked Choice Voting from multi-winner districts) for non-partisan local races. In the 1990s we expanded our support of Ranked Choice Voting to single-winner elections (also known as Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)) for executive positions such as Governor, other constitutional offices, and mayors.

For these and other reasons Peace and Freedom Party opposes AB 2808. For further clarification of our position on AB 2808, please contact me, John C. Reiger at [reigers@earthlink.net](mailto:reigers@earthlink.net), or our Legislative Liaison, C. T. Weber at [CTWeberVoters@att.net](mailto:CTWeberVoters@att.net).

Sincerely,

*John C. Reiger*

*C. T. Weber*

John C. Reiger  
Legislative Committee Chair  
Peace and Freedom Party of California

C. T. Weber  
Legislative Liaison  
Peace and Freedom Party of California

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