



# Peace and Freedom Party of California

## Legislative Committee

Kevin Akin, Riverside; Mary Lou Finley, San Diego; Dave Kadleccek, Vice Chair, Sacramento; Tom Lacey, Secretary, San Francisco;  
Debra Reiger, Sacramento; John Reiger, Chair, Sacramento; Maureen Smith, Santa Cruz; Alice Stek, Los Angeles; C. T. Weber, Legislative Liaison, Sacramento.

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August 25, 2023

Honorable Assembly Member Evan Low  
121 O Street, suite 6110  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0026

Subject: AB 1227 (Low) Ranked Choice Voting - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Low:

The Peace and Freedom Party supports the June 15, 2023, version of Assembly Bill 1227 authorizing the County of Santa Clara to use ranked choice voting to elect its elected county officers.

We support this for two major reasons, in addition to the generic justifications for supporting such local bills. The County of Santa Clara previously changed its charter to authorize, once the county had the voting equipment to do so, the use of ranked choice voting ("instant runoff voting") for county offices instead of the default two round runoff system provided for in state statutes. Now that the county has such equipment and this bill to give it clear authority to use ranked choice voting.

Our first additional reason is that we support the wider use of ranked choice voting in California. While it is not perfect, we believe that it is clearly better than both the two round runoff system it would replace for counties and the "top two" system it could replace for state and federal elected offices.

Our second additional reason is that we support local governments serving as a laboratory of democracy to try different election methods. The state constitution clearly gives charter cities the power to do this, but its provisions for charter counties are less clear.

Therefore, we strongly support AB 1227. To discuss our position on this bill please contact me at 408-984-1196 (mobile) - or John Reiger at [reigers@earthlink.net](mailto:reigers@earthlink.net)

Sincerely,

*Dave Kadleccek*

Dave Kadleccek  
Legislative Committee Vice Chair  
Peace and Freedom Party of California

*John C. Reiger*

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