

Takoma Park Ward 3 Election Survey: Instant Runoff Voting and Voter Turnout

During early voting on April 6-7 and on Election Day on April 8, 2-14, the Takoma Park-based nonprofit, nonpartisan organization **FairVote** (www.fairvote.org) conducted a voluntary survey of voters in the Ward 3 special election for city council. It was a nonpartisan survey focused on voter opinions about the voting process in the City and this year's election. Here are highlights from responses to the survey. For more information, contact Grace Ramsey at GRamsey@fairvote.org (301) 270-4616.

HIGHLIGHTS

Number of Ward 3 Votes Cast: 660

Number of Survey Responses: 285

What is your age?

16 – 17 4% 18 – 29 1%

30 – 39 11% 40 – 49 25%

50 – 59 27% 60 – 69 27%

70 - 79 6% 80+ 0%

How easy or difficult was ranking candidates?

Very easy / Easy 84%

Neither easy nor difficult 12%

Difficult / Very difficult 3%

For this election, did you:

Rank 2 or more candidates 77%

Rank only 1 candidate 23%

Compared to recent council elections, how much information did you gather about the candidates?

More than in past city elections 47%

No difference / 1st time voter 45%

Less than in past city elections 9%

In this election were you more or less inclined to vote for your preferred candidates than in other elections that do not use instant runoff voting?

More 33% Less 2% No difference 65%

Sometimes voters feel like their vote is wasted. Compared to other elections, which describes you?

Felt more like my vote was wasted this time 1%

Felt less like my vote was wasted this time 54%

No difference / Don't know 44%

Compared to most other elections, did you feel like there were more or fewer cases of candidates criticizing other candidates?

More 2% Less 49% No difference 49%

Do you support using instant runoff voting for Takoma Park elections?

Support / Strongly support 70%

Oppose / Strongly oppose 5%

Neither support nor oppose 25%

Do you support these new city voting laws?

Election Day Registration 89%

Candidate access to apartment buildings 75%

Creation of voter turnout task force 73%

Do you support keeping the right to vote for the following residents in Takoma Park elections?

Non-citizen residents 80%

Citizens with felony conviction 76%

Citizens who are 16 or 17 year old 72%

Which best reflects your views of male and female candidates in Takoma Park elections?

Men and women should be equally likely to win 60%

The council should include both men and women 32%

It is okay if the council is all-male or all-female 7%