



June 14, 2022

THE SCOOP: RCV FOR TEXAS UPDATES

1. **Texas Bipartisan RCV Bill:** We have our first Republican Texas State Senator interested in co-sponsoring an RCV bill in the legislative session that starts in January 2023! RCV is a nonpartisan approach to elections that encourages broad voter support and that is beneficial to Democrats and Republicans alike. Promoting bipartisan support for RCV is a major goal of the RCV movement. Stay tuned for more news as we gear up for the next session!

2. **RCV for Texas Website:** RCV for Texas is moving and grooving with the completion of part one of our website's facelift that aims to make our website more engaging. We appreciate insight and feedback from all of our supporters! Please continue to email us with any comments or suggestions. We want to give a big Texas shout-out to Lora Schafer who is spearheading the project. Thank you Lora! Check out the website at RCVforTexas.org and let us know what you think.

3. **What happened in Texas Congressional District 6:** Hawaii recently approved a bill to allow RCV to be used in special elections and RCV for Texas hopes to do the same. We are working hard to identify Texas legislators interested in filing a similar bill. But why does Texas need a bill to allow RCV in special elections? Texas' experience with the special election in Congressional District 6 last year provides the perfect example. Here is what happened in District 6:

- **So many candidates:** 23 candidates filed to run for the vacant position.
- **No candidate won a majority of the vote:** the top two candidates received 19% and 14% each, leading to a runoff election.
- **The runoff saw a 50% drop in turnout:** The "majority" winner in the runoff received only 26% of the number of votes cast in the initial election.

- **Increased Costs:** The runoff cost 62% more than the initial election.
 - **Wasted time and Money:** The vacancy could have been filled three months earlier, saving Texans time and money.
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WHAT WE ARE READING

[Republicans could nominate stronger Senate candidates with ranked choice voting](#) - *The Hill*

The potential of winning back the Senate has led to a crowded primary field in key states. This creates a potential general election problem for Republicans: nominating candidates who lack broad voter support. These weak general election candidates are able to "sneak" through a crowded primary field with less than a majority of the vote, and then lose winnable seats in the fall election. How can Republicans avoid this problem? By using RCV to nominate candidates with broad voter support! And while not mentioned in the article, the same would be true for Democrats!

[Want to fix our polarized politics? Fix how we vote](#) - *FairVote*

Political polarization is the extent to which Americans have political values and beliefs that are highly divergent from each other. How we vote exacerbates our current landscape, particularly in primary elections. Using ranked choice voting could shift political incentives and change the behavior of candidates and politicians themselves. This article provides thoughtful insight about political polarization and what we can do about it.

[It's Time to reconsider how Texas votes](#) - *R Street*

With benefits for voters, taxpayers, candidates and the political culture, it should come as no surprise that RCV is gaining ground in cities and states across the country. RCV would give Texas voters the freedom to support their favorite candidate without fear of throwing away their votes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 16 at 7-8PM - Houston Chapter: In Person to Rank Beer:** RCV for Texas Houston Chapter invites you to rank a flight of beers at The Phoenix on Westheimer. What better way to see how RCV works! [Register here.](#)

- **June 29 at 6-8PM CT - Phone Bank:** Call supporters to get more people active in the RCV movement! Help them identify volunteer activities, follow us on social media, and/or donate to support our efforts to get Texas to adopt RCV. [Register here.](#)
- **July 12 at 7-8PM CT - Speaker Training:** Help educate the public about RCV and gain endorsements through speaking engagements. This is the opening session of Speaker Training for passionate and engaging volunteers to become knowledgeable and confident to make presentations. [Register here.](#)
- **August 16 at 7-8:15PM CT- Improve Texas Elections:** Join our bi-monthly meeting to learn more about RCV and how you can help implement this nonpartisan change to make elections better. These meetings are hosted via Zoom to help expand our network and recruit volunteers. Bring friend and join! [Register here.](#)
- **November 8 at 7 AM - 7PM - Talk to Voters about RCV on Election Day:** Join other RCV supports to help educate more Texans about RCV as they leave the polls during election day. You can volunteer as long as you want throughout the day. We provide all the information you need to have a great experience. [Register here.](#)

Special June Event: Beer Ranking in Houston!

Have you ever wondered what the best beer in Texas is? Wonder no longer! This Thursday on June 16th at 7:00 PM, the Houston Chapter of RCV for Texas will be hosting an event at The Phoenix on Westheimer (1915 Westheimer Rd). The Houston chapter will be using ranked choice voting to select the BEST beer! If you live in or near Houston, then come join us for a night of ranked choice voting fun! Please feel free to bring a friend(s)! [Register here!](#)



We need your help!

Leading the charge for better elections in Texas through our grassroots campaign requires resources and help from committed supporters like you!

Ranked choice voting can lead to better elections by saving taxpayers time and money, creating broad support for candidates, reducing negative campaigning, and giving voters more choice and a stronger voice.

Please help bring ranked choice voting to Texas by donating today!

[Donate](#)



Ranked Choice Voting for Texas

<http://www.rcvfortexas.org/>

