

## **STAR Voting FAQ:**

### **What's wrong with our current voting method?**

- “Choose One” Plurality Voting is only accurate when there are two candidates in the race. That's why we have a two party system.
- When there are more than two candidates, vote-splitting can cause a majority coalition to end up divided and conquered (aka the Spoiler Effect).
- Voters often have to be strategic and vote for the lesser of two evils.

### **What is STAR Voting?**

- STAR Voting is a more expressive voting method using a 5-star ballot.
- Voters give their favorite(s) 5 stars, their last choice(s) 0 stars, and score other candidates in between to indicate their preference order and level of support. Those you leave blank get a zero.
- If you don't have a preference you can give candidates the same scores.

### **What would the STAR Voting for Oregon Act do?**

- If adopted, the initiative will make STAR Voting the default voting method for all Oregon elections, including local, statewide, federal, and presidential elections.
- For partisan elections, a STAR Voting partisan primary for each party would be held, which would advance the top candidate from each party to a STAR Voting general election.
- For nonpartisan elections, the act would eliminate primaries as the default and voters would only need to vote once, in November. Jurisdictions may opt to have a top-five primary for a given race if desired.
- Jurisdictions that have already adopted other alternative voting methods would be unaffected, and jurisdictions would be allowed to change or upgrade their voting method in the future.

### **What is the process for passing the STAR Voting for Oregon Act?**

- To get on the November 2024 ballot, we'll need to collect around 175,000 signatures by July 5th, 2024. Then voters will have the chance to vote YES!

### **Is STAR Voting vulnerable to strategic voting?**

- Under the current system (and in RCV), voting for your favorite is not necessarily a good idea. STAR Voting was invented to ensure that voters can and should vote their conscience. With STAR Voting, honesty is the best policy.
- The best strategy is to follow the instructions and give your favorite or favorite(s) 5 stars, your least-favorite(s) 0 stars, and to show your honest preference order.

### **What are the benefits of eliminating unnecessary primary elections?**

- STAR Voting is highly accurate with any number of candidates in the race, so there's no need for a primary for nonpartisan elections in most cases.
- Primaries generally have lower turnout than general elections, which means they aren't as representative as they could be.
- Eliminating unnecessary primaries makes running for office more accessible and affordable for candidates, shortens the campaign season, and would save taxpayers money as well.

### **Is this the same as Ranked Choice (RCV) aka Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)? Why not just go with RCV?**

- No. While the two methods do have a lot in common, STAR Voting is a modern voting method invented to better deliver on the goals of RCV, while addressing known issues with the 150 year old system.
- In RCV, not all rankings given are actually counted, and ignoring this ballot data leads to serious issues in competitive elections. In STAR Voting, all ballot data is counted and every ballot is included in the deciding round of the election.
- STAR Voting is simpler and more transparent for voters, more accurate and more resistant to strategy, and easier to officiate and audit as well.
- STAR Voting is tallied using simple addition in only two rounds, so it can be tallied quickly and easily at the local level, and it also scales well, while RCV requires centralized tabulation, making it less secure, creating logistical and legal issues, and causing significant delays before results can be reported.

### **What happens in the STAR runoff if I gave both finalists the same scores?**

- If you have a strong preference between candidates, you should show it, but regardless, the scores you give will always help your favorites advance.
- If you gave both finalists the same score, that is counted as a vote of no-preference between those two. You like or dislike them equally.
- The ability to give candidates equal support, if desired, is critical for maintaining accurate elections when there are many candidates in a race.

### **What about multi-winner and Proportional Representation (PR) elections?**

- STAR Voting can be used for multi-winner races as well, and there is a proportional representation version, called Proportional STAR Voting, that jurisdictions could adopt in the future if desired.

### **Would STAR Voting cost money or save money?**

- STAR Voting would simplify and streamline our elections processes, and would save money in the long run.
- Initial transition costs would likely be recouped within the first few election cycles.
- STAR Voting is compatible with our existing elections infrastructure and wouldn't require new equipment. The main upfront costs would include voter education, software upgrades, and one-time certification costs.

### **Where has STAR Voting been used for elections to date?**

- STAR Voting has been used widely in both the public and private sector, including for Oregon party elections at the local and statewide levels.
- To set up a STAR election yourself, go to [star.vote](https://star.vote)

### **Is STAR Voting constitutional? Does it pass One-Person-One-Vote?**

- Yes! Your ballot is your one vote and your one vote goes to the finalist you prefer.
- The legal definition of One-Person-One-Vote is an Equally-Weighted Vote. STAR Voting ensures that all votes are equally powerful no matter how many candidates you have on your side and whether or not your favorite can win.
- STAR Voting is not only fully constitutional in Oregon, but it's constitutional and legally viable all over the country.

**Learn more at [starvoting.org](https://starvoting.org) and [equal.vote](https://equal.vote)**