

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING IN THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) is used in Takoma Park municipal elections.


The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 after 84% of voters supported changing to IRV when the question was put on the ballot in the 2005 City Election.

- IRV helps elect candidates that better reflect the support of most voters.
- IRV discourages negative campaigning because victories may require candidates to be the second or third choices of the supporters of some of their opponents.
- Candidates running in IRV elections do best when they attract a strong core of first-choice support while also reaching out for second or later choices of voters.

Sample Election with Three Candidates

- a. Mark an **X** in the 1st choice column next to your 1st choice, then the 2nd box next to your second choice, and so on until you have ranked all your choices.
- b. Pick a different candidate for each choice.
- c. You may rank as many or few candidates as you wish.
- d. Mark only one box per candidate and mark only one box per column.

Rank candidates in order of choice. (1 box per candidate, 1 box per choice)	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	4 th Choice
ALEXANDER HAMILTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ABIGAIL ADAMS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>John Adams</i> <small>(Write-in Candidate)</small>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Advice for Voting

Mark your favorite as your 1st choice, followed by your compromise choices. Ranking compromises will not hurt your favorite. During the count, your lower rankings count only if your top choice loses.

RESULTS USING INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING (IRV)

CANDIDATE	First Round	First Round %	Instant Runoff	Second Round	Second Round %	Outcome
Alexander Hamilton	72	37.9%	+9	81	45.5%	
Abigail Adams	84	44.2%	+13	97	54.5%	Win
Benjamin Franklin	33	17.4%	-33	--		
Write-In #1 <i>John Adams</i>	1	.5%	-1	--		
Other Write-Ins	0	--	--	--		
Total Valid Votes	190	100%		178	100%	
No Vote/ Exhausted Ballots	0	--	+12	12		
TOTAL VOTES	190			190		

In the first round of counting, no candidate had a majority, or over 50% of the vote.
 Abigail Adams had the most votes, but not enough to win the election.
 To win, a candidate needs more than 50% of the total valid votes.

The Instant Runoff begins

The write-in, John Adams, is eliminated.
 He was the first choice on only one ballot and was not the second choice of any other voters. No second choice was marked on this ballot. The ballot is exhausted.

Benjamin Franklin is eliminated.
 He was the first choice on 33 of the ballots.
 For each of these 33 ballots, if the voter selected a second choice that vote was redistributed to one of the two advancing candidates (Alexander Hamilton and Abigail Adams).

12 voters did not indicate a second choice or selected an eliminated candidate as their second choice.
 These 12 ballots are “exhausted” and reduce the number of valid votes by 12 (to 178).

22 voters selected either Alexander Hamilton or Abigail Adams as their second choice.
 These votes were redistributed to the two advancing candidates accordingly.

**Now, Abigail Adams has 97 votes and Alexander Hamilton has 81 votes.
 Abigail Adams wins with more than 50% of the valid votes in the second round.**

*For more information about City of Takoma Park elections,
 contact the City Clerk’s Office at 301-891-7267 or email Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.*