RCV Voter Education
Moving Forward

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters recently added a Ranked-Choice Voting page to its website, www.acgov.org/rov, that features an array of Frequently Asked Questions about RCV.

The new page is a clear signal that the RCV Voter Education effort is in full swing as election workers gear up for the debut of Ranked-Choice Voting in Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro in November.

The Registrar’s office is already moving on many fronts to educate voters about RCV.

Registrar of Voters Dave Macdonald and his staff have already spoken to several community groups and his staff has appeared at public events about RCV, a voting format never before used in Alameda County.

Behind the scenes, Macdonald is conducting regular sessions with his staff to build their knowledge of RCV, while at the same time coordinating efforts to reach out to staff from Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro so that they can be involved in educating voters.

The Registrar has also interviewed three video producers and is taking bids for the production of a 3- to 5-minute instructional video that will be used to explain RCV.

The video will be placed on the Registrar’s website, along with a Flash media presentation and several downloadable guides to help voters prepare for using RCV.

If your community group is interested in having a demonstration of RCV and an explanation of how it works, contact the Registrar of Voters Office at (510) 272-6933.

There is much to do between now and November, when voters in Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro will use Ranked-Choice Voting for the first time.

Here’s a rough timeline of outreach efforts by the Registrar of Voter’s Office leading up to the November election.

**April-May:** Training for County and City employees and other volunteers who will conduct voter education sessions about RCV.

**April-May:** Release of voter education materials, including brochure and I-Phone Application, explaining RCV.

**April-November:** Voter education sessions conducted, appearances at festivals and public events, to improve understanding about RCV.

**May-June:** Production of Voter Education Video explaining how to vote using RCV and how RCV works.

**July:** Kickoff event outlining all public education efforts, focusing on the push to educate voters before November.

**October:** Mailing about RCV to voters.

**November 2:** Election.

**Offices that will be elected using RCV:**
- Berkeley Mayor
- Berkeley Auditor
- Berkeley City Council
- Oakland Mayor
- Oakland City Attorney
- Oakland City Auditor
- Oakland City Council
- Oakland School Board
- San Leandro Mayor
- San Leandro City Council

### What is Ranked-Choice Voting?

Voters rank a first, second- and third-choice candidate for a single office. This makes it possible to elect candidates by majority vote without a separate run-off election.

### How Does RCV Work?

First, all first choices are counted. Any candidate who receives more than 50% of the first choices is the winner.

If no candidate receives more than 50%, a process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes begins:

- First, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated.
- Second, voters who selected the eliminated candidate as their first choice have their votes transferred to their second choice.
- Third, votes are recounted.
- Fourth, a candidate receiving more than 50% is the winner. If no candidate receives more than 50%, the process of eliminating candidates and transferring votes continues until there is a winner.