

# Ranked Choice Voting 101

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- ◆ Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) /  
Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)
- ◆ Approved by voters in 2002
  - Was to be in place by November 2003
  - Will first be used in November 2004 – Supes,  
Community College Board, School Board
- ◆ San Francisco the first major US city



## How does it work?

- ◆ In candidate races, voters may rank three choices
- ◆ You may vote for one, two or three candidates
- ◆ After ballots are counted (provisional, absentee) – if nobody has 50% +1, last place is dumped
- ◆ Ballots which had them in first place now examined for second place, and votes are re-tallied
- ◆ Anyone have 50% +1? No? Repeat two steps above
- ◆ If the first AND second choices are eliminated from consideration on a ballot, the third choice is used





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## How WILL it work?

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Let us pray.



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## Will it go into effect?

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- ◆ There will be last minute attempts to kill it off
- ◆ It's already been delayed for a year
- ◆ Information about how Elections intends to implement it has not been widely disseminated
- ◆ Will it happen? We don't know. We assume so until informed otherwise



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## How will it affect campaigning?

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- ◆ Wait a minute.



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## Bucolic District Twelve

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- ◆ This is an example
- ◆ Let's just pretend it exists
- ◆ It's generally left
- ◆ It sent a progressive to City Hall in 2000
- ◆ He's being aimed at from left AND right.
- ◆ Reep, Green, Dems, Workers of the World, Need My Meds parties all represented.
- ◆ Go ahead and speculate. This really is hypothetical.



## Six Candidates for the job

- ◆ Joe Incumbent: four years on job, progressive
- ◆ Lydia Lefty: to Joe's left; member, Green Party
- ◆ Suzanna Socialist: dogmatic, hangs with Stalin
- ◆ Murphy Moderate: centrist, Dem to Joe's right
- ◆ Ralph Righty: the traditional "sacrificial Reep"
- ◆ Charles Crazy: perennial candidate; also nuts



## Check your handout.

- ◆ RCV: vote your top three. (or fewer.)
- ◆ 156 possible ways to rank them
  - Six bullet votes
  - 30 two-votes
  - 120 three-votes
- ◆ Unknowns: 1/3; 2/3; 2 only; 3 only – no determination yet



## Keep checking your handout.

- ◆ All 156 possibilities/six candidates are illustrated
  - With four candidates: 40.
  - With eight: 400.
  - With 31: 27931. (no kidding.)
- ◆ I've assigned "real" numbers to everything:
  - Outcomes if you vote Ralph #1
  - Patterns for incumbent voting or stringent dogmatic/ideological lines
  - Likely breakdowns
- ◆ Assumptions about bullet voting
- ◆ Not about total votes – about percentages



## Election Day!

- ◆ Voters vote. Elections tallies
- ◆ Calculations: rank one votes only.
  - Absentees? Provisionals? Estimates of 7-12 days.
- ◆ Results provided that night only if first place candidate is clearly ahead.
- ◆ This demonstration disregards time lapse.

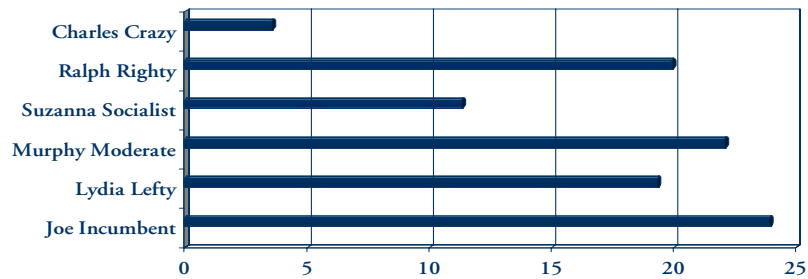


# R1: What Did We Count?

1	Incumbent	-	-	12.5
7	Incumbent	Lefty	-	2.5
8	Incumbent	Moderate	-	1.5
9	Incumbent	Socialist	-	2
10	Incumbent	Righty	-	0.5
11	Incumbent	Crazy	-	0.1
37	Incumbent	Lefty	Moderate	0.2
38	Incumbent	Lefty	Socialist	1
39	Incumbent	Lefty	Righty	0.3
40	Incumbent	Lefty	Crazy	0.1
41	Incumbent	Moderate	Lefty	0.8
42-55	...and down to			
56	Incumbent	Crazy	Socialist	0.1



# Round One Results!



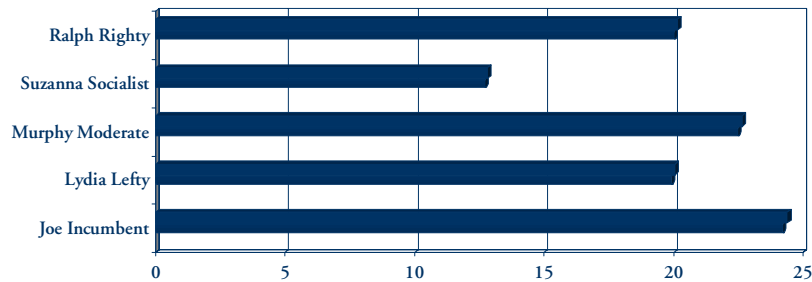
## R2: What did we count?

### ◆ All of R1, and...

32	Crazy	Incumbent	-	0.1
153	Crazy	Incumbent	Lefty	0.1
154	Crazy	Incumbent	Moderate	0
155	Crazy	Incumbent	Righty	0
156	Crazy	Incumbent	Socialist	0.1



## Round Two Results!



	Joe Incumbent	Lydia Lefty	Murphy Moderate	Suzanna Socialist	Ralph Righty	Charles Crazy
Round 2	24.2	19.9	22.45	12.7	20	OUT
adjusted	24.38	20.05	22.62	12.80	20.15	OUT



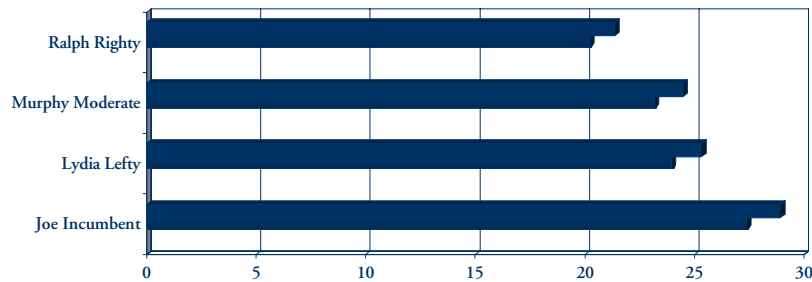
# R3: What did we count?

## ◆ All of Round one and two, and...

22	Socialist	Incumbent	-	1.25
109	Socialist	Incumbent	Lefty	0.6
110	Socialist	Incumbent	Moderate	0.4
111	Socialist	Incumbent	Righty	0
112	Socialist	Incumbent	Crazy	0.2
116	Socialist	Crazy	Incumbent	0.2
152	Crazy	Socialist	Incumbent	0.5



# Round Three Results!



	Joe Incumbent	Lydia Lefty	Murphy Moderate	Suzanna Socialist	Ralph Righty	Charles Crazy
Round 3	27.35	23.95	23.15	OUT	20.2	OUT
adjusted	28.90	25.30	24.46	OUT	21.34	OUT



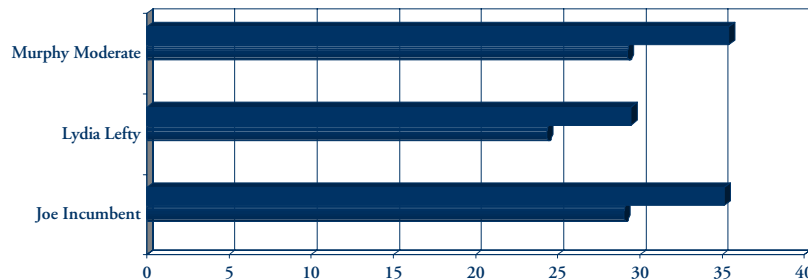
# R4: What did we count?

## ◆ All of R1/2/3, and...

27	Righty	Incumbent	-	0.5
107	Socialist	Righty	Incumbent	0
125	Righty	Incumbent	Lefty	0.2
126	Righty	Incumbent	Moderate	0.8
127	Righty	Incumbent	Socialist	0
128	Righty	Incumbent	Crazy	0
131	Righty	Socialist	Incumbent	0.1
135	Righty	Crazy	Incumbent	0.1
148	Crazy	Righty	Incumbent	0



# Round Four Results!



	Joe Incumbent	Lydia Lefty	Murphy Moderate	Suzanna Socialist	Ralph Righty	Charles Crazy
Round 4	29.05	24.35	29.25	OUT	OUT	OUT
adjusted	35.15	29.46	35.39	OUT	OUT	OUT



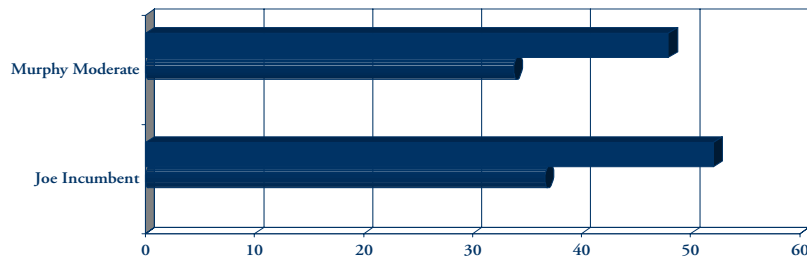
# R5: What did we count?

## ◆ All of R1/2/3/4, and...

12	Lefty	Incumbent	-	2.5
57	Lefty	Incumbent	Moderate	1.3
58	Lefty	Incumbent	Socialist	1.7
59	Lefty	Incumbent	Righty	0.2
60	Lefty	Incumbent	Crazy	0.1
65	Lefty	Righty	Incumbent	0.1
98	Socialist	Lefty	Incumbent	1.5
119	Righty	Lefty	Incumbent	0
140	Crazy	Lefty	Incumbent	0.2



# And the winnah is...



	Joe Incumbent	Lydia Lefty	Murphy Moderate	Suzanna Socialist	Ralph Righty	Charles Crazy
Round 5	36.65	OUT	33.75	OUT	OUT	OUT
adjusted	52.06	OUT	47.94	OUT	OUT	OUT



## Findings/Claims/Allegations

- ◆ Unless you are certain about the order of finish on election day, gaming the system is probably foolish
- ◆ Identifying natural synergies between candidates may benefit both campaigns
- ◆ Negative campaigning depends on race dynamics, and could go either way. Unproven.
- ◆ Races with fewer candidates will have different dynamics than races with lots of candidates; races with incumbents vs. races without...
- ◆ Bottom line remains the same – get the most votes, and you're most likely to win.

