



March 11, 2025

Good morning, Chairwoman Parvin, Esteemed Supervisors, CEO Johnson, and Counselor North,

My name is Paul Copley, and I am the founder of VC Vote, the Ventura County Voting Reform Project. We are an all-volunteer, nonpartisan group of Ventura County residents working to reform elections at the local and County levels by implementing ranked choice voting and proportional representation. I'm here today to share that VC Vote has launched a petition advocating those reforms!

Our community is ready for an upgrade to our elections—one that ensures fairer outcomes and amplifies every voice. Ranked choice voting encourages more candidates to run, leads to higher voter participation, and results in more civil, substantive campaigns. Our proposed reforms address the flaws of plurality voting, prevent or lessen the effect of costly CVRA lawsuits, and revitalize our most sacred democratic process, our elections.

VC Vote has begun collecting signatures, and once we hit our goal, I, along with a roomful of fellow volunteers, will deliver this petition directly to you. But let me be clear: our goal is not to go around you; we want to work with you! Our County government can lay the groundwork and partner with our cities to implement these changes, building a stronger, more equitable election system for all of Ventura County.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is on the statement you received, and rest assured, you will be seeing me again.

Thank you for your time and service to the County, and have a great day!

Best Regards,

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Petition to Enact Ranked Choice Voting, Proportional Representation, and Consolidated Elections in Ventura County and Its Cities.

“WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, PETITION the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors to pass an ordinance implementing ranked choice voting for all County elections. This would replace our current system of plurality, winner-take-all elections and eliminate the two-round runoff model, resulting in a single, high-turnout election in November of each election year.

Furthermore, we petition the [See Undersigned] City Council to pass an ordinance implementing ranked choice voting for all elected offices and proportional ranked choice voting for all City Council seats. This would replace the city’s current model of plurality, winner-take-all elections, and replace single-winner districts with multi-member districts or a proportional at-large format for all City Council elections.

We State or Believe:

1. Petitioners are residents of Ventura County and the City of [See Undersigned.]
2. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) gives voters more choices, encourages more participation from prospective candidates, and creates a less hostile campaign environment focusing more on issues and substance.
3. Proportional Ranked Choice Voting (PRCV) produces better, more equitable results than plurality at-large or plurality in single-winner districts when electing members to a City Council.
4. Primaries generally see very low voter participation, and two-round runoff formats, such as County Board of Supervisor races, create a needlessly long and expensive campaign season, effectively barring large segments of the population from seeking office. RCV allows all elections to be consolidated, dramatically increases voter turnout, and shortens the campaign season.
5. Implementing upgrades to our elections will reinvigorate our political process, invite new and previously unheard voices to participate in government, and enable unrepresented or underrepresented groups to win fair representation within our elected bodies.

Respectfully,

The Undersigned.”