



Batch Elimination in Multnomah County Ranked Choice Voting Contests

In accordance with [Multnomah County Code, Chapter 5, section 5.306](#) “all active candidates for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected must be defeated simultaneously”, also known as batch elimination.

Batch elimination is a ranked choice voting tabulation process that allows for the simultaneous defeat of multiple candidates whose vote totals combined is less than the vote total of any other candidate, which makes their election impossible. It is a common practice for jurisdictions across the United States who administer single-winner RCV elections because it both simplifies the results displays for voters and produces efficiencies in key election administration processes. Batch elimination does not affect the voting experience or the outcome of an election.

Batch elimination is only used in the tabulation of Multnomah County candidate contests. It cannot be used for City of Portland RCV candidate contests as the methodology is incompatible with multi-winner RCV, which is used to elect Portland City Councilors.

NEW YORK CITY EXAMPLE

The [final results of the May 2021 New York City Democratic Mayoral Primary Election](#) illustrate the application of batch elimination, which is utilized for all ranked choice voting (RCV) contests in New York City.

In the results shown below, batch elimination occurred during Rounds 4 and 6. In Round 4, candidates Paperboy Love Prince, Aaron S. Foldenauer, Art Chang, and Joycelyn Taylor were eliminated simultaneously because their combined vote total was less than that of the next highest candidate, Shaun Donovan (23,314 votes).

Among the eliminated group, Aaron S. Foldenauer held the highest vote share (7,819). Because RCV eliminations proceed from the lowest vote totals – the bottom of the candidate list on the results reports – even if all votes from Joyceln Taylor, Paperboy Love Prince, and Art Chang had transferred exclusively to Foldenauer, he still could not have surpassed Donovan. Consequently, their defeat was mathematically certain.

Batch elimination streamlined the reporting process by reducing the number of rounds without affecting the final outcome; the winner, Eric Adams, would have secured the same vote total regardless of whether candidates were eliminated individually or as a block.

How the votes were counted - round by round																				
	Round 1		Round 2		Round 3		Round 4		Round 5			Round 6		Round 7			Round 8			
Eliminated in this round			Write-ins		Isaac Wright Jr.		Paperboy Love Prince; Aaron S. Foldenauer; Art Chang; Joycelyn Taylor**		Shaun Donovan			Raymond J. McGuire; Dianne Morales; Scott M. Stringer**		Andrew Yang			Maya D. Wiley			
Elected																	Eric L. Adams*			
Votes in this round	# votes	% of vote	votes transferred	# votes	% of vote	votes transferred	# votes	% of vote	votes transferred	# votes	% of vote	votes transferred	# votes	% of vote	votes transferred	# votes	% of vote	votes transferred	# votes	% of vote
Eric L. Adams	289,403	30.7%	200	289,603	30.8%	452	290,055	30.8%	1751	291,806	31.2%	3992	295,798	31.7%	21294	317,092	34.6%	37565	354,657	40.5%
Maya D. Wiley	201,127	21.4%	66	201,193	21.4%	325	201,518	21.4%	4495	206,013	22.0%	3095	209,108	22.4%	30066	239,174	26.1%	15554	254,728	29.1%
Kathryn A. Garcia	184,463	19.6%	108	184,571	19.6%	98	184,669	19.6%	2062	186,731	19.9%	5145	191,876	20.5%	31758	223,634	24.4%	43298	266,932	30.5%
Andrew Yang	115,130	12.2%	171	115,301	12.2%	201	115,502	12.3%	2506	118,008	12.6%	3589	121,597	13.0%	14089	135,686	14.8%	-XXX		
Scott M. Stringer	51,778	5.5%	72	51,850	5.5%	101	51,951	5.5%	1648	53,599	5.7%	3124	56,723							
Dianne Morales	26,495	2.8%	39	26,534	2.8%	111	26,645	2.8%	3512	30,157	3.2%	776	30,933							
Raymond J. McGuire	25,242	2.7%	30	25,272	2.7%	146	25,418	2.7%	943	26,361	2.8%	1573	27,934							
Shaun Donovan	23,167	2.5%	22	23,189	2.5%	125	23,314	2.5%	728	24,042	2.6%	-XXX								
Aaron S. Foldenauer	7,742	0.8%	16	7,758	0.8%	61	7,819													
Art Chang	7,048	0.7%	16	7,064	0.8%	29	7,093													
Paperboy Love Prince	3,964	0.4%	43	4,007	0.4%	53	4,060													
Joycelyn Taylor	2,662	0.3%	21	2,683	0.3%	97	2,780													
Isaac Wright Jr.	2,242	0.2%	12	2,254	0.2%	-XXX														
Write-ins	1,568	0.2%	-XXX																	
Inactive ballots			752	752		455	1,207		4107	5,314		2748	8,062		18383	26,445		39269	65,714	
																		74488	140,202	