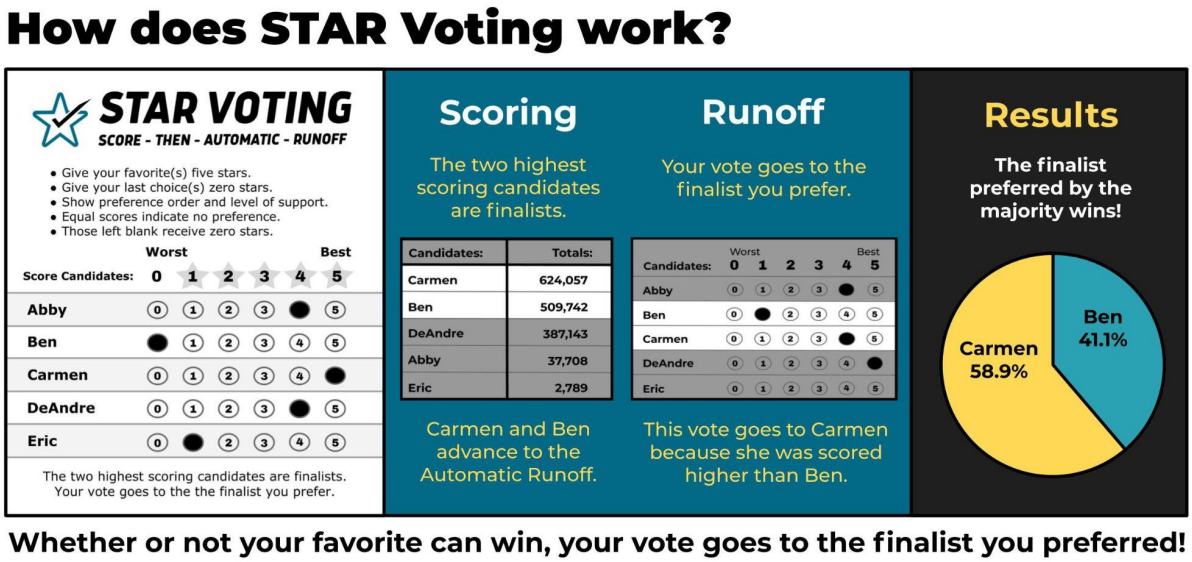
STAR Voting:

<u>How it works:</u>
Voters score candidates on a scale of 0-5.
First round: The scores are totalled and the top two vote-getters are finalists.
Second round: Whichever finalist was preferred by the most voters wins.



Video: [How Does STAR Voting Work?]

<u>Pros provided by Annie:</u>

- Weight and worth of each vote is the same
- Uses simple addition
- Prevents vote-splitting
- Highly accurate no matter how many candidates are in a race
- Can be locally tabulated (for greater transparency)
- Full results can be presented using a simple bar graph (which shows the support that all candidates received)
- Always finds a majority winner in the final round for voters who indicated a preference

- These simulations have found STAR Voting to outperform RCV (aka IRV) in terms of selecting the winner most representative of the voters' true wishes:

[Voter Satisfaction Efficiency]
[Strategic Voter Simulations]
[Animated Yee Diagrams]

Cons provided by Annie:

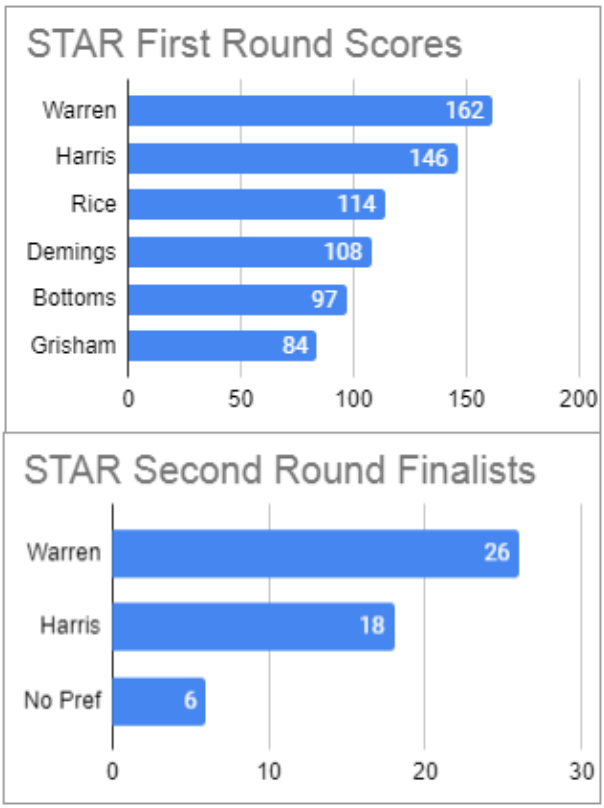
- Has not been used for municipal elections to date (but has been used for state-wide party elections and in other organizations).
- If Portland implements a ranked voting method, the ballot styles would clash for Portland voters who live in Multnomah County.

Cons provided by Samantha:

- Advocates say STAR voting will support electing more centrist and moderate candidates, helping to reduce partisanship. (Clay Shentrup)
- No state or local government has conducted elections with STAR voting. (FairVote)
- STAR most likely leads to more inactive ballots in the final round, meaning fewer voters' preferences are considered. (FairVote)
- In STAR voting, votes for a back-up choice can harm voters' first-choice candidates. Expressing support for a second-choice candidate — say, by giving them four stars — can propel them into the runoff round, ahead of the voter's first choice. This may incentivize voters to strategically treat STAR ballots like "choose-one" ballots. They might give stars only to their favorite candidate — and not to other candidates whom they find acceptable. With few voters incentivized to give stars to a backup choice, this system essentially reverts to plurality voting, both in terms of which candidates can win and the incentive structure under which legislators operate. (FairVote)
- In STAR voting, backup preferences count at the same time as ratings for a voters' first choice, and voters don't all use ratings the same way. For these reasons, the preference(s) of the majority of voters may be overridden, with majority-preferred candidates not advancing to the final round. (FairVote)
- Different voters may interpret "five stars" in different ways, giving them different amounts of power over the election outcome. (FairVote) it's kind of like voting by Yelp review.
- Jurisdictions that adopt STAR voting are rolling the legal dice. Unlike RCV and other systems, STAR voting has never been evaluated through the legal lens. (FairVote)

Presentation of results:

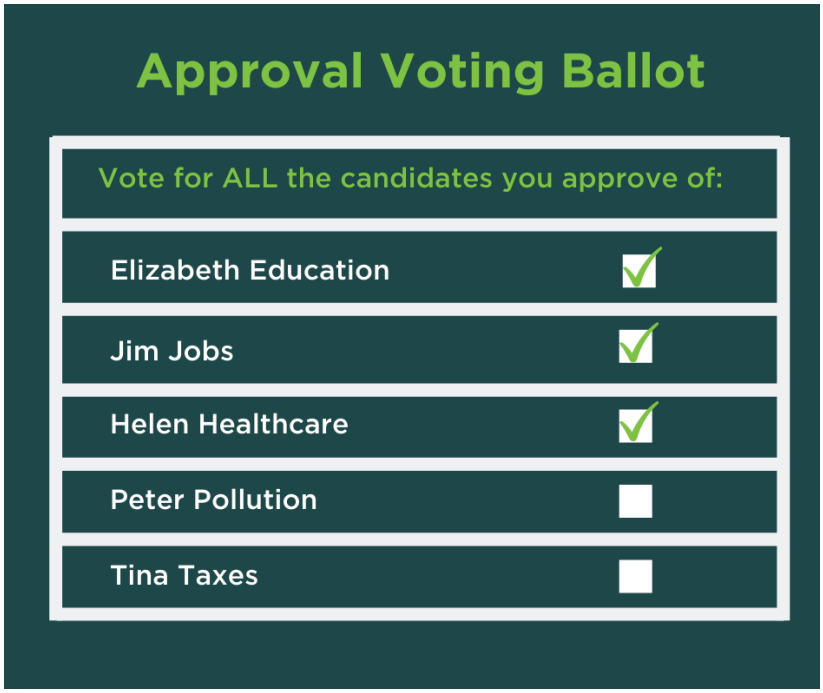
STAR voting results can be done with two bar graphs showing the amount of support in the first round, and how many voters preferred each finalist in the second round:



One benefit of this is that it clearly shows the true support that each candidate received.

Approval voting:

How it works:
The ballot looks the same as our current voting method. The only difference is that voters can mark all candidates that they approve of.



Video: What Is Approval Voting?

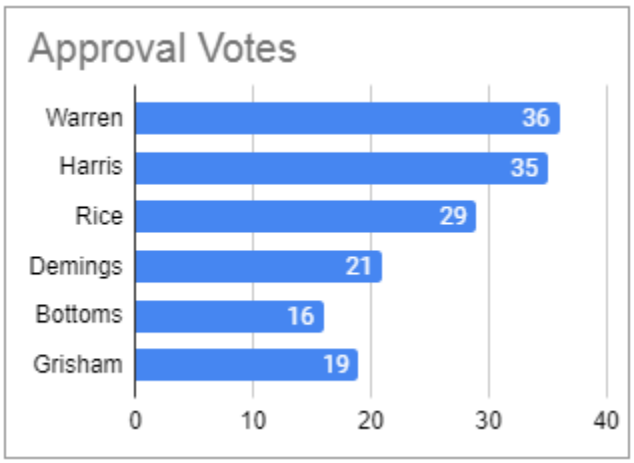
Pros:
– Weight and worth of each vote is the same
– Uses simple addition
– Prevents vote-splitting
– Highly accurate no matter how many candidates are in a race
– Can be locally tabulated (which aids transparency)
– Results can be presented using a simple bar graph
– Always finds a majority winner if a majority exists
– Ballot is same as current choose-one only ballot, so would not clash with Portland
– Has been successfully implemented in two cities so far (St. Louis, MO and Fargo, ND)

Cons:
– Voters can not show preference order (although voter satisfaction with the results is still high)

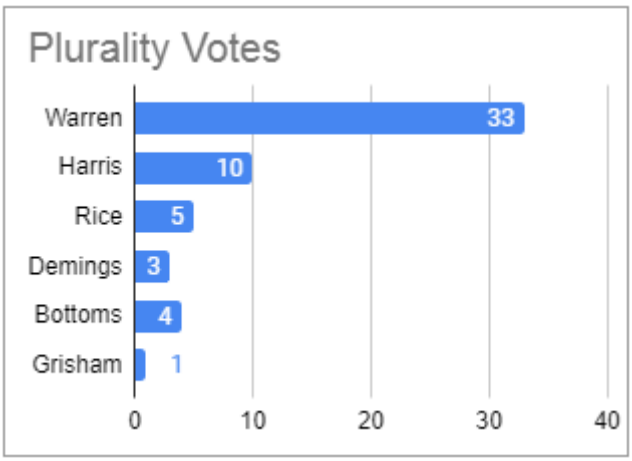
Presentation of results:

Approval voting results can be done in the exact same way as plurality voting results, but interestingly, it does a much better job of showing the true level of support that each candidate received.

Approval:



Plurality (for comparison):



Condorcet voting:

How it works:
Voters rank candidates in order of preference.
Candidates are compared head-to-head to see which one is preferred overall.
Different Condorcet varieties take different approaches to handling the rare cases of a Condorcet cycle (in which a Condorcet winner does not exist).

Video:

Pros:
– The most accurate way to tabulate a ranked ballot

Cons:
– Complex tabulation means less transparency than scored methods