

STAR Voting:

How it works:

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.

How does STAR Voting work?



• Give your favorite(s) five stars.
• Give your last choice(s) zero stars.
• Show preference order and level of support.
• Equal scores indicate no preference.
• Those left blank receive zero stars.

Worst Best
Score Candidates: 0 1 2 3 4 5

| | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Abby | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ben | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Carmen | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DeAndre | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Eric | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

The two highest scoring candidates are finalists.
Your vote goes to the the finalist you prefer.

Scoring

The two highest scoring candidates are finalists.

| Candidates: | Totals: |
|-------------|---------|
| Carmen | 624,057 |
| Ben | 509,742 |
| DeAndre | 387,143 |
| Abby | 37,708 |
| Eric | 2,789 |

Runoff

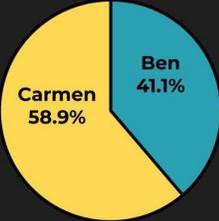
Your vote goes to the finalist you prefer.

| Candidates: | Worst | Best | | | | |
|-------------|-------|------|---|---|---|---|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Abby | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Ben | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Carmen | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| DeAndre | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Eric | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Carmen and Ben advance to the Automatic Runoff.
This vote goes to Carmen because she was scored higher than Ben.

Results

The finalist preferred by the majority wins!



Carmen 58.9%
Ben 41.1%

Whether or not your favorite can win, your vote goes to the finalist you preferred!

Video: [How Does STAR Voting Work?](#)

Pros provided by Annie:

- 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:

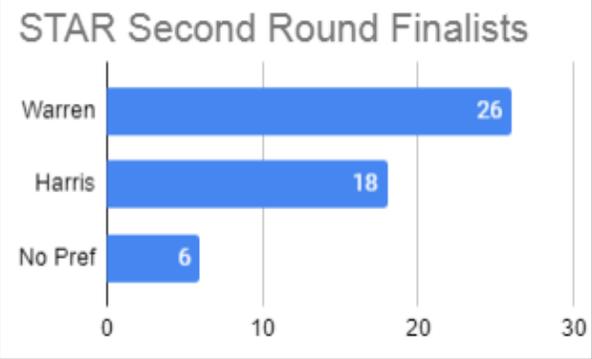
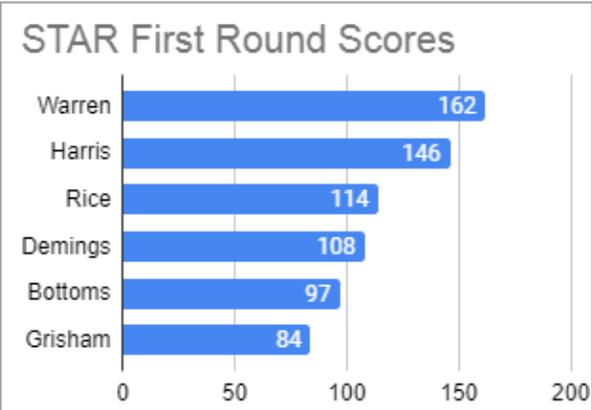
- Has not been used for municipal elections to date (but has been used for state-wide party elections and in other organizations).
- If Portland implements a ranked voting method, the ballot styles would clash for Portland voters who live in Multnomah County.

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.



The image shows a ballot titled "Approval Voting Ballot" with a dark green background and light green text. Below the title is a white box containing the instruction "Vote for ALL the candidates you approve of:". Below this are five rows, each with a candidate's name and a checkbox. The first three rows have a green checkmark in the checkbox, while the last two rows have an empty white checkbox.

| Vote for ALL the candidates you approve of: | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Elizabeth Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Jim Jobs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Helen Healthcare | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Peter Pollution | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tina Taxes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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)

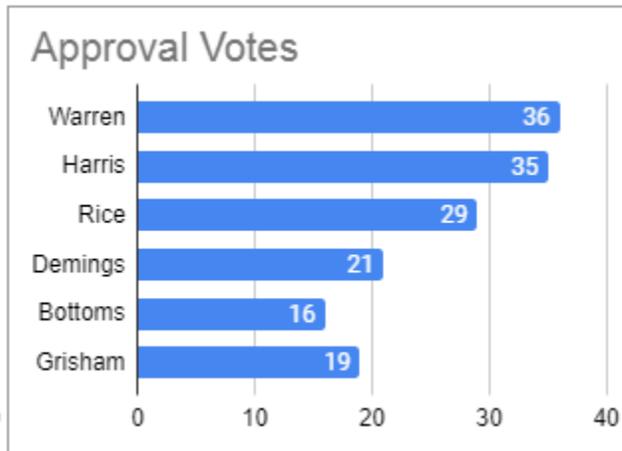
Cons:

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

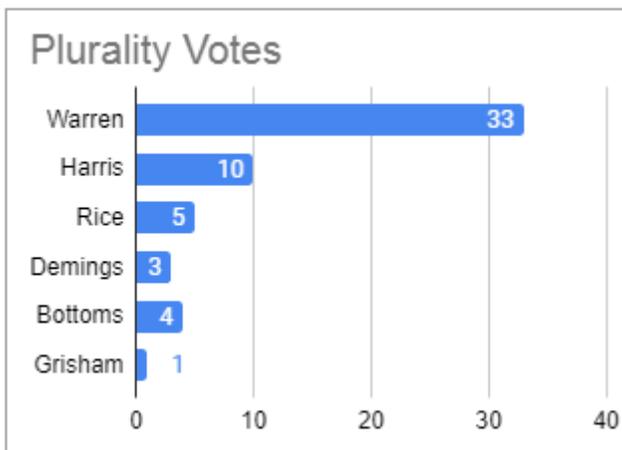
Presentation of results:

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