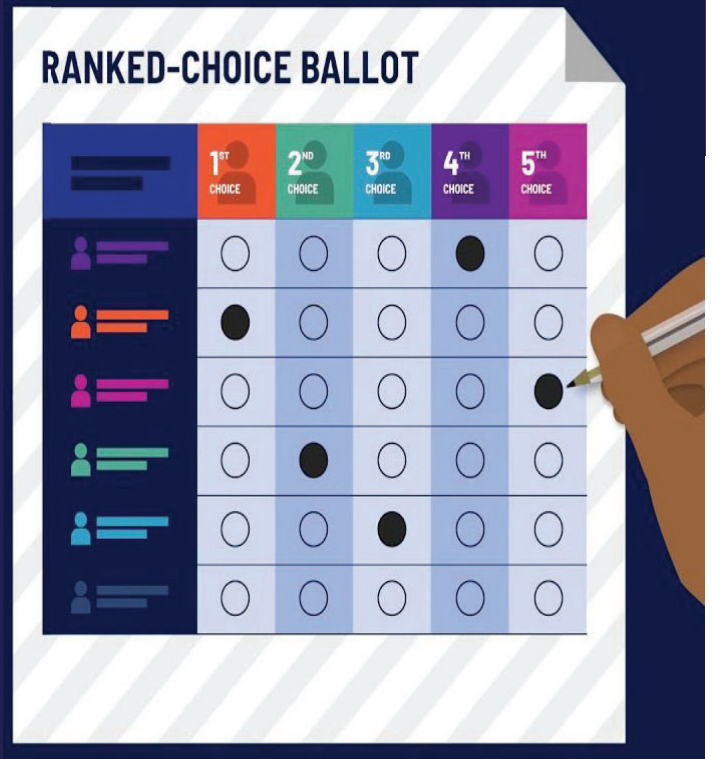# CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE JUNE 2025

MULTI-WINNER RANKED CHOICE VOTING

OVERVIEW

1. What is Ranked Choice Voting?

2. How does RCV work for 2+ winners?

3. Next Steps + Questions?

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

City Council			
Rank up to 6 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.	First choice **1st**	Second choice **2nd**	Third choice **3rd**
Valarie Altman Orange Party	⬭	⬭	⬭
George Hovis Yellow Party	⬭	⬭	⬭
Althea Sharp Purple Party	⬭	⬭	⬭
Mary Tawa Lime Party	⬭	⬭	⬭
Joe Li Tan Party	⬭	⬭	⬭
Phil Wilkie Independent	⬭	⬭	⬭

Ranked-Choice Voting (RCV) or Instant Runoff Voting is a voting system where voters use a ranked ballot to sequentially rank their candidate choices in order of preference, rather than selecting a single or limited number of candidates as their choice for a winner.

If your first choice cannot win, your vote counts towards your next choice.

How Does Ranked Choice Voting Work?

1. Voters have the **option** to rank candidates in order of preference: 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on.

2. If no candidate reaches the "election threshold" on the initial round, the last place candidate is eliminated, and that voters 2nd place votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates.

3. The process continues until a winner has earned over the election threshold.

1.

For Mayor	1st Choice	2st Choice	3st Choice	choice
JOHN ADAMS	⬭	⬤	⬭	
THOMAS JEFFERSON	⬭	⬭	⬭	
ABRAHAM LINCOLN	⬤	⬭	⬭	
GEORGE WASHINGTON	⬭	⬭	⬭	
write-in	⬭	⬭	⬭	

2.

	CANDIDATE A	CANDIDATE B	CANDIDATE C	CANDIDATE D	CANDIDATE E
ROUND 1	22%	13%	35%	19%	11% ELIMINATED
ROUND 2	27%	14% ELIMINATED	37%	22%	
ROUND 3	35%		39%	26% ELIMINATED	
ROUND 4	51% ✓		49%		

How Does RCV Work for 2+ Winners?

1. Voters have the option to rank candidates in order of preference: 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on - EXACTLY THE SAME.
2. Instructions will inform the voter the number of candidates that will be elected.
3. Votes are allocated using the Inclusive Gregory Method of Reallocation.
   - % of vote will be applied to next choice
4. All candidates who cross the "election threshold" earn a seat/nomination

What's the "Election Threshold?"

$$\frac{\text{Total number of ballots cast}}{\text{\# of seats to be filled + 1 seat}} + 1 \text{ vote} = \textbf{Election Threshold*}$$

Percent for One Seat	Seats to Elect
50% + 1	1 Seat
33.3% + 1	2 Seats
25% + 1	3 Seats
20% + 1	4 Seats
16.7% + 1	5 Seats

*number is equal to the minimum number of votes needed to win

Round 1

WINNER #1

40%

20%

15%

12%

10%

3%

Election threshold

Percent of the vote

40%

35%

30%

25%

20%

15%

10%

5%

Turquoise | Apricot | Rust | Chartreuse | Navy | Plum
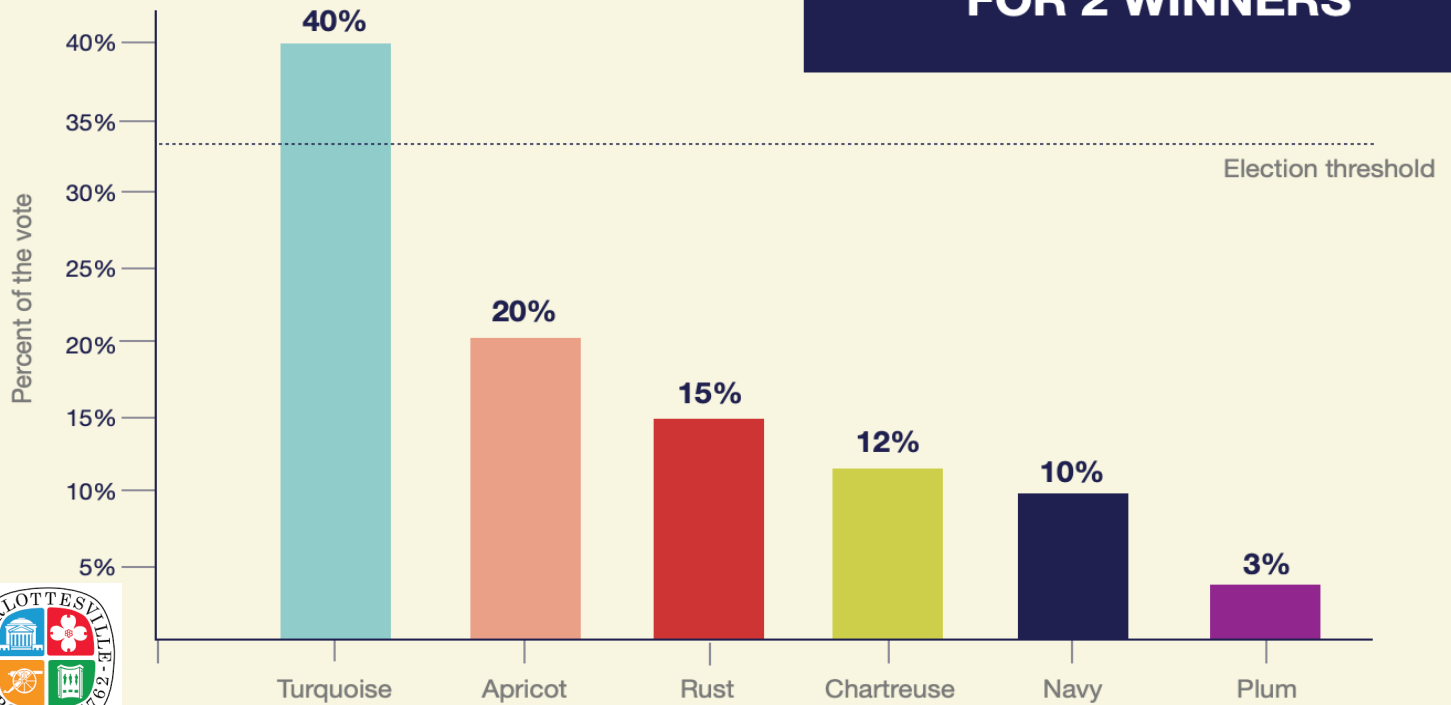
Surplus Fractions

If a candidate exceeds the election threshold, a fraction of their votes are transferred to the next-ranked candidate on their voters' ballots.
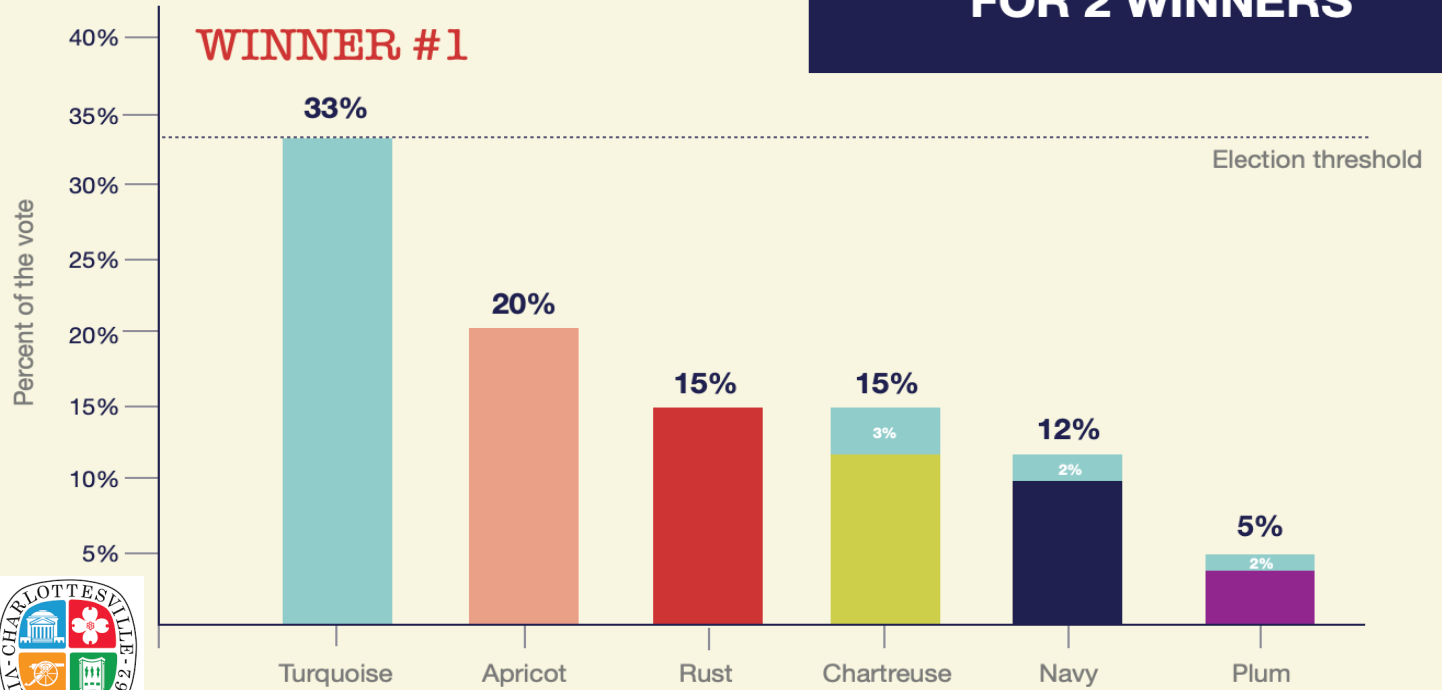
$$\frac{\text{Candidate's total \# of votes - Election Threshold}}{\text{Candidate's total \# of votes}} = \textbf{Surplus Fraction}$$

*NOTE: **Every person** who voted for this candidate will have a fraction of their vote applied to their next-ranked candidate.
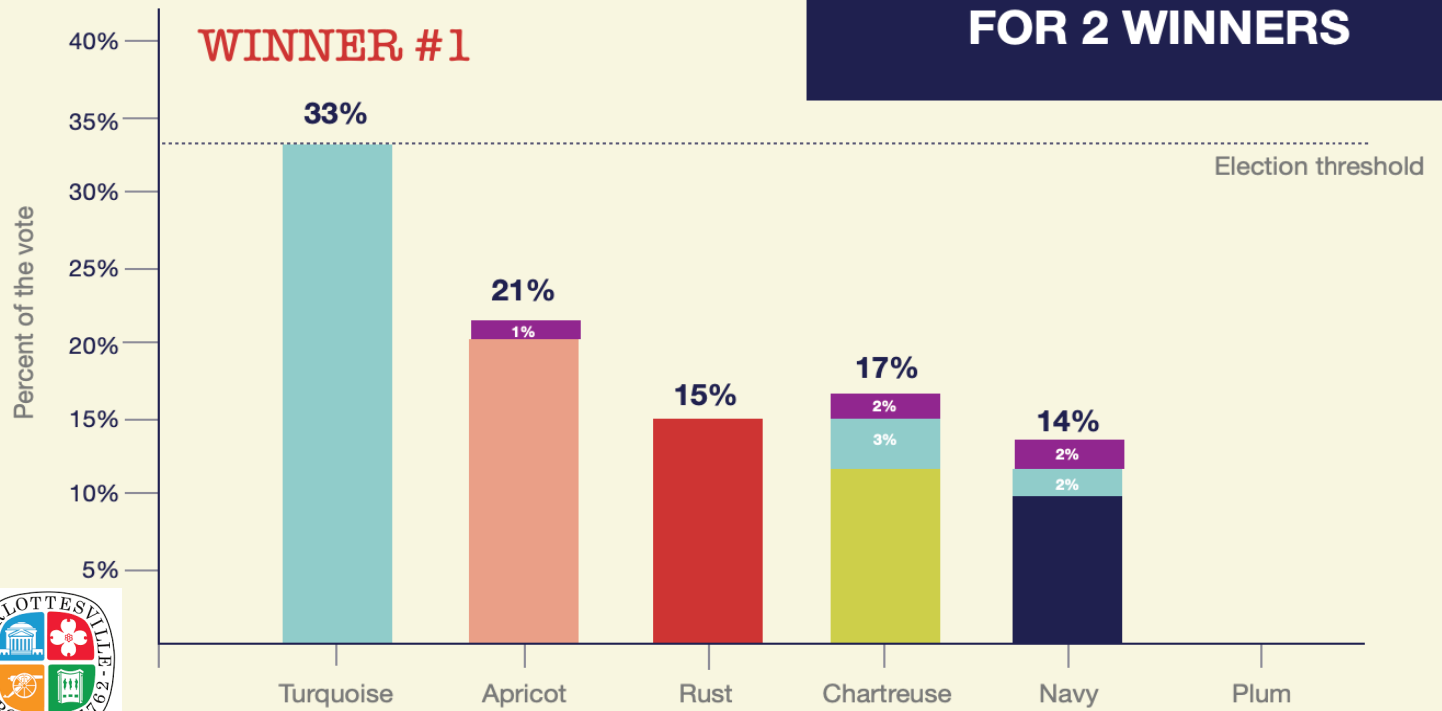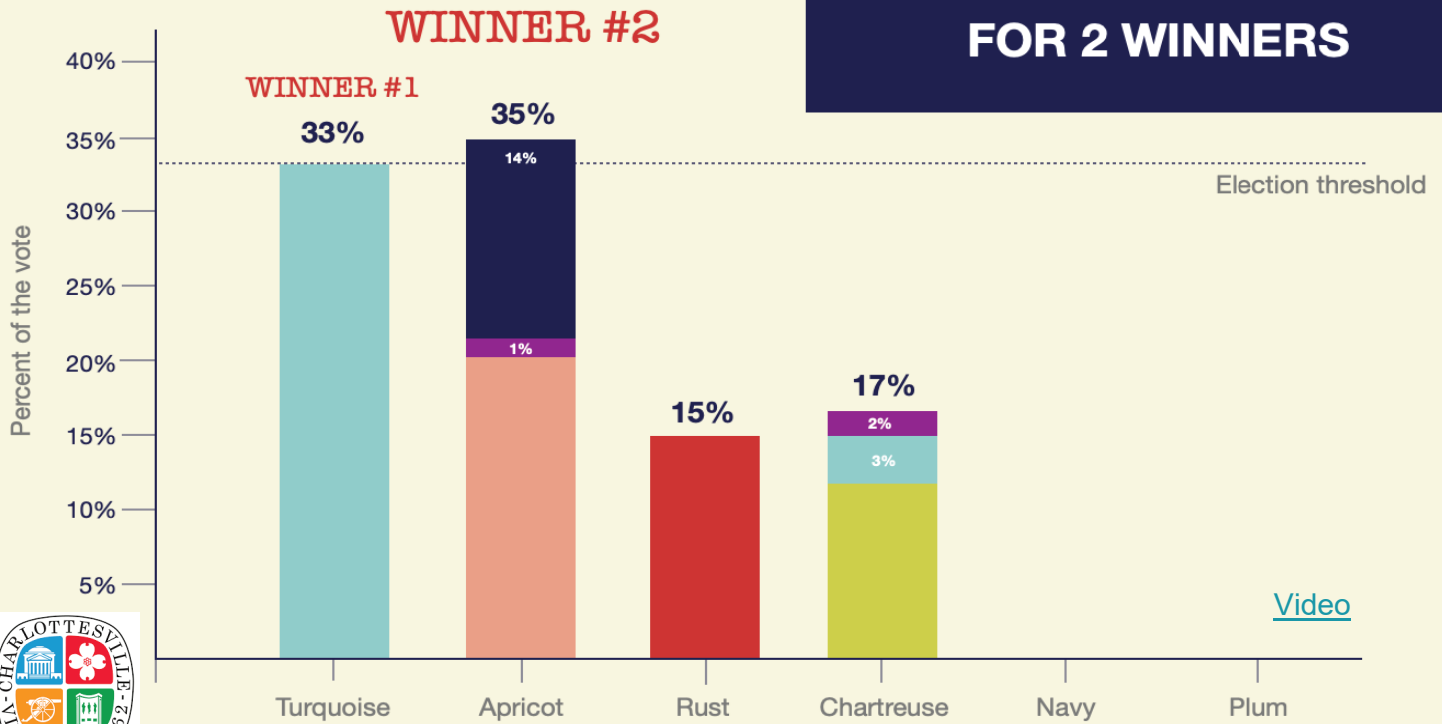
Round 2

RCV TABULATION
FOR 2 WINNERS

WINNER #1

Election threshold

Percent of the vote

40%
35% — 33%
30%
25%
20% — 20%
15% — 15%   15%
          3%
10%   12%
              2%
5%   5%
                    2%

Turquoise Apricot Rust Chartreuse Navy Plum

RCV TABULATION
FOR 2 WINNERS

WINNER #1

Election threshold

Percent of the vote

40%
35% — 33%
30%
25%
20%   21%
          1%
15% — 15%
          17%
          2%
          3%
10%   14%
               2%
               2%
5%

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Legal and Funding Considerations

- Only applies to City Council
- Outreach and Education Costs
- Hart Upgrade to 2.7
- Can be applied to a Primary and/or General
    - Ballot printing

Possible Next Steps for Charlottesville

- Draft, Introduce, and Pass Ordinance

- Develop Education & Outreach Plan

Concerns

- Certified vs. Approved Tabulation Software
- Standards for transposing hand-count ballots
- How to conduct a Risk Limiting Audit or a Recount with a multi-seat race
- General Elections and Write-Ins

Questions?

www.Charlottesville.gov/vote

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