

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1897

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES ZIMMERMAN (Sponsor), ROORDA, ATKINS, GRILL,
LeVOTA, SCHUPP, OXFORD, SCHIEFFER, TALBOY AND LOW (Co-sponsors).

4532L.02I

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 115, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to ranked-choice voting.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 115, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 115.438, to read as follows:

- 2 **115.438. 1. Any political subdivision may conduct ranked-choice voting for either**
3 **single-winner elections or for elections that elect multiple candidates to office. The**
4 **adoption of general provisions for ranked-choice voting shall be specified by order,**
5 **ordinance, or charter amendment in accordance with general state law governing the**
6 **political subdivisions. In the event that the charter of any home rule city prohibits the**
7 **adoption of election procedures by order or ordinance, then such home rule city shall**
8 **adopt a charter amendment to implement the ranked-choice voting requirements in this**
9 **section.**
- 10 **2. The order, ordinance, or charter amendment shall specify the method of**
11 **calculating winning thresholds, how candidates with the fewest vote totals are eliminated,**
12 **how votes for eliminated candidates are transferred to the voter's next valid choice, how**
13 **ties shall be resolved, and how ballots shall be counted. In the case of elections for multiple**
14 **candidates, the procedure for transferring surplus votes to alternate candidates shall be**
15 **specified. Ranked-choice voting ballots shall allow voters to rank as many choices as there**
16 **are candidates. In the event that the voting equipment cannot feasibly accommodate a**
number of rankings on the ballot equal to the number of candidates, the number of choices

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17 appearing on the ballot may be limited by the local election authority to the maximum
18 number allowed by the equipment if such discretion is granted by the order, ordinance, or
19 charter amendment, but in no case shall fewer than three choices be allowed if there are
20 three or more candidates for the requisite position. Political subdivisions may permit
21 write-in candidates.

22 **3. Any election contest resulting from a ranked-choice voting process adopted**
23 **under this section shall be heard in a circuit court of appropriate jurisdiction. The court**
24 **shall give effect to the orders, ordinances, or charter amendments used to implement the**
25 **ranked-choice voting process, but general state election laws shall govern all other aspects**
26 **of the election insofar as such laws are not inconsistent with the orders, ordinances, and**
27 **charter amendments.**

28 **4. Any political subdivision using a ranked-choice voting method shall conduct a**
29 **voter education and outreach campaign to familiarize voters with ranked voting. This**
30 **campaign shall be funded from general revenue and shall not in any case be construed as**
31 **a state mandate.**

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