

HB 1897 -- Ranked-Choice Voting

Sponsor: Zimmerman

This bill allows political subdivisions to conduct ranked-choice voting for single-winner elections or multiple-candidate elections. Ranked-choice voting provisions must be specified by an order, ordinance, or charter amendment of the political subdivision. Charter amendments must be used to enact ranked-choice voting in any home rule city in which the charter prohibits the adoption of election procedures by order or ordinance. Rules for calculating winning thresholds, transferring votes, eliminating candidates with the fewest votes, resolving ties, and counting ballots must be specified in the enacting orders, ordinances, or charter amendments. Ranked-choice voting ballots must allow voters to rank as many choices as there are candidates; however, local election authorities may limit the number of candidates appearing on the ballot under certain specified conditions but must have at least three choices per position if there are three or more candidates for the position.

Any election contest resulting from a ranked-choice voting process must be decided by the appropriate circuit court which will give effect to the orders, ordinances, or charters used to implement the process. General state election laws will govern to the extent that they are not inconsistent with the adopted order, ordinance, or charter amendment.

Political subdivisions adopting ranked-choice voting must conduct a voter education and outreach campaign to familiarize voters with ranked voting. The outreach program must be funded by general revenue and not construed as a state mandate.