

Rebuttal to Argument Against Measure BB

Opponents want you to believe that Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is not needed because “in Albany, when candidates of color run for office, they tend to win.” This is not true. In 2016, two candidates of color strongly preferred by voters of color were defeated in Albany’s City Council and School Board elections.

Contrary to opponents’ misleading claims, RCV will empower voters of color. When RCV is used to elect multiple seats, the number of votes needed to win is more accessible for candidates. This empowers voters to have a meaningful vote and voice in city elections. This is why when RCV was being considered in New York City, it was grassroots communities of color that campaigned for it.

RCV is simple: you rank candidates in order of your preference. It’s insincere for opponents to claim that a voter cannot make their own choices in an RCV election. In reality, it is our current system that is vulnerable to manipulation: “vote only for me”, and candidate slates are tactics that drown out voices across the city.

RCV offers a clear choice compared to the current winner-take-all system: renters, homeowners, young voters, the LGBTQ community, Latino, API, and other voices across the city will have a real chance to be represented.

Voting for RCV now, when our nation’s democracy is in crisis, is an investment in our city’s future and a chance to do something concrete at the local level. Please join the Albany Democratic Club and the League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville in voting yes on Measure BB.

/s/ Nick Pilch, Albany Mayor

/s/ Sara Hinkley, Trustee, Albany Unified School District

/s/ Ruby MacDonald, President, League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville

/s/ Julia Chang Frank, Albany Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commissioner, Co-Founder, Voter Choice Albany

/s/ Andrew Tang, Co-Founder, Voter Choice Albany

