

Questions for RCV Supporters (from an Opponent's Perspective)

1. Voter Understanding & Complexity

- How do you ensure voters fully understand ranking multiple candidates when studies show confusion increases as the number of choices goes up?
- What safeguards exist for populations with lower literacy, limited English proficiency, or disabilities who may have difficulty with the more complex ballot?
- If a voter only ranks one candidate, do you believe their vote should carry less weight than those who rank multiple candidates?

2. Ballot Exhaustion & Discarded Votes

- In RCV elections, a significant percentage of ballots become “exhausted” before the final round. Do you believe it's acceptable that some voters' ballots no longer count in the deciding round? (manufactured majority)
- How do you explain to voters that someone can “vote,” but their vote may not count in the end because their ranked choices were eliminated?

3. Election Integrity & Auditing

- What is your plan for conducting a transparent hand recount when RCV requires software to sort and re-tabulate multiple rounds?

4. Cost & Administrative Burden

- Have you analyzed the additional costs for new voting equipment, tabulation software, voter education, and longer ballot-processing timelines?
- Small communities with limited staff already struggle on Election Day. How do you expect them to manage complex multi-round counting?

5. Delayed Results

- RCV often delays certified results because ballots must be aggregated and centrally reprocessed. Do you think voters trust elections more when the final results take days or weeks?

6. Transparency & Public Trust

- Traditional elections can be counted at the precinct. With RCV, counting often can't be completed locally. How will you ensure transparency when voters can't watch their precinct's results be finalized?
- If the public already has concerns about election processes, why introduce a system that is more complicated and less intuitive?

7. Fairness & Representation

- RCV is often promoted as increasing fairness, yet data shows certain groups (the elderly, minority communities, and low-information voters) tend to cast more invalid or exhausted ballots. How is that equitable?
- How do you justify a system where a candidate who wins the most first-choice votes can still lose?

8. Real-World Outcomes

- Many jurisdictions have repealed RCV (including in the U.S.). What do you make of the cities and states that tried it and decided it wasn't worth continuing?
- Can you provide examples where RCV clearly improved election outcomes—without also increasing confusion, cost, or ballot error rates?
- Seventeen states have now banned RCV, including Missouri through a constitutional amendment, and seven states rejected it at the ballot in 2024. If RCV is as beneficial as you claim, why do you believe it would succeed in Michigan when it has failed in so many other states?

9. Legal & Constitutional Concerns

- Since this is a constitutional amendment, RCV would override Michigan's current voting structure. How do you plan to clearly explain to voters what parts of our current system will become obsolete, and can you guarantee the Legislature will write detailed, understandable implementing laws rather than vague or confusing ones?

OR

- A constitutional amendment means RCV would replace core parts of Michigan's existing election law. Given that, how will you ensure voters fully understand what changes they are locking into the Constitution, and can you point to where the amendment guarantees the Legislature will provide specific and clear guidance in the implementing statutes.
- How do you plan to prevent lawsuits resulting from voter disenfranchisement due to exhausted ballots or inaccessible ballot formats?

One-Page Quick Reference Sheet Questions

Voter Understanding

- How will you prevent voter confusion with multi-step ballots?
- What happens when voters only choose one candidate, should their vote carry less weight?

Ballot Exhaustion

- Is it acceptable that many ballots get discarded before the final round?
- How do you explain to voters that their ballot may not count in the deciding round?

Transparency & Audits

- How can we do a transparent hand recount when the entire process depends on software?

Costs & Resources

- What is the total cost of new software, new ballot sizes, voter education, and extra staff time?

Timing & Trust

- How do delayed results improve public trust?

Real-World Evidence

- Why have several cities repealed RCV after trying it?
- Why have seventeen states banned it?
- Why did 7 states vote it down in 2024?