

## The Republic is an unfinished work.

The government envisioned by Jefferson, Madison, Adams, and other founders has two key features:

- **full representation** – representation in government is a basic right that should not be artificially constrained.
- **majority rule** - more people should support an action than oppose it, but this is only legitimate given the first feature above.

The founders knew that they hadn't quite achieved this, but expressed hope that future generations would follow through.

In California as of 2004:

- Our governor and 5 of the 7 other major state executives gained office without the support of a majority of voters.
- The California assembly, our US House delegation, half of our state senate, and the tax-collecting Board of Equalization were all elected with the support of only 19 to 23 percent of eligible voters.
- Representatives with the support of 8.5 percent of eligible voters (24 percent of participating voters) have the power to pass laws in the state assembly.

Sadly, two centuries later, the founders' vision is far from fulfilled.

## What is CfER?

CfER is a nonpartisan grassroots organization working with political parties, public interest groups, legislators, and election officials to implement:

- **full representation methods** for election of the state legislature, California's US House seats, and local boards and councils
- **instant runoff**s using ranked choices for state and local executive offices and US Senate seats

## How can I help?

We are a volunteer group, and we need help on all aspects of our efforts: education, coalition building, fund raising, and legislative research.

Please **join us** as an official member or just a volunteer.  
For details, please see our web site or contact us.

Web: [www.cfer.org](http://www.cfer.org) - Phone: (916) 455-8021



## Californians for Electoral Reform

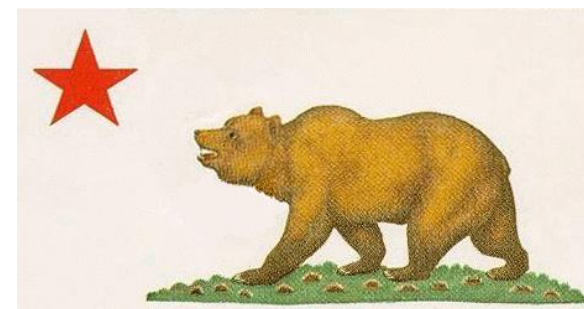
*Working to fulfill democracy's promise*

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If **California** were a genuine **Republic**, all voters would have an **equal voice** in government, represented by someone with their **explicit consent**, chosen from an ample **variety** of options.

We are a nonpartisan group promoting election methods that approach this goal.

Please join us!



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## What can be done?

Over the past two centuries, methods have evolved that elegantly solve the problems we see in California. One of these, Ranked Choice Voting, is outlined here. Its track record of more than 100 years with millions of voters in the US, UK, Ireland and Australia shows:

- **Full representation** is easily achieved. For more than a half century in Cambridge, MA, well over 90 percent of voters have had a representative they explicitly support on the city council.

- **Majority rule** can be established accurately and efficiently, even with a large list of candidates.

- **Voter turnout** rises because voting is more worthwhile.

- **Campaigns** are more positive, targeted, and informative, and less expensive.

- **Diversity** in ideology, geography, ethnicity, and gender arises naturally **without built-in bias**.

"Since becoming a resident of Cambridge in the 1950's, I have been fortunate to have always had a representative of my choice on the City Council and on the School Committee," writes voter John Moot. "In contrast, I have never had a representative of my choice in the U.S. House of Representatives because I am a Republican in what was Tip O'Neill's and is now Joe Kennedy's district."

## Ranked Choice Voting

Rankings gather more information from voters, helping to ensure that each vote counts toward a winner.

For **executive offices** or other one-winner elections:

Your vote counts for your highest-ranked continuing candidate. If there is no majority winner, the last place candidate is eliminated and all votes are recounted. At right is an example of this.

San Francisco voters have used Ranked Choice Voting since 2004. Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro started in 2010.

For **legislatures, boards and councils** where several equal members represent the public, the same procedure is used, except:

- Candidates win if they earn a fraction of votes equal to  $1/(1 + \text{the number of seats})$ . With this fraction, a majority of seats corresponds to a majority of voters.

- If a candidate gathers more than enough votes to win, the extra votes are transferred to their next choices. This helps ensure that votes count equally.

Sacramento used Choice Voting to elect its city council in 1921. Major J. W. Wooldridge reported: "Everybody feels that they are represented, that their voice was heard, and they are satisfied. It was the only election I have ever known of in which this feeling holds."

## Sample ranked ballot:

Meeting Location Poll	
Instructions:	
• Choose the meeting places you support in order of preference.	
[ ]	San Francisco
[2]	Monterey
[1]	Los Angeles
[3]	Sacramento

## Sample count of votes:

