

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 everyone can and should have. It should not be artificially constrained or rationed.
- **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 2011:

- Vote splitting often makes elections a dice roll rather than a principled decision. Our Attorney General gained office without a majority; 6 candidates had more votes than the margin of victory.
- In the California Assembly and Senate, only 2 of 3 voters is represented by someone they support. A group of representatives with the support of only 26% of voters can pass laws in either chamber.
- These are consistent results every election year, thanks to the practices of dividing voters into single-member districts and not allowing enough runoff stages to prevent vote splitting.

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 runoffs** 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 - Phone: (916) 455-8021



Californians for Electoral Reform

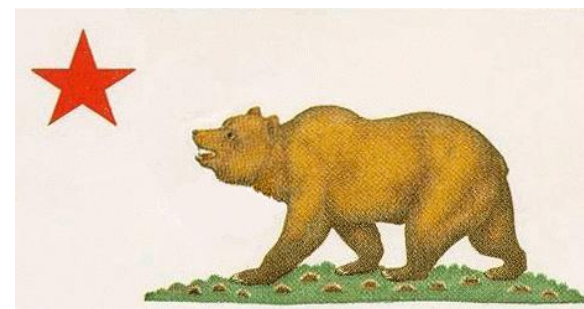
Working to fulfill democracy's promise

PO Box 128
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 455-8021
Web: www.cfer.org

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!



Californians for Electoral Reform

PO Box 128
Sacramento, CA 95812
(916) 455-8021
Web: www.cfer.org

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 Ranked 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:

