

VOTING METHODS Position Statement LWV of Boulder County (updated 2023)

The League supports authorizing and implementing alternatives to plurality voting that allow people to express their preferences more effectively. The League supports gaining on-the-ground experience with alternative voting methods in order to ascertain whether a voting method results in outcomes that match voters' preferences as recorded on their ballots. The League supports voting methods that can improve the election experience, that encourage honest voting rather than tactical* voting, and that consider ease of implementation.*

Considerations:

- Some voting methods are intended for single-winner elections, others for multi-winner elections. It is important that the intended use of a voting method match its actual application. Multi-winner voting methods can promote proportional representation which fosters diversity of our elected officials.*
- Election officials should conduct post-election analysis to evaluate the voters' usage of the voting method and the election's reflection of voters' stated preferences. There should be sufficient data transparency – for example, access to ballot records in anonymous form – for an independent analysis to be conducted by other interested groups.*

For all election contests, except for uncontested races, election officials should report the number of undervotes, overvotes, and invalid votes. Candidate vote counts in multi-winner plurality contests should be reported as a percent of ballots for better public understanding of support for candidates.

**A voting method encourages "honest" voting when it allows voters to meaningfully support all their preferred candidates, rather than leading them to either not support their favorite or "tactically" indicate a higher preference for a candidate who is not their favorite.*