



# Preserve Local Elections

[vote-no-ranking-ban.org](http://vote-no-ranking-ban.org)

Contacts:

Rachel MacNair, Voice and text: 816-753-2057

Larry Bradley, Voice and text: 402-321-4851

## Background information:

Reporters and talk show hosts report to us having difficulty finding someone to represent proponents of Amendment 7 so they can balance the yes/no sides. Missouri Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft has so far been the only spokesperson.

Most recently, [he appeared](#) on October 2, 2024 on KMBC TV in Kansas City, where he said:

“Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) should be outlawed in Missouri because it overcomplicates elections. We should be doing everything possible to make elections more transparent, to get more people involved in the process so that they (voters) can trust the results.”

Our response:

Those places in the U.S. who already use RCV [reveal in exit surveys](#) that overwhelming majorities think it’s easy to use and they like it. There’s also some evidence that [voter turnout increases](#). It gives voters more say in the final results.

But also, there are unfixable flaws with the ballot now in use and the flawed results that ballot creates.

Specifically:

\* A recent Gallup Poll showed [63% of voters want a competitive third party](#) on the ballot. The current ballot discourages increased competition in Missouri’s elections.

\* That ballot doesn’t guarantee a majority (50% plus one or better) winner. [In fact](#), Ashcroft’s possible successor won the Republican primary in August with *less than a quarter* of the vote.

\* That ballot creates the spoiler effect: voters are afraid to vote for their preferred candidate for fear doing so will enable the candidate they most oppose to win.

\* Run-off elections for city and county offices cost money and make voters come out twice (which not all voters do). By being an instant run-off, voters could choose to have one election instead of two.

The most puzzling aspect of Ashcroft's assertion that ranking should be outlawed is that ranking won't even happen unless there's an election in which voters decide if they want it. If they think it's too complicated or untrustworthy, then they'll vote it down. For Missouri state-wide, it would require a constitutional amendment to institute it, which if passed would over-ride Amendment 7, making the whole exercise pointless. That's why we focus on the threat to local elections.

If RCV takes root in local elections in Missouri, then voters might realize the negative claims about RCV are disproven. Amendment 7 takes away from local communities the option of elections to decide for ourselves.

PREFERENCE RANKING				
candidates	1st choice	2nd choice	3rd choice	4th choice
A	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
D	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>