



Preserve Local Elections

vote-no-ranking-ban.org

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Background information:

The black-and-white grainy photos, the sinister voiceover - voters are sick of it, but mudslinging happens all the same because it works. It's where the incentives are in our current ballot design.

Those attacks happen most between candidates who are rather close to each other on policy. After all, if they're far away, they could just point to the problems in policy. But when candidates are competing for the same voters, that's when the mudslinging tends to be at its most eye-rolling.

Ranked choice voting can help lessen this problem. Here's how:

Candidate A will get first-choice rankings from a set of people. Right now, Candidate B tries to discourage that with mudslinging. But with ranking, Candidate B is more likely to win if he or she can get the second-choice rankings from the people who will give first to Candidate A.

But not if Candidate B insults Candidate A.

Therefore, the incentive becomes to say instead, "My worthy opponent's policy on X is good, but mine is better for this and this reason."

Of course, that's what elections are supposed to be about. Voters will appreciate that.

This isn't just a philosophical idea. Over 50 cities use ranking now, and experience shows it does tend to make the races more civil.

But Missouri Amendment 7, by banning ranked choice voting, would leave us having to tolerate the mudslinging. We could have elections to decide if we'd like to have this reform in our localities, but if

Amendment 7 passes, Missouri citizens would be stuck.