**MINNEAPOLIS**

# YourCity.
# YourVote.

**NOVEMBER 5**

Minneapolis
*City of Lakes*

# Counting a ranked-choice voting election

Ranked-choice voting allows you to rank up to three candidates for each municipal office. Your ballot will count for your 2nd choice only if your 1st choice is eliminated from the race, and it will count for your 3rd choice only if your first two choices are eliminated. That means a special process is needed to count the ballots and calculate the results. Here's how it works.

### ROUND 1

Let's say we're electing a city park for mayor. Voters can rank up to three choices on the ballot. In the first round, all 1st choices on the ballots are counted. To win a single-seat race like the mayor's office, a candidate needs to reach a threshold of **50% + 1** of the votes. In this case, no one has enough votes to win after round 1. The chart to the right shows our totals after counting all the first choice votes.

| Round 1 | |
|---|---|
| **Chain of Lakes** | 21.4% 131 votes |
| **Downtown Riverfront** | 15.8% 97 votes |
| **Minnehaha Park** | 23.0% 141 votes |
| **North Mississippi** | 17.8% 109 votes |
| **Wirth Park** | 20.8% 127 votes |
| **Write-ins** | 1.1% 7 votes |

### ROUND 2

Because this is a ranked-choice voting election, we move on to another round of counting. In this round, the candidate with the fewest 1st choice votes is defeated. In this case, it is the group of write-in candidates. The votes cast for these candidates as a first choice are transferred to those voters' 2nd choices. Downtown Riverfront is also defeated because, even if it were to receive all the 2nd choice votes transferred from the defeated write-ins, it would still not have enough votes to surpass the next candidate. In other words, Downtown Riverfront has no mathematical possibility of winning. Note that only the defeated candidates' votes are transferred. Votes cast for all other candidates continue to count for those candidates.

So we eliminate two candidates and add second-choice votes to the other four candidates to come up with round 2 totals:

| Round 1 | | Vote Change | Round 2 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Chain of Lakes** | 21.4% 131 votes | +40 votes | **Chain of Lakes** +40 | 27.9% 171 votes |
| **Downtown Riverfront** | 15.8% 97 votes | -97 votes | **Downtown Riverfront** | |
| **Minnehaha Park** | 23.0% 141 votes | +33 votes | **Minnehaha Park** +33 | 28.4% 174 votes |
| **North Mississippi** | 17.8% 109 votes | +14 votes | **North Mississippi** +14 | 20.1% 123 votes |
| **Wirth Park** | 20.8% 127 votes | +17 votes | **Wirth Park** +17 | 23.5% 144 votes |
| **Write-ins** | 1.1% 7 votes | -7 votes | **Write-ins** | |

## ROUND 3

If a candidate had met the threshold of 50% + 1 of the total votes, we'd have a winner. But in this case, no one did, so we move on to round 3 of counting. Again, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. This time it's North Mississippi. North Mississippi's votes are redistributed to the next ranked choice on those voters' ballots.
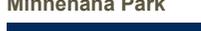
So after redistributing those votes, we get round 3 totals:

| Round 2 | | Vote Change | Round 3 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chain of Lakes | 27.9% 171 votes | +43 votes | Chain of Lakes +43 | 34.7% 214 votes |
| Downtown Riverfront | | | Downtown Riverfront | |
| Minnehaha Park | 28.4% 174 votes | +47 votes | Minnehaha Park +47 | 36.1% 221 votes |
| North Mississippi | 20.1% 123 votes | -123 votes | North Mississippi | |
| Wirth Park | 23.5% 144 votes | +33 votes | Wirth Park +33 | 28.9% 177 votes |
| Write-ins | | | Write-ins | |

## ROUND 4

If a candidate had reached the threshold after three rounds, that candidate would be the winner. But in this instance, no one has met the threshold of 50% + 1 of the total votes, so we move on to round 4 of counting. Wirth Park has the lowest number of votes after round 3, so it's eliminated and its votes are redistributed to the next ranked choice on those voters' ballots.

After those votes are redistributed, **Chain of Lakes has enough votes to surpass the threshold of 50% + 1 of the total votes, so it's the winning candidate.**

| Round 3 | | Vote Change | Round 4 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chain of Lakes | 34.7% 214 votes | +93 votes | Chain of Lakes +93 | 50.2% 307 votes |
| Downtown Riverfront | | | Downtown Riverfront | |
| Minnehaha Park | 36.1% 221 votes | +84 votes | Minnehaha Park +84 | 49.8% 305 votes |
| North Mississippi | | | North Mississippi | |
| Wirth Park | 28.9% 177 votes | -177 votes | Wirth Park | |
| Write-ins | | | Write-ins | |