

## Instant run off voting

The League of Women Voters supports legislation that would implement preferential voting, also known as the instant run off voting, for all statewide elections.

“The principle of majority rule is fundamental to the concept of democracy.” The framers of our Constitution acknowledged this rule by requiring a majority vote for the election of our Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Treasurer. With instant run off voting, the voters meet the intent of the constitutional requirement by providing a majority vote for the candidates.

The league believes voting is the best way for citizens to be heard and participate in government. However, many citizens will not vote because they feel their choices will not be heard. The independent and minor party candidates most frequently are given the label of “spoiler” with our current method of electing our officials.

This system as it exists is broken. The framers of our Constitution had it right when they acknowledged that important state offices should represent a majority of voters' choices. The Legislature acting as a canvass committee no longer counts the votes directly, and with instant run off, they need only to affirm the vote count.

Turning vote counting over to local officials puts the election results closer to the voters, and the legislature no longer will be electing the leaders. Now the voters want an opportunity to express their will by voting for their preferred candidate without spoiling that choice by supporting the candidate they least favor and giving the Legislature the option to elect those offices for them.

Instant runoff is a viable alternative to a run off election. The historic process of the Legislature making the choice based on either a small plurality, or a partisan strength in that body, will no longer take the place of the popular vote.

League of Woman Voters

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