



**MUUSAN**

**Maine Unitarian Universalist  
State Advocacy Network**

***Ballot Question #5: RANKED CHOICE VOTING  
TALKING POINTS***

*Establishes preferential voting for candidates for many State offices*

**Unitarian Universalist Principles:**

- *Fifth Principle: The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and society at large*
  - *Second Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.*
- 

**Voters should be able to support any candidate without fearing that by doing so s/he may be wasting his/her vote and allowing an undesirable major candidate to win.**

You should never have to vote for the “lesser of two evils” when there is another candidate you really like. Ranked choice voting eliminates that dilemma. Under this system, people state their first, second, third etc. choices. If your first choice candidate does not win and no candidate has a majority of the ballots cast, then your vote is added to the total received by the candidate you selected as your second choice. This continues as an “instant runoff” process until one candidate has received a majority of the total number of the votes cast.

**Maine should always have elected officials who represent a majority of the voters, rather than just who gets more votes than the others.**

In nine of the last 11 elections for Governor, candidates were elected with less than a majority of the votes cast. It is difficult to govern well when you do not get the support of the majority of the voters. We should eliminate the “spoiler” phenomenon.

**Ranked choice election campaigning is more positive in nature and promotes greater public support for the democratic process**

You are not likely to rank as your second place a candidate who has issued personal attacks against your favorite candidate. Experience in Portland, Maine showed that there was less negativity and more focus on the real issues under a system where ranked choice voting is in place. In turn, that leads to broader involvement in the electoral process, and greater voter turnout for elections.