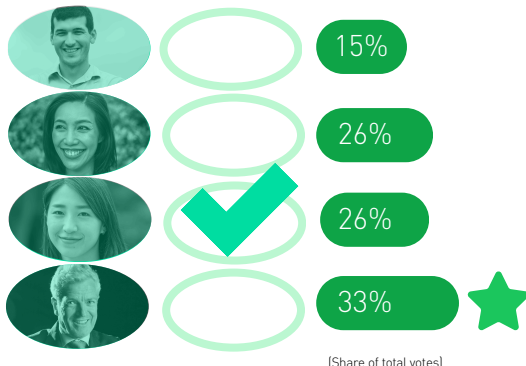


# What is Approval Voting?



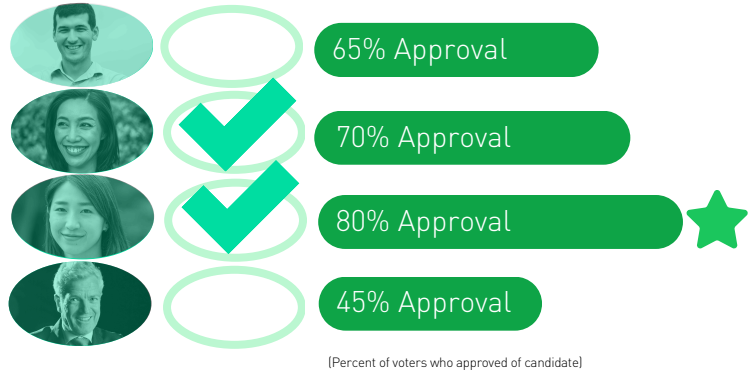
**Right now we can only  
choose one candidate.**

Candidates   Choice   Results



**In approval voting, you can  
support all the candidates you like.**

Candidates   Choice   Results



## Your Vote is Your Voice. Approval Voting Makes It Powerful.

### **Approval Voting is Simple**

In approval voting, voters can give support to all the candidates they like. All of the ballots are tallied, and the candidate who received an approval from the most voters wins. That's it. No multiple rounds or runoffs needed.

### **Approval Voting Makes Every Voter Important**

When voters have more options, they can't be ignored like they are now. By giving voters the power to give or deny support to any candidate, every voter can demand more from their politicians.

### **Approval Voting Allows You to Vote Your Conscience**

In approval voting, voters have the opportunity to express support for all the candidates they like, and vote against all the ones they do not. Unlike choose one voting, supporting a candidate only helps them. Voters can express their true beliefs, without fear of a helping a spoiler.

### **Approval Voting Winners Are Representative**

Unlike our current system, a candidate in an approval voting election can only win by being the most representative and broadly supported candidate of the electorate.

### **Approval Voting Stops the Vote Splitting That Elects Hyperpartisans**

'Vote splitting' is a phenomenon of choose one voting, where two similar candidates inadvertently divide their shared base and both lose to a third, less representative candidate. Hyperpartisans exploit this to get elected with a small, fervent base. Approval voting eliminates vote splitting, and this tactic of division.

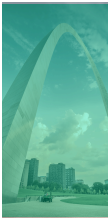
[Try Approval Voting](#)

### **Approval Voting Can Be Implemented Tomorrow at No Cost**

Our current machines can run approval voting elections today. That means we can have better, more representative elections tomorrow at little to no cost.



# Approval Voting Fact Sheet



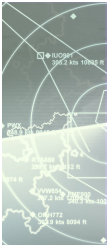
## Approval Voting is Used in Government Elections Today

Fargo, ND became the first U.S. city to adopt approval voting in 2018, followed by St. Louis, MO in 2020. Both cities have conducted multiple elections using the new method without issues. Additionally, approval voting is currently used by the United Nations Security Council, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the American Mathematical Society.



## Approval Voting Has Been Used for Over 750 Years

Approval voting is one of the oldest voting methods in the world. The Republic of Venice used it for major elections from 1268 until 1797. Also used in papal enclaves, over 40 popes were elected through this method (then called 'scrutiny') from the 13th to 17th centuries.



## Why Approval Voting is Hitting the Radar Now

Larger candidate fields at every level are leading to more vote splitting. This phenomenon harms candidates who share similarities (e.g., two centrists, two women), causing both to lose as they 'take' votes from each other. This issue is prevalent in primaries, where multiple centrists lose to hyperpartisans. There's widespread discontent with hyperpartisan-dominated governments, prompting a search for solutions.



## Approval Voting is Different Than Ranked Choice Voting

Approval voting is not ranked choice voting. While both are alternative voting methods, they belong to different families of voting. We advocate for approval voting because it is simpler and cheaper than RCV while still being incredibly impactful. We believe people can support multiple methods at the same time. People can support approval voting, ranked choice voting, or both.



## Approval Voting Works With All Current Systems

Approval voting is so simple that it can work with any current voting system without adding time, complexity, or cost. Whether it's mail-in ballots, paper ballots, single or multiple winners, primaries or general elections, even proportional systems - there is no system too simple nor too complex for approval voting to improve.



## The Winner is Only the Most Supported Candidate

Everyone's chief concern is...who is going to win? In approval voting, candidates win by attracting broad support from all the voters, rather than focusing solely on a narrow, dedicated base. They may lose if they fail to appeal to a wide range of voters or go against mainstream opinion. Simply put, those who perform well in approval voting bring people in.



## The Center for Election Science is a National, Nonpartisan Reform Organization

CES is a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan nonprofit organization that advocates for approval voting in state legislatures, educates the public, and advances the study of key and under-researched topics like vote splitting.

For more information visit  
[Electionscience.org](https://electionscience.org)