

RESOLUTION #4006
ASCSU ENORSEMENT OF RANKED VOTING

SPONSORED BY: Ben Weiner, Senator, Natural Sciences; Keegan Schulz, Senator, Natural Sciences; Seth Anthony, Associate Senator, Graduate School; Chase Eckerdt, Director, Community Affairs

WRITTEN BY: Seth Anthony

ENDORSED BY: Department of Community Affairs; Ben Weiner, Senator, Natural Sciences

- WHEREAS: Currently, elections in the city of Fort Collins are conducted under a "plurality" voting system in which each voter chooses one candidate and the candidate with the greatest number of votes is elected; and,
- WHEREAS: A plurality voting system creates an incentive for voters to choose a "popular" candidate rather than the candidate that best reflects their opinions and beliefs; and,
- WHEREAS: Potential candidates for public office, particularly student candidates or those sympathetic to student interests, have withdrawn from consideration to office or been asked to withdraw from consideration to office because of concerns that they may "spoil" the election of a more popular candidate; and,
- WHEREAS: Plurality voting has frequently resulted in candidates winning elections in Fort Collins with less than a majority of the popular vote, including 6 of the 12 municipal races in the past decade with three or more candidates, in which the elected received as little as 29 percent of the popular vote; and,
- WHEREAS: In the 1999 election for city of Fort Collins Mayor, six candidates ran for office in which former Mayor Ray Martinez won the race with 29% of the vote; and,
- WHEREAS: Elections best serve the public when a broad range of candidates participate in public debate, when voters feel they can express their true preferences, and when elected officials have a clear mandate from a majority of the voting population which more fully legitimizes their elected positions; and,
- WHEREAS: Ranked voting, also known as instant runoff voting, allows voters to rank candidates in their order of preference, and takes into account voters' second-choice and further rankings if no candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes; and,
- WHEREAS: Ranked voting helps avoid the "spoiler effect" in which votes for a less popular candidate are perceived as tipping elections from one popular candidate to another; and,

WHEREAS: Ranked voting elections allow voters to express their true preference about candidates without fear of adversely affecting the outcome of elections; and,

WHEREAS: Colorado HB 1378, passed by the Colorado legislature in 2008, created procedures in state law under which cities can conduct ranked voting elections, and enables support for such elections from the Colorado Secretary of State's office; and,

WHEREAS: It is in the best interest of the students of Colorado State University to participate in elections in which the outcomes consistently have a majority winner and more than two people are encouraged to run to increase debate and public dialogue and encourage consensus building around public issues; and,

WHEREAS: Successful ranked voting elections have been held in the past decade in San Francisco, California; Burlington, Vermont; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Takoma Park, Maryland; Pierce County, Washington; Hendersonville, North Carolina; Cary, North Carolina; and Aspen, Colorado; and cities including Telluride, Colorado; Oakland, California; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Saint Paul, Minnesota; and Memphis, Tennessee have adopted ranked voting for use in future elections; and

WHEREAS: Ranked voting has been endorsed as an election reform by the Larimer County League of Women Voters, and was unanimously endorsed by the 39th Senate of the Associated Students of Colorado State University and,

WHEREAS: Fort Collins Ranked Voting, a grassroots organization in Fort Collins, is working towards placing a measure regarding adopting ranked voting for city elections on the April 2011 municipal election ballot.

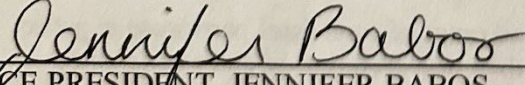
THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOVLED

That the Associated Students of Colorado State University renews its endorsement of the adoption of ranked voting for Fort Collins city elections; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs; Doug Hutchinson, Mayor of the City of Fort Collins; Dan Gearhart, Former President of the Associated Students of Colorado State University; Darin Atteberry, City Manager of the City of Fort Collins; Steve Roy, City Attorney to the City of Fort Collins; Ben Manvel, Fort Collins City Council District 1; Lisa Poppaw, Fort Collins City Council District 2; Aislinn Kottwitz, Fort Collins City Council District 3; Wade Troxell, Fort Collins City Council District 4; Kelly Ohlson, Fort Collins City Council District 5 and Mayor Pro Tem; David Roy, Fort Collins City Council District 6; and Wanda M. Krajicek, Fort Collins City Clerk.

12-0-5

 PASSAGE


 VICE PRESIDENT JENNIFER BABOS

09/22/2010

 DATE
 10-5-10

 DATE