In 2018, Utah passed a new bipartisan law allowing Utah municipalities to pilot ranked choice voting (RCV). Two Utah towns opted in for the 2019 pilot: Payson and Vineyard.

ABOUT THE PILOT:

Payson & Vineyard

Population 20,000 & Population 10,000

Election Rotation

2013 2015 2017 2019
Mayoral & City Council City Council Only Mayoral & City Council City Council Only

PREVIOUS ELECTION PROCESS:

Non-Partisan Election
Two Elections: Primary and General Election

AUGUST NOVEMBER
Primary Election General Election

Bloc Voting: Each voter can choose 2-3 candidates, but not ranked.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING PILOT:

Non-Partisan Election
One Ranked Choice Voting Election

NOVEMBER
General Election

Ranked Choice Voting: Voters can rank their choices according to their preference choosing a 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. choice.
2019 ELECTION:

5 compete for 3 seats

7 compete for 2 seats

2019 ELECTION TAKEAWAYS:

Increased Voter Turnout with RCV:
The last council-only election year was in 2015. That year, Payson’s turnout was 21.9% of registered voters. In 2019, turnout was up dramatically, to 35.7%.

Clear Winner with over 50% of Vote:
Each winning candidate won a majority vote.

Each candidate earned at least 51.4% of the vote

Payson
94.2% of votes remained active until final round

Vineyard
92.1% of ballots remained active through final round

Payson
92% of voters that ranked more than one candidate on the ballot

Vineyard
91.8%

Easy to Understand:
Over 90% of Votes Counted in Final Round:

Payson
Vineyard

Ballot Errors:

Payson
1.7% (47 ballots)

Vineyard
0.5% (6 ballots)

*Note: In 2015, Vineyard’s voters were not counted because there were only 416 registered voters. 2017 is not included because it was an anomaly due to a mayoral election AND a special election for the District 3 seat (vacated by Jason Chaffetz) leading to a 45% turnout rate.

Payson
90.7%

Vineyard
92.0%
POSITIVE VOTER EXPERIENCE

Voters:

- **86%** said they found RCV “VERY MUCH” or “SOMETIME EASY TO USE.”
- **ONLY 4.2%** found it “NOT AT ALL” easy to use.

87.5% of respondents reported a positive impression of RCV.
No candidates report a negative impression.

82.5% said RCV SHOULD BE USED IN FUTURE ELECTIONS.

**‘238 voters participated, 128 from Payson and 110 from Vineyard**

POSITIVE CANDIDATE EXPERIENCE

Impressions of Ranked Choice Voting:

“WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING?”

87.5% of respondents reported a positive impression of RCV.
No candidates report a negative impression.

Continuing to Use Ranked Choice Voting:

“DO YOU THINK YOUR CITY SHOULD CONTINUE TO USE RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN YOUR MUNICIPAL ELECTION?”

- **75%** Yes
- 25% No Opinion

No candidate expressed a preference for returning to the other way

Candidates said:

- “I really like the approach and think it should be adopted by more cities.”
- “I loved it! It’s easy and makes a lot of sense.”

IS YOUR CITY READY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT RANKED CHOICE VOTING?
CONTACT STAN LOCKHART AT 801-368-2166