All right, I think I’m gonna kick it off. My name is Amy Toby, as you just heard. And I'm a volunteer, um, working with Represent Us, which is a national nonpartisan organization that supports democracy reform. Um, I come to this presentation as a local small business owner and a mom of two kids here in San Diego. Um, I volunteer with this organiz with a few organizations that support Rejoice voting. So I'm here to talk about it from the perspective of what it is, what it does, and why, um, why I've been working to try and raise, um, awareness of rank choice voting in San Diego. And then we'll move into our panel discussion. But I'm gonna kick us off with a couple of slides here.

All right, so you may have heard that a couple of years ago, a number of organizations within our community came together in order to propose Rank choice voting, um, for the city of San Diego. I'm gonna go through the reasons that these organizations, um, came to propose it and then explain a little bit about how Ring Choice Voting Works, um, and why other communities have adopted it throughout our country. And in, in a few other states. Um, one of the primary reasons is to have more choice on the ballot and the general election. Um, one of the reasons that most voters give us why they support it is to have more freedom, um, by being able to rank candidates instead of pick just one, you're able to use a more authentic voice in the Democratic process and express your full range of opinion on every candidate on the ballot.

And that's, that's honestly the most cited reason. Um, it also allows for a more diverse array of candidates and ideas to be on the ballot and to be discussed all the way up through the general election. Um, and there's some recent evidence on civil campaigns coming out of 2020 study in Minnesota where they actually are seeing computers able to survey the candidates and see more civil language being used. So it's always been poll and supposed that this was true, but now they're actually able to track and measure, um, the change in candidate behavior because of rank choice voting and the right choice voting process. And then of course, there's more accountability. Uh, voters can vote their values and so they can maybe vote for a Canada they really like, um, and they can express their displeasure about other candidates by ranking lower. And then there's also some savings to be had, um, by being able to eliminate some of our primaries, we can save a little bit of money for the city, um, which allows us to adopt this change without adding a lot of cost.

So I'm gonna go through, um, an example of what the system is now and how we would change it with Rank Choice voting. We call this election the Mayor of Neighborhood Park. Um, it is actually a real election here in San Diego, but I've changed all of the candidates to Animals <laugh>. Um, so I'd be curious if after this, if anybody can come up to me and say, I know which election that was. Cause so far, cause nobody's really got it off the, off the top of their head. So in first past the post system, which is what our democracies used for a hundred years now, several hundred years, um, at the end of this election with less than 25% of the votes, I believe Squirrel, it's really tiny rabbit, um, rabbit <laugh>, it's really, really tiny, um, would be the winner, um, based on that election.
Amy Tobia (00:07:39):
But they would be winning with less than a quarter of the voters actually supporting them. Now we have top two in San Diego, and Top two is an improvement on First Pass the Post, because now we make sure that the top two candidates go forward and then we’re able to pick from between those two. But the problem with that is still the majority of the voters in this particular election did not see a candidate in the general election that represented their values. So if you look at the diagram on the left, that represents 60% of the ballots cast in the primary election. The diagram on the right is the top two candidates, which is about 40%. So that means 60% of those voters participated in Democracy. They had to pick one, they picked their favorite, and that one didn't go forward. Now, in the general election, they don't have a voice again. So with Rank Choice voting, by having the top four or five candidates go forward in ranking them, you’re able to have a majority of the voters have influence over not only the first candidate, but give their second, third, and fourth pick as well.

Amy Tobia (00:08:38):
So these are the reasons that we, um, as part of the coalition for More Choice kind of came together to start pursuing rank choice voting. Um, it's a pretty simple change from a voter standpoint, and anybody who's ever taken standardized testing like my kids, um, knows how to to fill in these little bubbles. So the change would be that you would go to the ballot and you would go to vote on election day. And instead of just filling out one candidate, you would rank the candidates in the order of your preference. Looks like, unfortunately the math isn't gonna tabulate for me, looks like something happened to the slides, so we'll just go ahead and explain it anyway. So the way that this would work, if the slide was working properly, is you would see on the left, and we use very small numbers so people can kind of do this in their heads that the votes would be tabulated in such a way that the candidate with the least votes would come off the ballot.

Amy Tobia (00:09:31):
And then if that was your favorite candidate, your vote's now gonna be real allocated to your second choice. So they go through that until you have a candidate who has 50% plus one of the votes, and then you have your winner. Now, if there's a stellar candidate that the whole community loves, and after the first round of counting, they have 55% of the vote election's over right? In mathematically they have a majority support, there is no reason to go through these tabulations. But if that candidate doesn't exist, then it means that the candidate who won not only the first choice votes from their constituents, but also won some second and third choice votes is gonna get across the finish line. So that sounds like a pretty simple change from a voting standpoint, right? You’re gonna research the candidates, you’re gonna fill in your boxes, but what does it do?

Amy Tobia (00:10:17):
And so we’re gonna talk a little bit more about, um, about what it does, but I like to explain it as it changes the behavior around our elections. And right now, the way that we’re incentivizing our elections, we're rewarding kind of the wrong kind of behavior, is how I like to explain it. We want voters to learn about the candidates and make the best choice, but then we only let them pick from two. So by having more candidates on the ballot, we’re going to incentivize them to show up and be more represented. We also have to think about what kind of behavior that we want to reward in candidates. And there's a rcv advocate in Minnesota that expresses this incredibly well. And he talks about how first pass the Post really harms our democracy because it forces the nature of our voting and campaigns to be really on that winner takes all strategy instead of candidates getting to know us.
Amy Tobia (00:11:07):
So when he would run for office before Rank Choice voting, if he was door knocking and somebody said, I've already got my candidate, I don't wanna talk to you, he would go away. He said, Now as a candidate, under Rank Choice voting, when I go door knocking, if I'm not their first choice, I stay, I have a conversation, I engage with them and I listen. So it's a more democratic campaign process because as a candidate, they're incentivized now to listen to everyone, not just the people who are already checking that box for them as the first place vote. So that's a pretty big change by being able to just rank the candidates. Um, and it also rewards voters. You know, we're told that voting is something that's really important and critical to our democracy, but then we go to the ballot box and we immediately have to start strategically thinking about what we're gonna get outta the current system.

Amy Tobia (00:11:54):
With rank choice voting, we can vote honestly, we can rank honestly and be a lot less concern, um, about that strategic voting. So we're gonna go through, um, a little bit more here, but those are kind of the key reasons that this behavior change is so important. It's, it's not a sea change, right? It's not anything that's going to completely upend our democracy. It's just gonna reward and incentivize better behavior for voters and candidates. Brain choice voting isn't new, of course, been around for about 30 years now. The latest implementation in New York was huge in the New York Democratic primary. The state of Alaska is using it this year. State of Nevada is, um, about ready to vote on whether to adopt it as well. So there's, you know, almost 500 implementations across the United States right now. And, and 11 million plus voters are using it. So we know that it, um, it can be effectively managed. And now we're going to be done with the slides and we're gonna talk a little bit more about, um, uh, the history of rank choice voting. I'm gonna kick it over to Chad to talk a little bit about how this has been adopted in other places and why San Diego's, uh, proposed adoption might be a little bit different.

Chad Peace (00:13:05):
Yeah. So I'll just get a brief background of how this coalition got here and then put into the context of really what's going on nationally. Uh, I don't think anybody that shows up here needs to, uh, uh, doesn't have an idea of how polarized and, and things have gotten at the national level. I represent an organization called The Independent Voter Project. Uh, we've been attacked as undercover republicans. We've been attacked as undercover democrats. Um, and you know, we always call ourselves worthy, lowercase eye independent voter project. We believe that, uh, reform necessarily has to be party agnostic and agnostic towards outcomes. It's about the process and and how you get there. So, um, there are some folks in our coalition who we didn't, we didn't agree with in back 12 years ago when we authored California's top two nonpartisan primary. At the time, we had just gone back to a closed primary because the Supreme Court had invalidated the old blanket style Open Primary, which is for a whole different discussion.

Chad Peace (00:14:05):
Um, but what that did was it set the tables, I think, for reform in California, we have been ahead of the curve. I think there's a lot of states that are far behind us. They still have old, uh, fully closed primaries where half of their voters can't participate until the general election. Um, but if you skip, if you look over the last 12 years, and then most recently in states like Maine and states like Alaska that have implemented Rank Choice voting, um, what it really is, at the end of the day, it's not as much about choice for voters as it is about real competition at the ballot box. And that if, if, if candidates wanna win,
they have to actually compete for voters. They don't have to just compete within that narrow two, two-sided polarized game that I think a lot of folks, uh, um, are unhappy with.

Chad Peace (00:14:52):
So after the success of Maine, um, this was about five years ago. Um, you know, IVP had just co-authored and op ed with Fair Vote who were kind of at odds during top two. But Fair Vote is one of the preeminent ranked choice voting organizations. Independent voter project was really more narrowly focused on partisan versus nonpartisan primaries, believing that a lot of the lack of competition was due to the primary structure. And I think having all come together and start to know each other, realize, look, we're all looking for the same solutions. We're just coming from different perspectives. And so what you see in in Alaska, um, is really a manifestation of organizations, reform organizations talking to each other. So Alaska has what's called a top four nonpartisan primary, and then they use ranked choice voting in the general election. So five years ago we're in San Diego.

Chad Peace (00:15:50):
IVP had started talking about this, and then I got to know Amy, I forget how we first crossed paths, uh, <laugh>. But they were talking about from Represent us doing Rank Choice voting in San Diego. We heard the League of Woman Voters was exploring it, and we think we had a novel idea. We said, Hey, let's all meet each other and talk about, you know, why we're pursuing rank choice voting, and if we pursue it, we shouldn't be pursuing it against each other in different forms, but reconcile whatever differences we have and move forward together. And I think that's where we have today. Our, our, the form that we've pursued in San Diego up to this point is now what we, a top five systems would be five instead of four, dropping the primary of five or less candidates file. Um, and a lot of these, the, the form that we have now is really, yeah, nobody has done it.

Chad Peace (00:16:41):
It's similar to what's happened in Alaska. It's similar to what, you know, it's following the trend of Maine and what they're doing and, and Nevada. But it's, it's the product of the League of Woman voters and represent us and frankly, members of the Democratic Party and even some folks that work within the Republican party of saying, Hey, here's what our, here's our contentions with, uh, the form that you're doing. So that brought us here today at four years ago we brought it to council. Uh, right. You know, I guess, what was that, three years ago, four years ago? I dunno. It was right when Covid started and everything was crazy. So we obviously couldn't get into, uh, signature gathering. Um, two years later we brought it back. We still couldn't, uh, do a lot of those activities. Um, we were one vote shy the first time we pulled it back the second time.

Chad Peace (00:17:27):
I think we're on the pathway to get it on the ballot here in 2024. Um, but that really sets the table for today. And I think the really large breadth of coalition, we really do have organizations that span the ideological spectrum. Um, and really at the end of the day, I think our biggest hurdle is getting over the institutional forces that I wouldn't say are necessarily opposition, but afraid of that change in competition structure. So, um, I will, I'll pass it along to folks like, like Ray and Thad to talk about, um, some of the more, uh, nuanced details of rank choice voting. Oh,

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:18:03):
Actually Thad, you should go first cause I'm gonna get more into the
Thad Kousser (00:18:05):
Politics of it. Okay. All right. Since Rap Politic first political science professors can't get into politics, Uh, well, I'm sorry, I didn't mean it.

Chad Peace (00:18:13):
<laugh>

Thad Kousser (00:18:14):
Thanks. Thanks very much all, uh, thanks to the, to the voice for organizing this, and especially to all of you for spending a sunny Saturday in San Diego. Uh, I don't know what you're doing here, but you know, you're, you're, you're my kind of people. Uh, and, and it's fun to be having this conversation at this, at this moment in this flowering of reform ideas in American politics. So if we'd had this conversation, like when I first came to uc, San Diego, it's now my 20th year, uh, at in San Diego, uh, this was rank choice voting, instant runoff voting, It's known by both of those names was a fringe idea, right? It was used Cambridge City Council. And, and the line on it was it even confused Harvard and MIT professors <laugh>, it was not broadly adopted across cities and states, uh, in the US really, the one place that used it was the Oscars, right?

Thad Kousser (00:19:03):
Cause the Oscars kind of has this voting problem, right? You got five movies all running for best picture. And if it's just to first pass the vote, you know, it looks like our squirrels and rabbits here, everyone's split and something wins with like 21% of the vote, right? But the Oscars uses rank choice voting to get to a consensus winner, a majority winner. And the idea is that once you, once you reallocate everyone's second and third place votes, you get someone who, it may not be everyone's first choice, but they can all agree on it. So this is how we get Titanic, right? As a best picture, right? May not be the most artistic move, but you know, everybody liked it, right? And that's the idea. I think you're arguing against Rcv, <laugh>, I'm, I'm trying to portray Rcv, right? So I'm neither an advocate nor an opponent of Rcv, but that's the sort of outcomes that it leads to, right?

Thad Kousser (00:19:52):
And part of the idea is in politics, we want Titanic type, we want moderation, right? That is one of the potential problems with the American political system now. Uh, and instead of getting someone that one group can just narrowly beat in a lesser of two evils contest, which sometimes is the way people view it, uh, uh, a runoff between members of the Democratic and Republican party. Um, you want some, you have a system that gets someone a candidate who everyone can live with, right? And Rcv has been adopted now, you know, almost 20 years of experience in Oakland and in San Francisco it's been adopted Minneapolis. So it's not just something that's the, the coastal areas have done. New York is the first partisan city government to adopt it. So we, we've now seen one run of that and, and two elections in Maine, one in Alaska.

Thad Kousser (00:20:42):
So what we now know about Rcv is it hasn't upended politics changed everything dramatically, or been unwieldy and unable and, and, and been too hard for voters to use what we found the strongest consensus. Right? And there's a lot of academic literature written, mostly on just a few cases. But if you wanna get say, a, a good take, a good, very fair minded take on, what do we know about rcv Google? What do we know about Rcv, uh, the New America Foundation, couple political scientists there wrote a
very nice fair, uh, look at all the literature and that I've, you know, read a few things in that. But the strongest finding is that voters are able to understand it and voters are generally able to cast, cast ballots that, that, that reflect their rankings. Um, does that mean that they always rank candidates one through eight or one through five in under San Diego?

Thad Kousser (00:21:35):
No, because most people, kind of, after about two or three candidates, we don't really find anyone else that we like, right? And so we don't always get majority winners, right? And, and in fact, a study that came out a few years ago shows that actually most of the time people kind of stop after two or three points on the ballot. And so that winner is usually someone in the forties, in, in, in a, in a broad number. Not always a majority winner, but that's, that's okay. At least we're getting someone who's not in the twenties, right? Uh, in, in, in their support. Um, does it change the tenor of campaigns? That's the other place that, that we do have some positive evidence. So, so as Amy said, it, we, we really see from, from surveys of voters, they feel like campaigns are more positive in, in the cities that have adopted rank choice, voting after, uh, after that adoption.

Thad Kousser (00:22:20):
Um, it, because the idea is to run, you wanna be second on everyone's dance card or third on everyone's dance card. So you don't wanna be the, you know, the, the the mean candidate. It was just Chad versus Thad, right? I could just knock him down all day. We were the only two finalists. Exactly. You would hate both of us by the election. And our only goal would be to see who, who could hate us the least, right? But because there are, at least, you know, if there were four of us, you know, I, I want, I want Rays second choices to go to me. So I'll say, Ray is a wonderful person. He's, he's an incredible leader. He's almost as good as me. Right? So that's kind of, that's the campaigning. It's designed to engage. And at least in our preliminary studies, you know, some of these machine learning things, I'm not sure that we, we, uh, algorithms to really get out civility very well yet.

Thad Kousser (00:23:03):
But, but at least from the perspective of voters seems like it's, uh, it's helpful. Um, and then the third potentially positive effect is there's some initial evidence that it helps women, right? Running in, in, in, in, in, in office, um, doesn't seem to help, uh, candidates from racial and ethnic minorities doesn't seem to help political moderates, uh, and, and doesn't seem to radically change policies. So on the one hand, you could say, well, the, the, the, the overall take that most academics have on this is the findings are either, not much has changed or moderately positive, but there aren't any big findings of, of electoral disasters. There aren't any findings of voter confusion. There aren't, there aren't this worry about people not, uh, not having the ballots counted or not turning out for these elections cuz they're too complex, haven't come to pass. People have experienced it, It's a reasonable reform. And it's, uh, you know, you could sort of take the Hippocratic Hippocratic oath as an electoral doctor and, and enact it without, without worrying about doing a lot of harm. But speaking of the politics in the enactment, let's, let's, let's say it here from,

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:24:03):
Right? So, and, and, and just, just, uh, I think everything that, that and Chad have said so far are, it's exactly right. I would only add, and maybe this, it goes to his, uh, Thad's point about this not doing any harm or being a moderate sort of increase of, you know, um, women, but not so much about, I think that it's difficult to tell still. Um, I tend to call it inclusive, even the part where women are doing a little
bit better, because it tends to be all of our studies are really in very progressive urban enclaves. Yeah. Um, in some cases, like Maine, we have Susan Collins who's already a moderate person and moderate woman who also wins in the next, uh, in a new form of election. So it's really tough to tell. But we do know though, is that in other countries where they do rcv and they have some level of breaking up of the parties where they have more party choice and they have more proportional choices, that rcv in combination with other, uh, things like proportional representation make a big difference for all of those groups.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:25:02):
And so, uh, one of the things I, I should say, I work with more equitable democracy. We're a Seattle based national organization. Um, we, I also, I'm also representing here San Diego's for Justice, and we focus largely on racial equity and how electoral forms would, uh, affect our communities. And so, um, I wanted to talk a little bit about, uh, Portland, Oregon. I don't know if people have heard about the Portland campaign, but, uh, Port Portland, uh, is currently has on the ballot a, uh, proportional rcv measure. And if it, if it gets adopted, it'll be the first to do that. Since like a hundred years <laugh>, uh, I think New York had one and then Cincinnati had one, and since then nobody's done it. Um, but proportional rcv, I'll explain what it is. Um, so in rcv you're talking about, you're not really changing. You know, the, the single winner takes all, you go through a process where you have more choices to get to the single winner, right?

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:25:57):
Proportional rcv, you actually have multiple people in the district, right? So you might have a district that has three seats or four seats, right? And those districts, the, the votes are tall, just like we just talked about in Rcv. But then you also have more seats available. So if a group that at the end, say they had 30%, 40% really, uh, concentration in an area, they actually might get three or four of the seats right in that thing instead of, instead of no seats at all. So part of what we we're talking about, and, you know, I'll try to make it easy, um, you know, a professor Lonnie Gir, who was a scholar at Harvard and a and a litigator, you know, she, she put it like this to make it simple. You know, there, there's a story, a actual story of Brother Rice in Chicago, Illinois.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:26:41):
They had a prom and they had a prom committee, and they needed to vote on what kind of music they were gonna have at, at the prom. And there was a significant black, uh, African American majority, you know, minority in the organ in the school, but a very big white, uh, majority, uh, of, of folks. So they went, you know, they kept trying to vote on it, They kept arguing about it, and they finally voted on it. And the, the white majority picked all the songs. And the, the black minority, which was very significant, got no songs whatsoever. You don't really change that as much with rcv. If you change it to say that there's gonna be that chunk of people's gonna have some songs, right? They're gonna have some songs then that everybody gets a little bit of representation at the prom. And what happened was that because they were under single, you know, a winner take all system, they ended up having a rival prom with their own music.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:27:34):
So it kind of highlights kind of how our polarization happens, is because people don't feel they're being represented, right? So, so for us, we, we wanna look at systems that, not just rcv, but rcv with proportional representation, um, as, you know, how do, how do we make sure everybody's getting
those extra seats? And I think you would find that with Rcv, um, with that type of proportional representation, you, you would have much more aggressive gains in, in, in politics. Um, I I also wanna say that there's nothing here as a silver bullet right there, there every, you know, I, I was with common cause for like 10 years. We, we, we promoted the, the, the redistricting, independent redistricting commission in the state of California. Um, I have had critiques about that, uh, commission for the longest time. It does not get rid of gerrymandering. Um, you have, even with neutral gerrymandering, you know, you have neutral gerrymandering.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:28:24):
Even if, if someone's not intentionally gerrymandering, there's all these issues. You know, speaking of independent voters as an independent Latino voter in California, I'm underrepresented because we have equal votes for Republicans and equal votes for Democrats and a and a state that Republicans are now a minority. There's all these things that we thought, you know, 10 years ago, right? Was gonna be the, the panacea, the new fix for all of California elections. So, but it's not, right? So we're, we're constantly looking at other ways of doing things. So for us, I i, if when you hear about rcv, you know, it's not a, it's not a silver bullet, right? But it is gonna make things better. I think if people will have better, you know, more choices, um, I think, uh, votes will be less wasted. Cause you, Amy talked about votes being wasted, a lot of votes being wasted, but we still need to change the structural sort of racism that's in the system.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:29:16):
Um, and that only way to do that really is to, is to offer more choices within parties, more choices with seats. And that's kind of like where we're at. Um, if you look at the Portland campaign, um, it took, we started talking about this in 2017, right? And now we're on the ballot in 2022. So the political part I wanna say about this is, I know San Diego's had some attempts to get, uh, a few things on the ballot here. It's been very complicated. The way we did it is that we worked with local grassroots organizations over those five years, building capacity, doing workshops, having events, getting people to understand what the system was in the first place, and having those folks validate and inform their own communities so that they weren't so skeptical of rcv, they weren't so like, not understanding of the system.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:30:09):
And by the time that those communities really got it, we, we, we also built up leaders from those communities to own the Rcv project. And I say that having come from a national organization previously that didn't do this sort of model, you know, a lot of times we would run into a state, get everyone excited about a reform, and then we'd pass it, right? And then it would be repealed like in a couple years because the community didn't feel like they owned it. They didn't understand it. The other thing is that, uh, and this is something uniquely for San Diego, you know, that, uh, San Diego has a very new, and I'm, I'm preaching to the choir, but I mean, this shift to Democrats being the majority everywhere is still newish, right? Um, and so there are some people who don't wanna rock the boat at all because like, we just got this, why would you mess this up, Right?

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:30:56):
If you're progressive, for example. But having lived in Chicago for 20 years under a completely democratic machine, let me tell you, after a couple years, everyone's gonna be like, Oh my God, what are we doing over here at city council? Right? What are we doing at the commission? Because it,
everything kind of goes to, it's always about power. It doesn't matter who's in charge, right? So one of the things to think about is how do, how do we, how do we understand that when we do campaigns like for rank choice voting? First off, you should always imagine that every politician, every elected, I don't care how great of a friend they are of yours, they're always worried about getting reelected, right? It's always about, uh, elections, it's always about power. And for some of, unfortunately, for some of them, it's about money, right? And so it, it really can't. You, you really can't be a top down kind of thing. It can't only be that, right? So for any of you who are a part of community organizations, things like that, this is the kind of thing we do as we educate people about these processes and we help build local leadership, it's gonna take quite a while to really get that done. That's our opinion at least. Um, and from, you know, a racial equity perspective, I think the folks that are gonna be most affected by this have to be part of the process at the beginning.

Amy Tobia (00:32:06):
Okay. I did wanna add one thing that we haven't talked about yet, and then I think we're gonna roll here pretty quickly into questions. I think we're coming up on our 10 more, 10 more minutes. Um, so one of the things that we haven't really talked about is turnout. And there has been, and I think turnout is really important, especially in San Diego because as Ray mentioned, um, many of our districts have moved to Democrat Majority in the past few years. So that really changes these elections. That campaign with the fur woodland creatures I showed you earlier mm-hmm. <affirmative>, um, those were all Democrats, um, with the exception of one. And so if you think about that as a primary election experience and as a voter, you're being asked to go, you know, pick one <laugh> of, of candidates with potentially very similar platforms as opposed to kind of fully express yourself.

Amy Tobia (00:32:56):
And the, the concern that a lot of groups have had that are part of this, this coalition is that that's going to, uh, decrease turnout in the primary election because there will be less incentive to go when you feel like a lot of those candidates have similar platforms and you're only gonna be able to weigh in on one of them. And maybe you'll just wait. Um, one of the more recent studies, because again, a lot of the early studies on rank choice voting was a little bit challenging. They were doing a lot of polling. Um, they had a harder time doing good comparisons, but there, um, there was always a perceived minor increase in voter turnout. Um, but they've seen more recently in, um, Minnesota and in New York, substantial increases in voter turnout when compared to communities that didn't do an adaptation that are in the same, you know, in the same district, like immediately adjacent with the similar elections.

Amy Tobia (00:33:44):
Obviously candidates play a huge, uh, impact as to when people turn out and when they don't. Um, but some of the more recent studies and occurrences have been able to account for that a little bit better. So they're seeing between a nine and a half plus, uh, increase in voter turnout. And if we're trying to counter effect, uh, a community where a lot of the candidates are gonna be representing the same political party, um, the idea of being able to rank them and express your values on maybe the nuances of how, um, how similar party candidates are, um, expressing themselves, um, as they're, um, campaigning, um, as, as a way of countering what could be a distance innovation for people to turn out. Um, I think it could be very powerful in San Diego. And again, every community is different. So what they have had happen in Minnesota is different than San Francisco is different in Maine, is different. Alaska, they're using the same tool, but because the communities are different, they're seeing a little bit different impact. And I think ours would benefit in large part because of the sway that we've seen.
Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:34:43):
I, I just wanna add to that because, so Moreal democracy and we worked with common cause and with
rank the vote in New York, uh, to, for that, for that historic occasion. And I'm, I'm gonna also add that
one of the biggest factors we think was, was that helped and turn out was this multi-year community
education project. It was, it was, you know, local puertorican organizations going into the
neighborhoods and actually at, you know, the churches and other places talking about this, educating
people, hosting those, uh, house meetings in the neighborhoods, um, that isn't usually done on some of
these projects. And so I, I, I think that's a significant factor, at least in what we've seen cuz we worked on
that project as well.

Chad Peace (00:35:24):
Yep. If I can make just kind of one comment, um, with respect to that. If you take one thing, you can't
look at rank choice voting. We've been, we've kind of been talking about it like rank choice voting is the
same no matter where you do it or when you do it, right? I think one thing that's unique about San
Diego goes back to the different perspectives and can take proportional representation. For example,
there are people in this coalition that will fight to the bitter end about the merits or the non merits of
proportional representation because there's folks in our crew that believe in cond, say, methodologies,
right? Mm-hmm. <affirmative>. And the idea should not be to segment people into black, white, Latino
Republicans and Democrats. We get our rights as voters. So every voter should be treated the same.
And the outcome should be the major, the person who best represents that broad swath, right?

Chad Peace (00:36:12):
Those debates are had amongst the election reformers. At the end, our goals are to have better
representation. But if you take a state like New York, I personally believe monumental victory. You take
a state like New York, a city like New York, and you implement a historic reform like ranked choice
voting. But I can also put on my hat for independent voters and say, You legally bar me from voting
unless I vote register with a party six months before the election in New York. So what a good does it do
to me? I just show up at the general election, vote for the party candidates anyway, right? So from some
perspectives, New York wasn't as big of a change as from other perspectives. And just going back, what's
unique here is a lot of those discussions have been had because the League of women voters fair vote.
Everybody sat at a table.

Chad Peace (00:37:01):
Well, why would you eliminate the primary? Why would you keep the primary? Why five candidates?
Why not four candidates? Should we do a conay methodology or should we do an instant runoff
methodology? Those have been really hashed out and I think I'm, I'm proud to be a part of this coalition
San Diego because unlike so many other things in politics where it's like, you're starting from a different
perspective than me, let's duke it out. We've had those discussions and said, Hey, this is where we can
agree, this is where we can align where we're at now into everybody's point. That this isn't a silver
bullet. A reform shouldn't be a silver bullet. You shouldn't be making monumental changes, um, you
know, overnight. But we all agree that this form that we've agreed on now will significantly change San
Diego from whatever perspective, at least the reformers that are part of this coalition are coming from.
So,

Thad Kousser (00:37:55):
All right, so just let's let the record show that it wasn't the academic who started bringing up condo saying that, that I think we need become professor. Now, Chad, um, I can't explain it. I can say the word. It's a name of academic. So, so returning to, to some of the overall politics, and I think what you're hearing here is right, I consensus that this is not a silver bullet, right? And then just like many other reforms, right? Redistricting, I was on the Common Cause board at that time. I supported it, but we knew it wasn't gonna right. Change everything there, there are some reforms that really are game changes, right? So one of the things I wanted to clarify is that we should not miss in California, we should not take for granted that we've been in, in the midst of one of the biggest changes in, in racial representation in any state, uh, o over the last decade, California Voting Rights Act, which is this la la law that, that sort of helps fix the UAE problem, uh, with, with this high school, right?

Thad Kousser (00:38:48):
By moving from at large systems to districts to allow minority groups to elect members of their own choosing. That has been used to change more jurisdictions. San Diego already had districts, but across the state that's changed more elections than the federal voting in the last decade than the Federal Voting Rights Act did in, in, in four decades. And if you watch the Supreme Court this week, the Federal Voting Rights Act, maybe further weekends, the Strengthening California's act, another thing changing the timing of elections, it's something we don't notice in San Diego because for a long time our city elections have been on the same cycle as our presidential gubernatorial elections. They bring out the biggest broadest electorate. But that's not true everywhere. It's not true in New York. It wasn't true in Los Angeles, It wasn't true in San Francisco. And then a law that was championed by more equitable democracy, uh, that, that some of the re that the research that underlay it came from my, my, my co-director at uc, San Diego's OV center early high now showed that by moving elections onto the same time, local elections onto the same time as other elections, you had massive increases in the representation of, of minority groups.

Thad Kousser (00:39:54):
So there are reforms that do big, bring those big changes. Um, my view on our CD is it wouldn't massively hurt things, but it wouldn't massively change things. And there's a reasonable question for any reformer to ask themselves right now to say, Do we want to tinker around the edges of our electoral system when we're essentially in a five alarm fire on democracy in the United States right now, Right? Since the 2020 election, the massive divergence between the two major parties interest in elections, the the number of people who will adhere to, who will, who will say that violence is justified, uh, to, to respond to elections. That I think is the primary thing that, that any reformer should be, should be addressing. Right now. We've gotta get through another two election cycles with preserving the integrity of our elections and helping to, to ensure that, that we don't see more spirals, uh, of, of greater violence that than we saw after the 2020 election.

Thad Kousser (00:40:51):
And one perspective is that adopting something new, something that takes a, that has a confus somewhat confusing counting method, and that takes a while to count ballots, maybe adding a complication to our electoral, and that's all what Rcv does. Maybe adding a complication to our electoral system that might be reasonable to look at in 2028 if we've made it through <laugh> until then. But right now, all our efforts should be focused on supporting elections officials and, and, and trying to restore a bipartisan consensus on trust in American democracy. That's what all our work at, uh, at the Kylo Center and, and broadly at uc, San Diego is really focused on. We're partnering with elections officials in San
Diego and in states like Texas, Georgia, Colorado, um, and across California to help figure out how, how to solve this crisis and trust in American democracy, which we think is, is, is the biggest deal right now.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:41:46):
Um, I just wanna add to, just to, to respond to Chad's point. Cause I think, uh, I, I understand it to be like the, the consensus building that's happened with this coalition. I haven't been part of the San Diego Coalition. I've been largely working in Portland and Alaska, um, and even New Mexico. And so, uh, even though I live here <laugh>, but, um, what, uh, I'm also here on behalf of San Diegos for Justice. And so one of the reasons I was invited is today is to talk about the fact that there are still questions among people of color and communities of color and organizations of color about whether this would be good enough, good at all, <laugh>, and whether or not those voices are all represented in the consensus that you guys hammered out. So just to say that, that's another reason why I'm here is because there are, they re they reached out to us and our Seattle based organization because they saw what was going on in Portland. And so largely I think the perspectives we're bringing is into upend the sort of the consensus that was there, but also to represent some voices in San Diego that, that pulled us in.

Amy Tobia (00:42:46):
I do kind of wanna go back to Thad's point about, um, you know, the five alarm fire because this has been something that's been discussed quite a bit in, in different circles, which represent us. Again, we're kind of a national nonpartisan organization and our primary focus the past couple of years has actually been on election protection, uh, initiatives. Um, however, San Diego again is San Diego, it's a little bit different here. And so the way that we as, uh, reformers look at things is each community needs to pick their own battle and decide how they can, how they can tackle and improve in their own area. Um, I would've told you six years ago when you asked me if we would have rank choice voting and potentially public financing now coming new into this as a volunteer who didn't know any better. And I would've said, Sure, people in San Diego are, you know, forward thinking and they care about their elections and, and I am sure that our elected officials are gonna support public financing and right choice voting and we're gonna have this done and I'm gonna be moving on and going to my kids' track meets on Saturdays instead of coming here in like four or five years, no problem.

Amy Tobia (00:43:48):
And I would be completely wrong, um, because I am here instead about my kids' track meet, um, these types of changes to do the community building, I mean, and to do the awareness and the education about how reforms like this can improve the environment of our elections. Even a small improvement is an improvement. And we should take every opportunity we can to move things forward. And if you think about it today, let's say, you know, in New York they had a historic number of women who won office with rank choice voting. And those numbers are really strong. We've been backsliding in our country in terms of women's representation. We've lost 20 points in the past 20 years, um, compared to other countries. So even if we can move the needle a little bit, make the environment a little bit better, a little bit more conducive, um, to better campaigns, um, to more civil campaigns, um, uh, a better type of election, we should take that opportunity.

Amy Tobia (00:44:42):
And, and in some ways, because we have decent redistricting here in San Diego and because we have some limits on our campaign finance, you know, we're not fighting other battles that other communities are around the country. Um, so I, I feel like we should take the opportunity whatever we can and
recognize that even though this sounds like this should be easy, right? We should go make some small improvements before it is not easy. And as Ray mentioned, um, people who have already won office under the current system look at these ideas and they're frightening because, you know, I didn't have to do that. So, you know, we, we don't want somebody else to try that too. Um, but these types of reforms could make a difference for me as a voter for how the elections run and they could just create a better environment. Um, how can we incentivize better behavior around our elections? Um, even if it's a small change, I think it's worth pursuing. So

Chad Peace (00:45:33):
I think, uh, we're about to go to questions and one point I want to just clarify and Ray, that the perspective of proportional representation is, is not a disruption of the consensus it's represented in. And I think that it's an improvement of the consensus even among those that are not, that's not on the agenda of that organization, right? Mm-hmm. <affirmative>, it's the consensus is right now, at this point in time, we can all agree that this is the next step. Some people don't agree with proportional, I'm just using an example. You talk about it because they don't believe Phil, philosophically in the long game when some people just don't agree cuz they don't think it's the right moment in time for it, right? And that by keeping this consensus and discussion together, bringing in more viewpoints, we can have a better idea of when the right time for what reform is. So, um, I think that's our time and then it's open to questions

Amy Tobía (00:46:30):
Who's, who's in charge of attacking tagging. People saw two hands go up. Alright,

Speaker 7 (00:46:37):
Uh, yeah. So is there a vow measure to bring rank choice voting to San Diego?

Amy Tobía (00:46:42):
There was oh. Um, and it is being kind of reworked in hopefully brought forward in February, February, March-ish. Yeah. But you can see the, uh, the current version from the last cycle is still up on a website. Um, for more choice. Mention the policies a little bit. I could, I think I, Okay, it's up to you. <laugh>. Um, could I answer that question a little bit more in depth? The reason that we didn't go forward is because we had opposition from several members of city council and the mayor. So we elected to go for signature gathering instead of an attempt to um, get it through city council. We also had support from several city council members. So to be fair, there was, there was a division among the council members as to whether or not it should move forward.

Speaker 8 (00:47:25):
Um, panelist, how does that affect things, such measures and propositions that may be corresponding? Do they have to be pushed to the general election

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:47:41):
Didn't change.

Chad Peace (00:47:43):
So it's only relative to that race, right? So if you have the city council district one, right, there's only five candidates file and that election just goes straight, they automatically go to the general election and then voters choose out of those five. So anything else, if there's seven candidates in district three, that's still gonna be held. So it's only relative to that race.

Speaker 9 (00:48:08):
Wasn't the charter

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:48:08):
Change too for initiatives you're supposed to have in

Speaker 9 (00:48:10):
The,

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:48:12):
The circumstances correct.

Speaker 9 (00:48:14):
<laugh> point get that there's not enough awareness of what this is. So, and

Speaker 7 (00:48:23):
What does that look like?

Speaker 9 (00:48:23):
Where, where are we in that?

Amy Tobia (00:48:28):
Yeah, I would say we're, when we go out and do tabling, um, we're gonna be at an event tomorrow. Um, a lot of people recognize the language, maybe they don't understand what's behind it, but because of New York, because of Alaska, there's a, you know, because we live in California and there's a number of cities who've been using it here for years. Um, there's a general awareness of the concept, but not necessarily how it works and the benefits and, and that there's an option here in San Diego. So we definitely, um, are focused on doing events like this and spending as much time as we can building awareness. Cuz as Ray said, I mean the New York campaign was successful because they did an extraordinary effort with their outreach and with, um, with educating the public and making sure the voters felt comfortable so that it could be successful. Um, and and that's what you just have to double down on for it to bring value to the community.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:49:17):
Can I also just one little thing I I don't know if I highlighted this, but, and even if you do win it, getting, getting the reform is only half the battle <laugh>. Yeah, We, there were many cities with proportional representation many years ago and they're all gone. And it was largely because, uh, incumbents did not, did not like it and felt that they could work better on the, the system that we have now. And so you have to have, the community has to own it or else it
Amy Tobia (00:49:40):
Gets replace. I mean the state of Maine has had to vote twice to keep it because they keep getting, they
got sued, but they overwhelmingly even after they, um, had that voted a second time to keep it. So
people do like it once they have it, but it has to be defended per somebody else.

Speaker 7 (00:49:56):
Um, so when you think about objections to Rcbs, oftentimes you hear about the complexity argument
which you address. I don't think that's, people know how to choose a second favorite ice cream,
whatever, but if they from the other side you often hear like, Oh, Rcbs not enough. Like what? We
actually need a star voting or pool voting or like some of these other systems wondering, like you talked
about the kind of consensus building. Were some of those discussed and what

Amy Tobia (00:50:18):
Are the arguments? Absolutely. And they were heavily discussed. I don't know why I keep answering the
questions.

Chad Peace (00:50:23):
No, I, and say I think, uh, in the the election reform world, we've sometimes been our own biggest
enemies cuz we end up arguing in a quarter about Star or Cond say, or this or that, right? Where Yeah, if
you're thinking philosophically and long term and stuff, yeah, they can have different ideological or
philosophical ends, right? But then, you know, back to the point of their previous question, right? At
some point you have to educate the public and the voters about what they're voting on and what's the
next step framed by what they're used to in the historic history that they're used to, right? So I mean the
discussions of Star, which is advanced very far in Oregon and, and in other places, those have all been a
part of our conversation. Um, and like without going into the wonky details, what makes a Conay
different than our IR voting, our coalition actually embraced that methodology for a while.

Chad Peace (00:51:17):
And part of our, part of the reason why the consensus came back to IRV was what we have places that
have used Irv, we have systems that have used it, It's been proven, right? Why add another layer of
complexity? And if you want Cond say, why don't you fight that battle after you first made it here?
Right? And so those are, those are important discussions and like those fights happen in the election
reform world. And I just come back to, I think it is timely now for us to go out and do the public
engagement. I'm not saying it's gonna look exactly like it looked. Uh, the form is gonna look exactly like
the last one we did. Um, but I think we have substantial agreement that maybe this isn't what we would
all select as our first choice, but we're all pretty, feel pretty good about where we're at.

Amy Tobia (00:52:04):
I, I would add one comment to that too, that, um, the voting machines that we own currently that would
be used to run our elections already have the capacity to run a rank choice voting election, uh, with a
software upgrade. So if you, if you just get down to the nuts and bolts and practicality of it, we are
proposing a reform that we know our community could implement with minimal cost. Um, and so that,
that also weighed into our, our decision making

Speaker 7 (00:52:28):
With respect to that. Sorry. And you know, people, it was mentioned like that it can take longer to tabulate these results. Is is it, is it like, is

Amy Tobia (00:52:39):
Longer, That's one of those things that's a little bit confusing because it, it really doesn't take longer to run the votes through the machine. I mean, we have computers, right? Um, what happens though is you can't start the process till you have all the ballots. So if there is a delay in receiving them, you know, there are some states where because they have a heavy military, uh, population, they're waiting on ballots for two weeks. You can't start, because if you think about it, once you do your first tabulation, the least votes falls off.

Chad Peace (00:53:07):
But you could under a conay methodology. Yeah. Well,

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:53:12):
I don't think you'd get to say conversation unless you go into the statistical analysis with this. That's another explain it to that. Exactly.

Speaker 10 (00:53:18):
So it,

Amy Tobia (00:53:19):
It, it's not that it takes longer, it's just you have to have all the balance. And depending on how, um, the local laws are set up, you know, in some communities they, they send them out early enough, you can get them quick enough, but in others you're not allowed to start counting and you're not allowed to do anything about two weeks after the election. And there's just nothing you can do about that.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:53:38):
Okay. Can I just add another piece to that? So, um, I'm in a lot of conversations right now with folks and there are always a new thing, right? Right. Now I was talking to a funder who's like, we wanna do fusion voting, right? Because that's what working Families Party did in New York when they ran like a fake candidate to make sure Cuomo got elected. But I'll, I'll just leave that there. Um, you know, but there's, there is a lot of different reasons why people are coming up with different ideas. Um, I think having been in this field for a long time and having seen Rcv, and I think Chad used it this at the beginning be like a fringe idea to be now being mainstream. And actually I would say that's the same for proportion representation. Like people would laugh us out the room and not give us money to do it like they do now.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:54:20):
Um, I think these are starting to, to gain traction in across the country. All right. So, and I think, I think that's what people are coalescing around. I think we're still very much arguing about how it actually should look. Um, I think most people are coming to the idea that you need at least three people, but four and five is probably I optimum numbers. Um, but yeah, all of those things are always gonna be there. And maybe in 20 years we'll say, you know what? We should have, we should have pulled that in. You know, we didn't think of that. Yeah.
Amy Tobia (00:54:45):
Well you just mentioned four or five might be optimum. I would say if you go back and look at the early, uh, early adaptations, um, a lot of them, even if you had 10 or 11 candidates, you were only allowed to rank three mm-hmm. <affirmative>. So because the computer systems weren't savvy enough to do a broader ranking. So that also kind of plays into, you know, we, we can rank all five now. We don't have to limit people. Um, even New York, they had 20 some on the ballot, but they had a limit as to how many you could rank. So,

Chad Peace (00:55:11):
Um, and just so one point actually, there's an organization called the National Association of Nonpartisan Reformers, which represent us as a member. You have Center for Election Science. It's big approval voting type folks. They're folks that didn't agree with each other. I think part of the reason we've been able to come to this consensus here is because these groups have started to sit at a table and just since we're all here, the convention will actually be early December at the Mission Bay Park Hotel right there. And so a lot of the national reform groups that represent those different wonky ideas will be sitting together and they certainly don't agree on everything, but, uh, they have a good time, uh, arguing about the wonky details. <laugh> you'll like to hear Yeah. The condo, if you wanna see a debate between condo and irb, that's where to go. I think

Amy Tobia (00:56:01):
That in the

Speaker 11 (00:56:01):
Front question about, so if you're gonna take this to the city council in February, again, two sub-questions. What are the obstacles? And then what should the community be doing to get ready for this?

Amy Tobia (00:56:14):
Oh, we're not gonna take it. The city council again. Okay. I, I don't think that has changed. Those opinions are pretty fixed in stone, so we're gonna do signature gathering. So,

Speaker 11 (00:56:22):
Okay. Signature gathering can sound really scary to some people though. Why don't you use the appropriate process? People will say mm-hmm. <affirmative>,

Amy Tobia (00:56:29):
Oh, that is the process. Like that's, I mean, signature gathering allows you to prove that you have enough community support to put something on the

Chad Peace (00:56:36):
Ballot. Right? We actually had a couple council members and, you know, whether was this their real position or not? They said to us, Well this is a reform for the election process, Right? Why the city council shouldn't be voting to change. This should be the citizens voting to change it. So, um, you know, Yeah, I think, and it goes back, it does, It's certainly gonna help your voter awareness and education that this is happening and wasn't something the council did in the back room. So it's expensive and it takes a
lot of money and time and effort, but, uh, ultimately if we can secure the resources and the community support for it, I think it's a huge benefit to the campaign. Yeah.

Speaker 11 (00:57:13): So petition. Will signature gatherers be paid?

Chad Peace (00:57:17): Well, I think we'll certainly just cuz the reality of it, uh, you have to get a lot of signature. You get well over 200,000 signatures, uh, validated. So, um, I think any volunteer signatures we can get to supplement it is gonna be significantly reduce that amount. But it's just the sheer number. And then also having to do the authentication and the management of it. You're necessarily gonna have to have a significant amount both collected and managed by a professional signature gather.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:57:47): That seems like the Norman California at least was, it has not been the case in some other places where we've been able to do enough community outreach where people are actually doing them on the ground. But yeah, California's different.

Chad Peace (00:57:57): Different

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:57:58): So big with

Thad Kousser (00:57:58): The scale of California, if you're not doing a paid signature gathering, you're not a serious, uh,

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:58:03): Yeah, it's very different

Thad Kousser (00:58:04): Gathering drive. There's been nothing on the statewide level that has, that has qualified without a paid signature gathering drive. Modern history of California.

Amy Tobia (00:58:11): I know there's, there was one in Michigan a few years ago where they got, it was over 400,000 signatures all volunteer with their statewide campaign.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:58:18): It's just a difference. Its

Amy Tobia (00:58:19): Astonishing. Yeah. But it was also a money in politics issue and they, they just, it was kind of an amazing thing. It doesn't happen here very often, but we all would like to be like that
Rey Lopez-Calderón (00:58:30):
<laugh>.

Speaker 12 (00:58:31):
Oh. Um, so I noticed that you guys kind of stress throughout all your groups and this coalition stress, the idea of being non partial and not being towards any one political party. Uh, I know that especially in today's political climate, it definitely is quite a struggle to do so. Um, and what we've seen is that, um, the previous Republican, um, nominees for president that have become president are statistically more likely to not have won the popular vote mm-hmm. <affirmative> compared to winning the actual election. And so this idea of election reform and the idea of impartial election reform, in my mind it seems almost a little paradoxical if you're reforming election to make it more representative of the popular vote while a political party has shown to have trends. So is that something that you guys observe? How do you, uh, how is that that impact your work and what do you do to combat

Chad Peace (00:59:25):
It? Yeah, well what you're talking about is a federal issue, right? And it's much more complex when you're talking about a federal pro. Uh, there are groups in here that have, they have initiatives looking at the popular vote at that level. But that's a, that was an agreement among the states to elect a president that would serve all the states, right? That would lead into a whole different political science, political philosophy, discussion if talking about the merits of having a pop national popular vote versus the states holding the rights in order and the number of electors. So, um,

Thad Kousser (01:00:01):
Yeah, I mean, look, the, the fundamental thing that you're pointing out, right? And, and this is what the political science study of reform movements over 200 years, uh, plus of American democracy teaches us, is politicians write the rules to win the game. And reform groups write the rules to win the game. The people are all almost always looking ahead towards political and policy outcomes and, and backing things be because of that. Now, there are many reform groups that are, that are principled, but if you're looking at what, how voters and other political leads decide whether to take their positions, people understand is this gonna help or hurt one party? So since the 2000 election, which is when this run of, uh, of, of college winner popular vote loser, uh, can these happen for the Republican party Before that the parties were not, were were actually not very polarized on liking or hating the electoral college, cuz it didn't advantage one party systematically versus the other.

Thad Kousser (01:00:55):
The, the kind of curious thing, and I don't know if you guys have a sense of this, is r c is varied, polarized along party lines in who supports it. Democrats are much, much more strongly supportive of it than Republicans. Um, but it doesn't really, but it doesn't have a huge partisan biased effect, Right. Who it might hurt or help might depend on, you know, who the status quo power is beforehand, but, but it's really, there's no clear partisan effect that it would have. Uh, but democrats and progressives have lined up in general in favor of

Chad Peace (01:01:27):
It. Right? Well, exactly. You've seen very partisan messaging against, um, uh, rank choice voting that's come out in Alaska. But if you look to Virginia, where Winston, most people don't know Winston Sears and youngin the current governor and lieutenant governor of Virginia Republicans, they would not have
got out of their Republican primary. But the Republican party in Virginia uses rank choice voting to select them, and they came back and won because they were the second, third, fourth place voters that's in the party itself. So it is a very non-partisan issue. Um, you know, I don't know if it addresses the, the question about popular

Rey Lopez-Calderón (01:02:01):
Vote. I wanna add something to two up. So I'm in San Diego right now and I'm talking to probably a largely progressive audience, but I don't, I have to talk in other places and I can say someone came from a Republican household, I'm not sure Donald Trump winning, and I'm not sure what's happening with the Republican party of representative of republican voices, right? So when I talk to Republicans about this, you know, many people feel exactly the same way about their voice not being represented and what could they do to fix that? And I think that's something to, to keep in mind is that there are, you know, alliances to be made with people who you wouldn't normally hang out with, right? Um, and Ipec and honestly, if I were, were an independent, if I were a Republican in San Diego, I'd be like freaked out by the, the new Democratic sort of monolith and I'd be like, how do we, how do we mix it up? Right? But, um, I I I think that, I think that's important. I I also wanna say that that's, there's a couple of new studies out that talk about there just modeling. It's modeling, but they talk about, you know, some inter-party, an animosity biases within, within Rcv that are only ameliorated if you add more parties. So I can send you that too.

Amy Tobia (01:03:05):
And I would just, one last thing and then we'll go. And in the back there I would mention that we've talked a lot about how it seems like Democrats are the most likely to support, obviously not in San Diego. We would have done it differently. Um, but our current governor was one of the staunchest, um, anti rcv individuals and actually authored one of the primary opposition letters when they passed it in San Francisco. Hmm. Um, Utah has 19 cities using it quite happily and looking at going statewide. So I think it's one of those, uh, those efforts and why it is interesting working in a reform space as if your goal is an authentic democracy where voters, you know, have the most say and the most power, um, working in the reform space is a really great place to be right now because that's where voters are gravitating towards. They might not necessarily feel like they have, um, a, a correct voice in the current system. So,

Chad Peace (01:03:57):
And adding just a Thad, I think you the nail on the head as you talk about reform and it's our natural, it's not anybody's fault, it's our natural thing. You say, Well what would the outcomes be if we had this reform? Right? But the moment you start that determines whether you support the reform or not, then it's not really about the reform, it's about the outcome that you want. Right. It's hard.

Speaker 13 (01:04:19):
There's somebody in the very back. Well, I think we hit our top time guys. Gotta keep the trains moving. Yeah. Unfortunately missed the last coming

Chad Peace (01:04:27):
Nephew. Thanks for having us.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (01:04:29):
I wonder if my nephews here didn't realize what

Speaker 13 (01:04:33):
We're to Diego.

Rey Lopez-Calderón (01:04:37):
Thanks for this good

Chad Peace (01:04:38):
Stuff. Thank

Rey Lopez-Calderón (01:04:39):
You. Thanks for this.

Chad Peace (01:04:41):
Thank you. Thanks for,

Speaker 13 (01:04:46):
I really agree with yours. I mean that's, it's amazing how, what are you doing? Yep. Yeah, it

Chad Peace (01:04:58):
Been amazing,

Speaker 13 (01:04:59):
You know, project that

Rey Lopez-Calderón (01:05:01):
We're doing with That'd be great. I'm so out practice.

Speaker 13 (01:05:03):
Hey, hey. Good to see you. Good to see you. I'm running the volunteers. My mom does mean it's really, so what we're trying to do is there's my prop, some of millions of dollars on his ads, different social media stuff, advertisements, uh, here's go on our website, watch ballots being counted, Right. To try to convince people. So we're doing survey experis to see what convince people or not. Yeah, yeah. Um, so it's a real question whether any of it's gonna work. A few, they were actually, you know, I'm just looking at 5 38 like you are, you know, and all those things. So looks pretty good. Set amount's gonna be terrible in 2024. So them's capture the Senate. It's only gonna be for the short term that's hold the Senate. So you probably is not that consequential, but actually two or three good. And Republicans certainly not think about candidates <laugh> toward Pennsylvania. We can talk amongst ourselves later. Clarifi is the balance coming, I mean's is that for Trump's pulled because he's, and the, and I think people saw where demographics are going, contract, this was the only person, only Republican, you know, I think now there's like a reasonable argument like he's potentially the only Republican who could lose presidential election in 24. And so, you know, like, and so the question is could you know, would people learn their lesson if he lost him? Lost a
Speaker 14 (01:06:40):
But,

Speaker 13 (01:06:40):
But good see,

Speaker 14 (01:06:45):
You

Speaker 13 (01:06:45):
Know, really well we're gonna try to have, he works with him, uh, and Deb, but he's, every year he does uh, comes to our honors thesis. Everybody where the undergrads who write an honors thesis, he gives out the lake off and he's still there. I mean he talk five minutes, he's, he he's doing really well. He's helped not in the years ago. Still

Speaker 15 (01:07:08):
It, it does show a lot of

Speaker 13 (01:07:10):
Said hi,

Speaker 15 (01:07:11):
But the other factor is that sometimes our will also improve.

Speaker 13 (01:07:13):
Thanks guys. That was great. Good to meet you person Ray. And great to meet Amy

Speaker 15 (01:07:18):
With everything. Yeah. Absolut your office. That

Speaker 13 (01:07:20):
Okay. That's right. That's right. With the parking. Crazy. That's right. It was pre pandemic though, so it's all a blur. I was like feel like I'm an opinion for some articles. Absolutely.

Speaker 15 (01:07:28):
I dunno if I have question but I think, I think there are new studies that needs to kind of show that there might be more of an effect on getting more people to run. So we don't know

Speaker 13 (01:07:38):
That range the

Speaker 15 (01:07:40):
It, if it stays, like Amy said, the trend that we currently have, yes it probably would, but maybe not if people start running more. Well there was, dunno for sure there

Speaker 14 (01:07:49):
Was a specific for San,

Speaker 13 (01:07:56):
If we take all talk she's organizing, we're dis turnout. Go for it.

Speaker 14 (01:08:06):
And so the general consensus

Speaker 15 (01:08:07):
With

Speaker 14 (01:08:07):
Those groups is as long as we have to have primaries for other things, we don't

Speaker 13 (01:08:12):
Co

Speaker 14 (01:08:15):
People to whittle down that campaign. But you know what, if the rest date is, we can eliminate all of them, right? Overall maybe that would be different, but otherwise you might be turning voters away might show up otherwise for other data drivers, I just hope choice. Yeah, I hope choice

Speaker 15 (01:08:31):
Gets applied

Speaker 14 (01:08:32):
To the general, not just primary. That is for sure. Yeah, I would love to see that. So for sure is the general top five. It's just whether or not gonna have to have a primary. So that's again, that's the ation based on Rudy weighing in saying worried about disenfranchising voters. So let more careful about that. Yeah, I've you have to put my signature on that. Excellent. Very excited to have it. You set up on your website, right? Yeah. The more choice San Diego send you emails. Not

Speaker 16 (01:08:59):
Too.

Speaker 15 (01:09:01):
Hi. Hi Matthew. I was just wondering, I know a lot of, I um, I know a lot of students that are interested in performing the democratic process more of a a system like reach voting. I know a lot of them would probably be really interested in helping you collect signatures especially to um, especially to the youngest of voters. Um, and so if any, if there's any way I can help your people who's got all like connect
Speaker 14 (01:09:35):
And I was gonna say we're having a contest tomorrow to try and register high school and college students for voting like in

Speaker 16 (01:09:45):
Department's.

Speaker 15 (01:09:45):
Literally just, we gotta get outta here. Yeah. There's another board. Awesome. Great.

Speaker 14 (01:09:55):
That in place. That was really

Speaker 16 (01:09:56):
Good.

Speaker 15 (01:09:57):
Zach Pats Zach Patterson's success. When I first moved to San Diego, I was like, I was kind of like trying to understand the, at large school board election I had,

Speaker 16 (01:10:15):
There's

Speaker 14 (01:10:15):
A lot of opportunities.

Speaker 15 (01:10:17):
I'm happy to help. Thank you so much.

Speaker 16 (01:10:32):
Last person, you wrote your own, there's no rush entry. Yeah, and the main problem, the under. So if you, it sound like that I read the part and Oh, I edited. I read it last time and I was like, so yeah. Okay. I anything I don't it's probably this was two, this was before I Yeah, exactly. And all day. I know. And so, and it's.