

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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INSTANT RUNOFF ELECTION PROCESS

Introduction

The following procedure implements the instant runoff voting method for determining the winner in a fictional "Central Division Director" election. A process, similar to the one explained below, will be utilized in determining the LAFCO Special District representative(s).

Ballot Specifications and Directions to Voters

A voting ballot shall allow a voter to rank candidates for the Central Division Director in order of choice. All candidates are listed on the ballot with one additional slot for a write-in candidate. The voter may include no more than one write-in candidate among his/her ranked choices. Directions provided to voters shall conform substantially to the following specifications:

Vote for candidates by indicating your first-choice candidate, your second-choice candidate and so on. Indicate your first choice by marking the number "1" beside a candidate's name, your second choice by marking the number "2" by that candidate's name, your third choice by marking the number "3," and so on, for as many choices as you wish. You are free to rank only one candidate, but ranking additional candidates cannot help defeat your first-choice candidate. Do not mark the same number beside more than one candidate. Do not skip numbers.

Ballot Counting

The ballots cast shall be tabulated and the result declared by the Central Division Election Coordinator after review by the Central Division Election Review Committee using the following procedure:

- The first choice marked on each ballot shall be counted. If any candidate receives a majority of the first choices, that candidate shall be declared elected.
- If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, the candidate who received the fewest first choices shall be eliminated and each vote cast for that candidate shall be transferred to the next-ranked candidate on that voter's ballot. If, after this transfer of votes, any candidate has a majority of the votes from the continuing ballots, that candidate shall be declared elected.
- If no candidate receives a majority of votes from the continuing ballots after a candidate has been eliminated and his/her votes have been transferred to the next-ranked candidate, the continuing candidate with the fewest votes from the

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continuing ballots shall be eliminated. All votes cast for that candidate shall be transferred to the next-ranked continuing candidate on each voter's ballot. This process of eliminating candidates and transferring their votes to the next-ranked continuing candidates shall be repeated until a candidate receives a majority of the votes from the continuing ballots. This candidate shall be declared elected.

Example:

Three candidates: Smith, Jones and Marks

60 voting cards are submitted:

- Smith is ranked 1 by 25 voters
- Jones is ranked 1 by 20 voters
- Marks is ranked 1 by 15 voters

In the first round no one receives a majority, 31 votes

Thus, Marks is eliminated and those cards that had Marks ranked 1 is reviewed for their second choice.

- Smith is ranked 2 on 10 of the of the 15 cards
- Jones is ranked 2 on 3 of the 15 cards.

Thus, Smith wins with 35 votes and Jones is second with 23 votes.

Note: Only 13 votes were counted in round two because two of the Marks cards only had first choices.