**Preferential Voting – An explanation of how it works.**

Preferential voting is a process used to streamline voting in the case of a runoff. The main election will still be based on the number of electoral votes cast for each candidate.

The essence of preferential voting is that in addition to casting votes, counties also number the candidates on the ballot in a rank order of choice. You rank your first choice candidate as 1, second choice as 2, and so on. In the event of a runoff for a particular office, all of the electoral votes from your county will go to your highest preference candidate.

**How the Run-Off or Second Vote Works**

If no candidate receives a simple majority of votes in the election, the top two remaining candidates are then considered in the runoff election. The preferential rating will be used to determine votes for the runoff. Ballots will not need to be resubmitted for the runoff election.

All electoral votes from a county will automatically be cast for the highest preferential candidate remaining on the ballot.

**Example:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Candidate** | **Votes** | **Preferential Ranking** |
| Candidate A | 10 | 1 |
| Candidate B | 5 | 2 |
| Candidate C | 2 | 3 |

In the main election, Candidate A will receive 10 votes, Candidate B will receive 5 votes and Candidate C 2 votes from this ballot.

If a runoff election is required between Candidate A and Candidate B, then Candidate A will receive all 17 votes.

If the runoff election were between Candidate B and Candidate C, then Candidate B would receive all 17 votes.