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Contact: Ian Moor

ian@newheightscommunications.com

Tony Manolatos

tony@manolatospa.com

**AHEAD OF COUNCIL VOTE, DIVERSE COALITION LAUNCHES EFFORT TO PUT
RANKED CHOICE VOTING ON NOVEMBER BALLOT**

***League of Women Voters, Independent Voter Project, Community Advocates,
Former Councilman Kersey Call on City Council to Pass Measure***

SAN DIEGO (April 19, 2022)---The [More Choice San Diego](#) coalition gathered outside City Hall today to call on the San Diego City Council to place a measure on the November general election ballot that would let voters choose whether to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV). The event comes the day before a Rules Committee vote on sending the measure to the full City Council for consideration.

Speakers at the event included former San Diego City Councilmember Mark Kersey, Chad Peace of the Independent Voter Project, Lori Thiel of the League of Women Voters, Geneviève Jones-Wright and Aniya Brown of Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance, and Juan Hernandez of More Choice San Diego.

“Giving voters more choice in November elections is good for our democracy because it gives voters a more meaningful vote, it gives candidates a more civil pathway to elected office, it gives elected officials more flexibility to represent more people, and it gives everyone a stronger, healthier democracy,” said **Geneviève Jones-Wright, Executive Director of Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance.**

Ranked Choice Voting is an easy-to-use system that saves money and improves voter turnout across the board while leading to the election of more women and people of color, creating a more inclusive democracy.

“Communities that use ranked choice voting see more women and people of color run for office, and see more women and people of color elected,” said **Lori Thiel of the League of Women Voters.** “With RCV, there’s no fear of being a ‘spoiler’ candidate and splitting the vote, so more diverse candidates run. And because of that, more voters see themselves reflected in their election choices and turn out to vote.”

The More Choice San Diego initiative will change our election system to advance five candidates, instead of just two, to the General Election. In general, voters would have the option to rank as many candidates as they like in order of preference: one, two, three, and so forth. If a candidate receives more than half of the first choices in any race, that candidate wins, just like in a traditional election.

However, if there is no majority winner after counting first choices, the race is decided by an "instant runoff." The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters who picked that candidate as their first choice will have their votes count for their second choice. This process continues until there's a majority winner or a candidate won with more than half of the vote.

Ranked choice voting has been adopted by several big cities including New York City, San Francisco and Santa Fe, and statewide in Alaska and Maine.

If passed in San Diego, RCV would take effect in 2024 following a comprehensive voter outreach and education program.

"Voters and candidates are tired of divisive and toxic campaigns. RCV incentivizes more civility in politics. Because candidates need to win second, third, and fourth place votes in Ranked Choice Voting elections, candidates run more positive campaigns focused on the issues," said **former San Diego City Councilmember Mark Kersey**. "On top of that, the More Choice San Diego initiative will save San Diego taxpayers about \$1 million every single election cycle because the vast majority of primary elections in San Diego will be eliminated – if five or fewer candidates run for an office, they advance automatically to the General Election."

"At a time when national and statewide politics have never been more divisive, members of the San Diego More Choice coalition have been working to create this new initiative and rally support for something we can all agree on," said **Aniya Brown, Director of Policy Advocacy and Community Empowerment at Community Advocates for Just and Moral Governance**. "Our growing coalition includes Alliance San Diego, League of Women Voters, FairVote, Independent Voter Project, Veterans for Political Innovation, Represent Women, and others, including voters from all ideologies, party affiliations, and economic statuses."

"It's simple: voters like having more choices, so Ranked Choice Voting brings more voters out to the polls," said **Chad Peace, Legal Advisor for the Independent Voter Project**. "The increase in turnout is even higher among African American, Latino, and Asian voters than turnout among the general electorate. When there are more candidates on the ballot who speak to voters of color and who voters of color trust, voters have more reason to vote. In New York City, for example, voter turnout in diverse communities soared under Ranked Choice Voting."

"The More Choice San Diego initiative is the product of consensus among dozens of local organizations, hundreds of community leaders, and stakeholders who represent a wide spectrum of political perspectives," said **Juan Hernandez with More Choice San Diego**. "Californians who've used RCV understand and like it. But in order to bring RCV to San Diego, we need City Council members to bring this measure to the November ballot."

About: Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a simple change that would create an easy-to-use system that saves money and improves voter turnout across the board while leading to the election of more women and people of color, creating a more inclusive democracy. Those are the results in cities where this election reform has already been adopted. The [More Choice San Diego](#) initiative will advance five candidates, instead of just two, to the General Election. Then, it allows voters the option to rank as many candidates as they like in order of preference: one, two, three, and so forth. If 5 or less candidates run for an office, the primary is eliminated and those candidates advance automatically to the General Election in November when most voters vote. To learn more [please visit our resource page](#).

Below is a **Sample Ranked Choice Voting Ballot** that shows what voters would see in an RCV election.

State of Maine Sample Ballot **Democratic Primary Election, June 12, 2018** for

Instructions to Voters

To vote, fill in the oval like this ●

To rank your candidate choices, fill in the oval:

- In the 1st column for your 1st choice candidate.
- In the 2nd column for your 2nd choice candidate, and so on.

Continue until you have ranked as many or as few candidates as you like.

Fill in no more than one oval for each candidate or column.

To rank a write-in candidate, write the person's name in the write-in space and fill in the oval for the ranking of your choice.

Governor	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
A	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
B	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
C	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
E	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Governor	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice
Cote, Adam Roland Sanford	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dion, Donna J. Biddeford	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dion, Mark N. Portland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eves, Mark W. North Berwick	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mills, Janet T. Farmington	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>