

HB 856 -- INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

SPONSOR: Stacy

This bill provides a method of instant runoff voting for all types of elections including federal, statewide, and local elections in Missouri. Ranked choice ballots will allow voters to rank candidates in their order of preference. The least preferred candidates are then sequentially removed from contention (and the remaining votes for other candidates on ballots transferred) until a single candidate receives a majority vote for a particular office. Tie breaking procedures such as coin tosses are specified in the bill as are procedures for multiple seat elections. The election authority may limit the number of candidates that can appear on the ballot if necessary, but must allow at least three choices. Election disputes involving ranked choice ballots may be appealed to the Office of the Secretary of State for a final order prior to being heard in a court of competent jurisdiction. Current laws governing election disputes will still apply to ranked choice voting. The Secretary of State is required to conduct a voter education campaign to familiarize voters with the ranked choice voting process.

The bill has an effective date of January 01, 2018.