

What is approval voting?

Approval voting is a single-winner voting method that allows voters to choose any number of candidates. The candidate chosen the most wins. Voters can vote for their favorite candidate, without fear of splitting the vote. Winning candidates will have broader support from voters as more people will be satisfied with the winner.

Why should Chula Vista implement approval voting?

Electoral reform is inevitable in the State of California, cities across the state are implementing alternative electoral systems as the current first past the post system has created an unfair system where candidates can win even without a majority of support. I am proposing approval voting to the City as a cheaper yet effective alternative to our current system. Chula Vista has long been in the shadow of other cities on different issues, but it is time for Chula Vista to make a progressive change to get ahead of the crowd.

Reason to change the current system

Chula Vista rarely has interesting elections but there are still signs of a broken system. In 2016, Mike Diaz a Republican won the election to become the councilmember of extremely Democratic District 4. During the primary the Democrat vote was split with Rudy Ramirez and Eduardo Reyes allowing Diaz through to the runoff which he won as Reyes supporters who were anti-Ramirez were forced to chose the Republican over voting Ramirez. This is called vote splitting and lead to District 4 being represented by a minority party. The current system forces us to choose candidates we do not like because we are against the alternative.

Approval voting is not Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) which is used by San Francisco and Berkley is completely different then what I am proposing. RCV is when you rank the candidates based in the order of preference. In Approval Voting all you do is just vote for your favorites, no ranking and no change of ballot. Ranked choice voting is more costly and complicated than approval voting. Voting machines often have to be updated to run RCV elections which is expensive. RCV also does not fully fix the spoiler effect. It works well when a third candidate has little support and their votes easily transfer. RCV can still cause a spoiler effect when there are three or more viable candidates. In approval voting, you can always vote for your favorite candidate. Voting for your favorite will never harm their chances of winning.

Costs

Even though Jill said the Registrar of Voters says a change will cost money I think more investigation is needed as I am pretty sure the County is confusing approval voting with RCV. Both in Fargo and St. Louis the only costs associated to a change was in voter education which was offset by private organizations helping fund voter education, not system changes. The County voting machines should already be calibrated to run approval voting elections as we already have multi-winner elections like Central Committee elections for political parties where people can vote 6 people.

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=db6Syys2fmE>