



Verbal Testimony of Jason Snead
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Senate Bill 12
Indiana Senate Elections Committee
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Chairman Gaskill, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on Senate Bill 12. My name is Jason Snead, executive director of Honest Elections Project Action, a nonprofit group dedicated to preserving free and fair elections. I also serve as the co-chair of the Stop RCV coalition, a nationwide network working to halt the spread of RCV.

SB 12 is a crucial safeguard for Indiana elections. Banning the complicated scheme known as ranked-choice voting will ensure that elections in this state are transparent, efficient, and accessible to every voter.

A national movement against RCV is gaining momentum. Last year alone, six states banned RCV. That makes 17 states nationwide that have banned this scheme, including [Missouri](#), where in 2024 nearly 70% of voters approved a constitutional prohibition on RCV. And in Utah, lawmakers refused to renew a floundering pilot program, bringing their short-lived experiment in RCV to an end.

Voters, too, have consistently rejected RCV. Ballot measures in [six states](#)—Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, and Oregon—were overwhelmingly rejected in 2024. Just last month, a campaign to put an RCV measure on Michigan’s 2026 ballot announced it had failed to gather enough signatures to qualify. The public consensus is unmistakable: Ranked-choice voting has no place in American elections.

RCV makes every stage of the voting process more complicated. It requires an extensive public education campaign, costing taxpayers millions. [New York City](#) spent \$15 million to teach people how to vote in an RCV election, while [Maine](#) was forced to produce a 19-page guide for voters.

Even for those familiar with the system, RCV makes voting needlessly time-consuming and burdensome. Instead of selecting a single candidate, voters must rank multiple candidates for each race, including those who are fringe or unqualified. Research from MIT shows that RCV ballots take significantly longer to complete, with a “Final Five”-style system adding a full minute per race—a delay that, in aggregate, could double voting times at the polls.

Because of the complexity of RCV, errors can go undetected. The case of, Oakland, California proves this. In 2022, hundreds of votes were mistakenly eliminated and officials certified the wrong [winner](#) in a school board contest. It took months and a lawsuit to seat the true winner, but alarmingly the error was almost missed because RCV is so complex.



Supporters of ranked-choice voting make grand claims that RCV improves elections and moderates divisive politics. Independent studies debunk all these claims. A 2023 [study](#) by the Hubert Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota found that ranked-choice voting does not reduce political polarization, increase diversity among election officials, increase voter turnout, or decrease negative campaigning. In fact, one [study](#) of RCV in Maine found that “negative spending increased significantly...casting doubt on the claim that RCV makes campaigns more civil.”

Many jurisdictions try ranked-choice voting only to repeal it. For instance, proponents tout a Utah pilot program that recruited two-dozen cities, yet over half have [withdrawn](#) early and the pilot program ended altogether last year.

Despite these myriad problems, there remains a relentless nationwide effort to push RCV into our states and our communities. The groups doing this are well-funded and can rally enormous resources, sophisticated campaigns, and high-priced lobbyists. That is why so many states with RCV bans acted preemptively. They did not wait to become the next target, for RCV to cause chaos in an election, or for a court to decide whether an ambiguous state statute really does ban ranked-choice voting. Instead, lawmakers acted and made certain that the law is crystal clear: an election system that artificially manufactures winners is illegal.

That is why I strongly encourage passage of Senate Bill 12. Enacting this bill sends a powerful message: Ranked-choice voting is not permitted in Indiana—now or in the future.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions.