

CITY of ALBUQUERQUE

TWENTY THIRD COUNCIL

COUNCIL BILL NO. O-19-54 ENACTMENT NO. _____

SPONSORED BY: Isaac Benton, Patrick Davis, Brad Winter

1 those ballots. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate
2 has won a majority of the adjusted votes. The process is repeated until a
3 candidate wins an outright majority. This system is sometimes referred to as
4 an instant runoff voting system; and

5 WHEREAS, A ranked choice voting system which is also commonly
6 referred to as an “instant runoff” would help eliminate costly separate runoff
7 elections in the City, would help minimize administrative and staffing burdens,
8 would be more respectful of the time and resources of City voters, and would
9 also be consistent with the City Charter’s 50% requirement.

10 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
11 ALBUQUERQUE:

12 SECTION 1. Chapter 2, Article 4, Section 7 of the Municipal Elections

13 Ordinance is hereby amended as follows:

14 “§ 2-4-7 POSITION OF CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT[; RANKED CHOICE
15 VOTING].

16 (A) The names of all certified candidates for office shall be listed on the
17 ballot without party or other designation. The order, on the ballot, of the
18 names of the candidates for each office shall be determined by lot, that is, the
19 name of each candidate for an office or position shall be drawn in a impartial
20 and fair public drawing administered by the City Clerk in accordance with the
21 Municipal Election Code [as set forth in division (B) below]. The City Clerk
22 shall notify, in writing, each candidate for an office or position of the time and
23 place of the public drawing. Such notice shall be given to the candidate or the
24 candidate's authorized representative at the time of filing of the candidate's
25 declaration of candidacy.

26 (B) The City Clerk, at the time and place of the public drawing, shall
27 place the names of each certified candidate for an office or position on
28 separate pieces of paper which shall be placed in a container. The City Clerk
29 shall then cause the pieces of paper to be drawn from the container one at a
30 time. The positions of the candidates on the ballot shall be determined by the
31 order in which the names of the candidates are drawn from the container.

32 (C) Commencing with the regular municipal election in November 2019,
33 the mayor and city councilors shall be elected using a ranked choice voting

1 system allowing voters to rank in order of their preference the candidates for
2 each office appearing on the ballot. If after counting all voters' first preference
3 votes listed on their ballots for an office, no candidate receives a total number
4 of votes cast equaling or exceeding 50% of the total number of votes cast for
5 the office, the candidate with the fewest first preference votes shall be
6 eliminated. Each ballot shall then be tallied again for that office counting the
7 first and second preference votes from each ballot for the remaining
8 candidates for that office who have not been eliminated. If still no candidate
9 for that office receives a total number of votes cast equaling or exceeding 50%
10 of the total number of votes cast for the office, the process shall be repeated
11 until a candidate receives at least 50% of the total number of votes cast for
12 that office.]”

13 **SECTION 2. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.** If any section, paragraph, sentence,
14 clause, word or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or
15 unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not
16 affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this ordinance. The Council
17 hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section,
18 paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of any
19 provisions being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

20 **SECTION 3. COMPIRATION.** The changes within Section 1 of this
21 ordinance shall amend, be incorporated in, and made part of the Revised
22 Ordinances of Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1994.

23 **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall take effect five days
24 after publication by title and general summary.

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