

**BOROUGH OF RED BANK
COUNTY OF MONMOUTH**

RESOLUTION NO. 24-136

**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR S1622/A4042 AUTHORIZING THE USE OF
RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Borough of Red Bank (“Red Bank”) is governed by the Council-Manager Form of Government under the Optional Municipal Charters Law of 1950, also known as the Faulkner Act, N.J.S.A. 40:69A-1, with an elected Mayor, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-86(b); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-83.1(b), the Borough of Red Bank previously opted to hold its regular, municipal elections on the first Tuesday in November, subject to the Uniform Nonpartisan Law, N.J.S.A. 40:45-5 et seq., and to require run-offs if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:45-18; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40:45-19 mandates that run-off elections must occur on the subsequent Tuesday after the first Monday in December; and

WHEREAS, no additional options, such as the use of Ranked Choice Voting to enable the holding of an “instant run-off” election, are currently legally permitted in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (“RCV”) is a simple upgrade to the way Red Bank voters currently vote. RCV enables voters to rank candidates in the order of preference and ensures that winners of any election have the support of – and are accountable to – a majority of voters; and

WHEREAS, RCV in its most common form is a majority runoff for single-winner races where votes are transferred from the lowest ranked candidate up to higher ranked candidates until one person achieves 50% plus of the votes cast. This method of counting is known as “Instant Run-off;” and

WHEREAS, there is also a proportional version of RCV often used for multi-winner races like those held for at-large council members of the Borough Council and Red Bank’s school board. In this version of RCV, known as “Single Transferable Vote,” each candidate that receives the necessary threshold number of votes (that vary with the number of seats elected) is elected. All votes in excess of that threshold of any elected candidate are then transferred to the voters next preferred candidate on a proportional basis. Subsequently, votes are transferred from the lowest ranked candidate up to higher ranked candidates until another candidate achieves the threshold number of votes. This process continues until all seats are filled; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council would like to give the voters of Red Bank the opportunity to adopt RCV to elect the Mayor and all the Council and School Board members once the state law is changed to permit such method of voting; and

WHEREAS, placing a binding question before the voters at the first general election after state legislation is adopted, which permits all municipalities, including those governed by the Faulkner Act form of government, to employ RCV to elect their local officials would permit the voters to be heard at no additional cost on whether they desire to use RCV to elect their Mayor, Council and School Board members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Borough Council expresses its support for S1622/A.4042, an act that, if enacted would enable the Borough of Red Bank to adopt RCV for its municipal and school board elections, if approved by the voters; and
2. The Borough Council commits to place the question of whether to change the Charter of the Borough of Red Bank to adopt RCV for its municipal and school board elections to the voters at the first general election after the aforementioned legislation is adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk cause notice of this action to be printed once in an official newspaper of the Borough of Red Bank.

	MOVED	SECONDED	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilmember Bonatakis		X	X			
Councilmember Cassidy			X			
Councilmember Facey-Blackwood			X			
Councilmember Forest	X		X			
Councilmember Jannone			X			
Councilmember Triggiano			X			
Mayor Portman			X			
ON CONSENT AGENDA	Yes <u>x</u>		No			

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Red Bank, In the County of Monmouth at a Meeting held on May 23, 2024.

Bonnie Thomas

Bonnie K. Thomas
Deputy, Borough Clerk