

**AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING RANKED CHOICE VOTING AS
THE ELECTION METHOD FOR
THE JUNE 2025 PRIMARY ELECTION**

WHEREAS, ranked choice voting (“RCV”) means the method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference, tabulation proceeds in sequential rounds in which last-place candidates are defeated and the candidates with the most votes in the final round are nominated; and

WHEREAS, in July 2021, the Virginia General Assembly amended the Code of Virginia § 24.2-673.1 to authorize localities to implement RCV in elections of members of a county board of supervisors or a city council, and the decision to conduct an election by ranked choice voting shall be made, in consultation with the local electoral board and general registrar, by a majority vote of the board of supervisors or city council that the office being elected serves; and

WHEREAS, the Electoral Board and Registrar of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia having reviewed the successful conduct of a RCV primary election in June 2023 for the nomination of members of the County of Arlington, Virginia, Board of Supervisors and determined that there are no technical barriers to conducting the 2025 Charlottesville City Council primary using the same RCV process; and

WHEREAS, the method of RCV empowers voters to express their full preferences on their ballots and has been successfully adopted in various localities and states across the nation, and has been shown in research to support more diverse candidate pools and improved civility in campaigns and elections. The use of RCV in the June 2025 primary elections for the Charlottesville City Council will allow for the introduction of this new method to our community; and

WHEREAS, state law provides that any changes to an election shall occur at least 90 days prior to such election, and adoption of this resolution more than nine months before the primary election provides sufficient time for City Council to educate and engage the community on the changes, as well as prepare the new ballots and tabulation system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, that the City of Charlottesville, Virginia hereby establishes RCV as the election method in the June 2025 City Council primary election.

Approved by Council
August ____, 2024

Kyna Thomas, MMC
Clerk of Council

Suggested Motion: I move to pass this ordinance and establish Ranked Choice Voting as the election method for the June 2025 City Council Primary Election.