

S.F. deserves shot to repeal ranked-choice voting

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San Franciscans who are fed up with the ranked-choice voting experiment, which has produced voter confusion and vacuous campaigns, are going to have to take the matter in their own hands.

The Board of Supervisors voted 6-5 against a proposal to put the repeal of that instant-runoff system on the June ballot.

The theoretical benefits of an instant runoff - in which voters rank their first, second and third choices - have not materialized.

Mayoral elections in San Francisco and Oakland have shown that the strategies to rise from the field in a ranked-choice system do nothing to advance the substance or tone of a campaign. The system has proved disappointing to many San Francisco progressives. In fact, the last time a candidate from the left made a strong run was 2003, when Matt Gonzalez received 47 percent of the vote against incumbent [Gavin Newsom](#) in a traditional runoff.

"A lot of people on both the moderate and progressive sides of the aisle want to see this repealed," noted Supervisor Mark Farrell, an advocate of repeal, suggesting an initiative drive could be in the works.

San Franciscans deserve a chance to return to a runoff system that encourages substantive campaigns and assures that everyone who makes the effort to vote has a voice in the final outcome.

How they voted

On ballot measure to repeal ranked-choice voting

Yes (5): Carmen Chu, Sean Elsbernd, Mark Farrell, Jane Kim, Scott Wiener

No (6): [John Avalos](#), David Campos, [David Chiu](#), Malia Cohen, Eric Mar, Christina Olague

Contact information for supervisors: sfbos.org

<http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/02/16/ED3B1N818V.DTL>

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