

Simple Rules for Voting in Cambridge

Brought to You by Cambridge Voters for Good Government

1. **Do your homework.** Go to <http://vote.cambridgecivic.com/> to link to each candidate's website to learn about each.
2. **Make a list of those candidates whose policies or views you support.** On your ballot, you should rank only these candidates.
3. On your ballot, **give your #1 vote to your first choice candidate** - the person you most favor.
4. **Continue voting** for as many others as you favor **in order of descending preference.** Fill in just one oval per column, voting for candidates you actively would want to see on the council if your #1 isn't elected.
5. **Vote for like-minded candidates** to ensure that the candidate who gets your vote is someone whose views you endorse. (Because your vote might transfer to your #2 or #3 candidate - see reverse side for explanation of the vote tabulation.)
6. **Make voting a team sport!**
 - Encourage everyone you know to vote. Spread the word about the importance of voting. **Democracy in Cambridge only works if we all participate and vote.**
 - Be "team-wise" and vote for a group of candidates who share a commitment to transparency and democracy and who will foster collaboration in policy-making going forward.

Your vote, your voice.



Thank you for voting.

Overview of PR Vote Counting

Key Facts*



1. **Quota** is the threshold ... number of votes a candidate needs to be elected to the City Council. 10% of all votes cast + 1. (In 2021, quota was 2,182 votes.)
2. **On Round 1 (“First Count”)** any candidate reaching quota is elected. At this point two other things happen:
 - Surplus ballots of candidates who reach quota are distributed “from the top down” to the #2 candidate ...or a lower choice if that candidate has already reached quota. Anyone who gets to quota based on first count surplus ballots is declared elected.
 - Then, candidates with fewer than 50 votes are eliminated and their ballots transfer to the next ranked candidate.
3. **Subsequent rounds** are “bottom up” tabulations. The tabulation turns to the candidate with the least votes. That candidate is declared defeated with their votes going to the next ranked candidate on those ballots...whoever’s still in the race. As votes redistributed from the bottom put a candidate at quota, that person is elected and receives no further votes. Elimination with votes moving to next-ranked candidates continues until 9 candidates remain and these are declared elected (even if short of quota).

** Above are the basics of the vote counting procedure. There is more nuance to the tabulation. Learn more at:*

- *The city’s election website: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/electioncommission/cambridgemunicipalelections>*
- *The Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center: <https://www.rcvresources.org/in-practice-cambridge-ma>*