

**CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION 21-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GOLD BAR, WASHINGTON, IN SUPPORT OF RANKED
CHOICE VOTING**

WHEREAS, voter turnout in “Top Two” primaries is, without exception, significantly lower than the general election and is not reflective of the general electorate; and

WHEREAS, under the “Top Two” primary system, voters may be motivated to engage in “strategic voting” whereby they vote to prevent a disfavored candidate from winning instead of casting a vote for their preferred candidate; and

WHEREAS, an alternative to our “Top Two” primary system is ranked-choice voting, whereby instead of choosing just one candidate to support in a given race, voters rank the candidates running in the order of that voters’ preference (e.g. 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice); and

WHEREAS, using ranked-choice voting means that a separate primary is no longer necessary; and

WHEREAS, more than twenty U.S. jurisdictions have adopted some version of single-winner ranked-choice voting, including New York City (NY), Santa Fe (NM), Minneapolis (MN), Memphis (TN), Oakland (CA), Payson (UT), Takoma Park (MD), Benton County (OR), and the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, many jurisdictions including Cambridge (MA), Eastpointe (MI), and New York City (NY) either currently or in the past used multi-winner ranked-choice voting for municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, potential benefits of ranked-choice voting include lowered costs, increased voter turnout, improved civility in and decreased costs of political campaigns, and elected bodies that are more reflective of the electorate by measures of race, class, gender, and political beliefs; and

WHEREAS, local Washington jurisdictions are effectively prohibited from adopting ranked-choice voting by state law, which mandates the top-two primary and the use of numbered positions when multiple elected officials represent the same geography; and

WHEREAS, the Snohomish County Auditor, Garth Fell, who oversees elections in the county supports the use of ranked-choice voting; and

WHEREAS, one bill currently before the State Legislature, HB 1156, as currently drafted, would amend state law to allow local jurisdictions the ability to adopt ranked-choice voting; and

WHEREAS, HB 1156 is a merely permissive bill which does not dictate or impose any policies upon any jurisdictions, but rather provides jurisdictions with the ability, should they choose, to adopt ranked-choice voting;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the governing body of the City of Gold Bar as follows:

Section I Action by the City Council

Section II Severability
Section III Effective Date

Section I, Action by the City Council

The City of Gold Bar supports passage of legislation that allows for municipalities to have the options of using single-winner or multi-winner ranked choice voting in their municipal elections.

The City of Gold Bar supports Washington State House Bill 1156 with provisions as currently drafted.

This resolution shall be sent to all applicable legislators representing the City of Gold Bar.

Section II, Severability

This resolution is severable and if any portion of it shall be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portion shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section III, Effective Date

This Resolution shall take effect from, and after, its passage and approval, as provided by law.

Resolved this 21st day of January, 2021.

APPROVED:



Bill Clem, Mayor

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



Lisa Stowe, Clerk/Treasurer