



Pennsylvania Technology Student Association and  
Foundation, Inc.  
Incorporated 2004

# Ranked Choice Voting Amendment

By: Jack Shapiro of Lower Merion High School TSA

## Proposal:

A bylaw amendment has is proposed to update the voting procedures for officers of the Pennsylvania Technology Student Association State Officer Team. This proposal will change the current established voting procedures in section 5.3 of the Student Bylaws to remove the current practice of Bulk Exclusion, and replace it with Ranked-Choice Voting. When voting delegates submit their vote for state officers, they will be given the opportunity to rank the candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives a majority of the votes, (50% +1), of the first-choice votes cast of that office, that candidate will be elected. However, if no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, an automatic elimination process begins. The candidate who received the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated. Each vote cast for that candidate will be transferred to the voter's next-ranked choice among the remaining candidates. This elimination process will continue until one candidate receives a majority, (50% + 1), and is deemed the winner. This method of voting would eliminate the need for run-off votes, as the run-off is automatically calculated from the preferred votes cast.

## Current Bylaw:

**5.3:** If there are more than two candidates for an office and a majority is not reached on the first ballot, the candidate(s) receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped. If there are more than three (3) candidates, the bulk exclusion method can be used to drop multiple candidates. Bulk exclusion is the elimination of multiple candidates if the sum of votes for those candidates cannot beat the lowest candidate above them. Voting would continue until a majority is reached.

## Proposed Bylaw if Adopted:

Section 5.3 of the Student Bylaws will be changed to read as follows:

**5.3:** If there are more than two candidates for any office, Ranked-Choice voting will be used to elect a candidate to that office. Ranked-Choice voting will require each delegate to cast a single ballot with all candidates ranked in descending order, from most to least preferred. If no one candidate secures a majority of votes, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped, and all votes for that candidate shall have their votes recounted for their next highest preferred candidate. This procedure will continue until a candidate has secured a majority of the votes.