

Georgia Votes: Current System vs. Ranked Choice

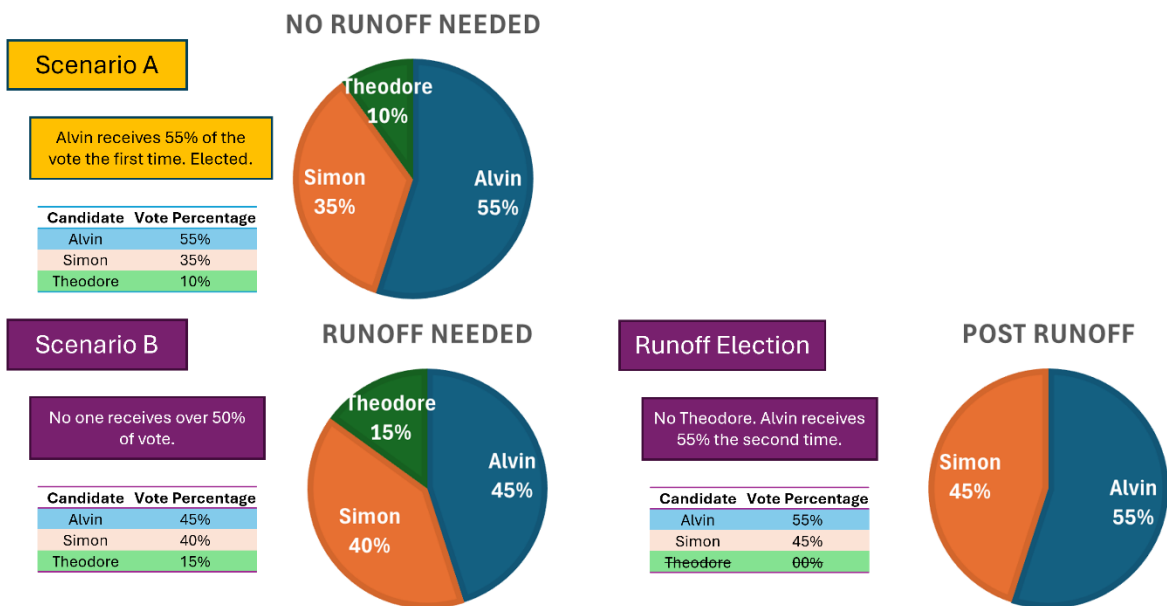
Science Facts and Analysis from Science for Georgia

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Current System

In Georgia, if no candidate receives over 50% of the votes, a runoff election is required. This system was put in place during the 1960's [explicitly to discriminate against non-white minority group voters](#). [Georgia is one of the only states that still allows a runoff in general elections](#). Voters must return to the polls to cast another vote for their elected officials. This second election, as of 2021, must happen within 4 weeks of the general election.

Our current systems requires voters to return for a runoff election if no candidate receives more than 50% of the vote.



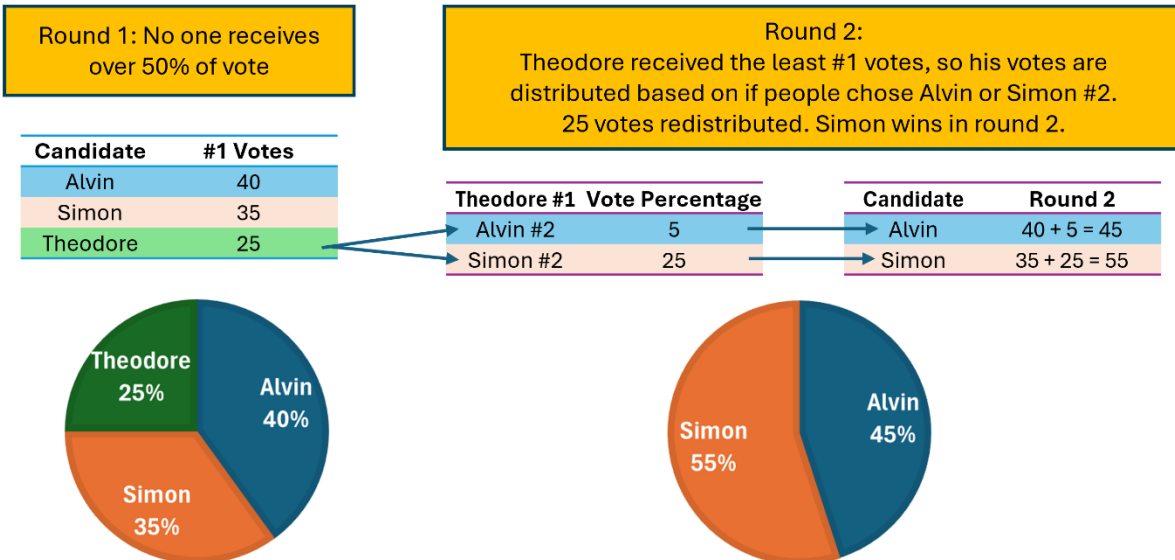
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Ranked Choice Voting

In ranked choice voting, voters would rank candidates in order of preference at the polls. If a candidate receives over 50% of the votes, this candidate will win. If no candidate receives over 50% of the vote, the candidate with the least votes will be eliminated, and ballots cast with the eliminated candidate at the top will be recounted for the second candidate. This way, if there is not a candidate who wins a majority the first time around, there is no need for voters to go to the polls again to vote in a runoff election.

Ranked choice voting eliminates the need for runoffs. Here we demonstrate one method of “instant runoff” where 3rd place is eliminated and their 2nd choice redistributed.



About Science for Georgia

Science for Georgia is a 501c3 dedicated to bridging the gap between scientists and the public through training, outreach opportunities, and direct contact with the public, policymakers, and the press. Science for Georgia highlights how science can impact people’s lives and advocates for the responsible use of science in public policy.

Please reach out with any questions or comments info@sci4ga.org

