



## Ranked Choice Voting in Massachusetts

Alexis Earp, Freshman  
Reporter

I'm sure all of us have been in a situation, whether with a group of friends, in a group project, or somewhere else entirely, in which most people don't want to do something, but everybody ends up doing it anyway. Maybe two friends want to go to the park, but you and three other friends want to do something else. However, the four of you cannot agree on what to do, so despite the fact that the majority of the friend group does not want to go to the park, you still have to because two people could agree on it. This probably seems like a weird story to begin an article about voting. Here's an example that will make a little more sense.

In 2013, Jasiel Correia was elected mayor of Fall River, Massachusetts. Five years later, in the fall of 2018, he was accused of wire and tax fraud. He was charged with stealing over \$200,000 from investors in his startup. In March of 2019, voters had the opportunity to decide if they wanted to recall him, and if so, who they wanted to take his place. Nearly 8,000 people voted to recall Correia, while only 4,911 voted to keep him as mayor. There were five candidates for mayor on the ballot – including Correia, who won. How can that be right, if most people wanted him out of office? Correia got 35 percent of the vote, while the other 65 percent was split between the other four candidates. So, while most citizens of Fall River wanted Correia gone, he was reelected because he got more votes than anyone else.

This is certainly not the first times incidents like this have occurred, but what can be done to stop them? The answer is ranked choice voting. Ranked choice voting is a policy that allows voters to rank candidates on a ballot instead of just voting for one person. This would mean that if no candidates won with a majority of the vote (over 50 percent), votes would be redistributed until someone did have the majority. To make it simple, let's say a group of people are voting on pizza toppings. The choices are plain cheese, pepperoni, green pepper, and mushrooms. In a group of 20 people, everyone gets to vote for their first, second, third, and fourth choice of pizza topping. Plain cheese gets 25 percent of the vote, pepperoni gets 30 percent, green pepper gets 20 percent, and mushroom gets 25 percent. Since green pepper got the least number of votes, it is eliminated as a choice. The ballots with green pepper as the first choice would be reexamined, and those votes would be redistributed to the second choice, leaving plain cheese with 40 percent of the vote, pepperoni with 35 percent, and mushroom with 25 percent. The process of elimination and redistribution would continue until one topping (or candidate) had the majority. This system gets rid of the threat of "spoiler candidates," or candidates who "take votes away from" candidates with a greater chance of winning.

There is currently an organization called Voter Choice Massachusetts working to get ranked choice voting passed in Massachusetts. Amherst and Cambridge have already implemented this system for their local elections. To learn more about ranked choice voting, or to get involved with Voter Choice Massachusetts, visit their website: <https://www.voterchoicema.org/>. The website has information about the history of ranked choice voting, where ranked choice voting is used across the country, and a variety of actions that you can take to help with their mission.



## More Than Murals

Muriel Owen, Sophomore  
Reporter

I am sure that if you have left the Marblehead bubble and ventured to the oh-so-distant city of Salem, you have seen a mural or two. However, these murals are more than what meets the eye. While they are stunning works of art, adding color to rather dreary brick buildings, they are part of a larger goal.



The Queen of the Block  
by MR CENZ (United Kingdom)

The many murals in Salem are a part of The Punto Urban Art Museum, which is a "mission-driven social justice art program led by North Shore CDC, a community development non-profit founded in the neighborhood in 1978." The museum of murals was created to break down the socio-economic "wall" that is between the Point Neighborhood and the rest of Salem. By breaking down this "wall," the Punto Urban Art Museum, through stunning works of art, is bringing in members from outside of the neighborhood and giving the people who grow up in the Point Neighborhood a sense of pride in where they come from. Previously, if you were told where not to go in

Salem, the general response was the Point Neighborhood. Statements like this not only prevented the people from the "outside" from exploring the neighborhood, but they also made those who lived there feel embarrassed about where they lived.

By creating a walkable open-air museum within the neighborhood, the Point is now a beautiful and positive environment for Point residents. The divide that existed between the Point and the rest of Salem has begun to break down as visitors and residents of Salem are intrigued to experience first-hand the world class art that lives on the homes of residents in the Point Neighborhood. From locals to tourists to members of the Point, everyone is benefiting from the art displayed over the three blocks. Also, by incorporating not only artists from all over the world but local ones as well, the art is receiving international attention while supporting local artists who grew up in the area. The North Shore CDC is creating a North Shore where no matter the neighborhood that one comes from, there is "choice and opportunity" for everyone.

## All You Need to Know About an Education in France

Kate Simcoe, Freshman  
Reporter



Have you ever wondered what it would be like to attend school in a foreign country? Possibly learn a new language or experience a different style of teaching? School systems vary greatly between countries, and one example of a country with a different educational system than that in the United States is France.

Last year, I went to a Catholic school in Toulouse, France called Le Causou. Like most other French middle schools, or collèges, it includes grades six through nine. In French, these levels are sixième, cinquième, quatrième, and troisième. Each grade is divided into classes that are then assigned a certain number. Mine was quatrième une, or the first eighth grade class.

Unlike American middle schools, the teachers rotate from room to room while the students stay in a single classroom throughout the day. Subjects like Math, Science, Social Studies, and French are taught, except that they are referred to by different names: Maths, SVT, Histoire-Géographie, and Français. When the teacher enters the room, students are expected to stand up. They remain standing until the teacher tells them "Asseyez-vous," giving them permission to sit. This is a sign of respect, but on the first day I was quite confused because this doesn't usually happen in American schools.

Throughout the French school day, there are many breaks. During the mid-morning and mid-afternoon, there are twenty-minute récréations where you go outside, talk with your friends, and maybe have a snack. During recess, each grade is restricted to a different area, called a court. These blacktop areas are surrounded by low stone walls and have soccer nets and basketball hoops.

At lunchtime, there is a two-hour pause to eat. Students wait outside until their grade is called in to go to the cafeteria. There, food is served buffet-style. Unlike in the United States, no one brings their own lunch except kids with allergies. I expected the food in the canteen to be good because France is known for its food, but in reality, I was disappointed. One good aspect was that I never had to rush to eat my whole lunch before the bell rang.

Of course, this is only one point of view of attending school in another country. If you ever have the chance, I encourage you to consider taking a year abroad in college or even becoming an exchange student.



Super Dali by SIPROS (Brazil)

Today, it has built over 400 housing units for families of lower means, installed over 75 large scale murals, has staff and supporters who volunteer over 10,000 hours in community service per year, and has artists from anywhere from Salem to Brazil. If you are in Salem, I urge

you to go and check out the murals and visit the neighborhood. The art is unquestionably breathtaking, and it is surprisingly fun to go on a mural-scavenger hunt.

If you having any questions or are interested in a map of the murals, visit the site: <http://pounturbanartmuseum.org/>

\*Quoted material is from: <http://pounturbanartmuseum.org/>

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2018-2019

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