

Press Release - 2025 Fort Collins Local Election Poll

December 1, 2025

Fort Collins, Colorado - A Fort Collins poll conducted by the Alliance for Competitive Elections (ACE) found that, among voters interviewed during the 2025 local elections, a majority say ranked choice voting (RCV) would make them more likely to vote for a candidate not associated with either major party.

A majority of respondents, 62%, indicate that RCV would make them either much more likely or somewhat more likely to vote for a minor party or independent candidate. Only 8% of respondents indicated that RCV would make them less likely to vote for a minor party or independent candidate. Thirty-one percent of respondents indicated “not sure,” demonstrating an opportunity to further educate voters about the mechanics of RCV and its potential to expand choices at the ballot box.

Despite party affiliation not appearing next to candidates’ names (a “non-partisan” election), 75% of voters surveyed still considered party affiliation when voting. Yet, 39% of respondents indicated that they do not feel well represented by any current political party, and an overwhelming 93% stated that it is either very important or somewhat important that candidates who are not associated with either major party be listed on Colorado ballots.

“This shows that, as much as we’d like to believe local elections are nonpartisan, there is still a strong influence of parties within local elections. The challenge is that the current rules favor parties that already have robust communications systems, fundraising tools, and support groups - like 501(c)(4) nonprofits - while also preventing smaller parties from finding a foothold and building leadership pipelines to higher office.” stated Clayton King, Founding Director for ACE.

During this election, which was the first to feature ranked choice voting in Larimer County, 90% of voters surveyed indicated that they were familiar with RCV. Furthermore, 73% of respondents support continued use of RCV in Fort Collins. Thirty percent of respondents found it easier to decide how to fill out the RCV ballot, and 32% found it neither easier nor more difficult. Twenty-nine percent found it a little harder, and 10% found it much harder.

“More than six in 10 voters interviewed by ACE found that RCV did not make it more difficult to fill out their ballot. For the first election using a new voting system, the rollout was a clear success, supported by a commendable voter education effort by the Larimer County Clerk’s office and its partners. That said, the push to educate voters must be maintained to ensure these positive numbers do not decrease in future elections.” stated Harrison Weinberg, ACE Board Member.

[Link to Exit Poll Survey](#)

Methodology ACE conducted a non-probability exit poll of local election voters in Fort Collins, Colorado, between November 1–5, 2025. Seven trained volunteer interviewers collected responses from voters after they deposited ballots at three high-traffic ballot drop boxes across the city. Surveys were administered either on paper or through a secure online form, depending on respondent preference. In total, the team collected 85 completed interviews, providing a snapshot of voter perspectives during the final days of the 2025 local election. ACE notes that the demographic distribution of the achieved sample deviates in some respects from the demographic profile of 2025 Fort Collins local election voters. More information can be found in our full data release, linked above.