

League of Women Voters of New Castle County
HOT TOPIC LUNCH Monday, September 23, 2019
11:30 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Michael's Restaurant, 1000 Churchman's Rd, Newark, DE 19713

TOPIC: *Ranked-Choice Voting*
SPEAKER: UPenn Professor Emeritus Jack Nagel

The simple plurality voting typically used in the U.S. is not the only option. At our LWNCC September Hot Topic luncheon, Dr. Jack Nagel will briefly review several alternative electoral reforms, and then focus on ranked-choice voting (RCV) for single-winner elections, also known as "instant runoff voting." Several state Leagues have formed positions supporting RCV, and it was used in state-wide elections in Maine for the first time in 2018. In ranked-choice voting, voters rank candidates in order of preference on the ballot (first choice, second choice, and so on).

Dr. Jack H. Nagel is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. In his research and teaching, he has investigated alternatives to the single-winner plurality elections that dominate in the U.S. Following a Fulbright lectureship in New Zealand and two later research trips there, he wrote numerous papers on that country's adoption of, and experience with, a mixed-member proportional system. He has also studied effects of plurality elections on three-party competition in Britain and analyzed reform attempts in Britain and Canada.



Jack has provided invited testimony on electoral reforms to legislatures or courts in Pennsylvania, Quebec, and Minnesota; and he has written op eds on electoral matters for major newspapers. He is a senior research advisor to the national reform group, FairVote.org, and assisted them in defending Ranked Choice Voting against legal challenges in Minnesota and Maine. In 2016-17, Jack served on a statewide committee re-assessing electoral reform issues for the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters.

To get a "leg up" on understanding the alphabet soup of alternative electoral systems, September Hot Topic attendees are encouraged to view these simple, short introductory videos beforehand:

- RCV, or IRV – Instant Runoff Voting (single-winner ranked choice) – [RCV conceptual introduction](#)
- RCV / IRV – real-life instructions from Minnesota: <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/rcv>
- STV – Single Transferable Vote (multi-winner ranked choice) – [STV conceptual introduction](#)
- STV – real-life instructions from Scotland: [Scottish Council Elections](#)
- MMP – Mixed-Member Proportional – [MMP conceptual introduction](#)

LWNCC Hot Topic lunches are held at Michaels' Restaurant in Christiana. \$18.00 paid at time of the event covers buffet lunch, soft beverage and tip. Please pay in cash if at all possible. If you don't wish to buy lunch, you may come around noon for the program only (the presentation usually starts around 12:10 pm). The public is cordially invited to attend.

Please RSVP to lwvde@comcast.net or 302-571-8948 by Sunday, Sept 22, so we can let the restaurant know how many to expect. If you need a ride, leave a message on the League Office phone or e-mail when you RSVP. If you have not made a reservation please come anyway.