

Instant Runoff Voting

A set of questions was included in the survey to examine the Instant Runoff Voting Method. The respondents were first asked if they were registered to vote in North Carolina. Table 64 indicates that almost 92% of the respondents were registered to vote in the state. Those respondents registered to vote were subsequently asked their understanding of the Instant Runoff Voting Method (Table 65). A 9-point scale was used ranging from do not understand at all (1) to understand very well (9). The results indicate there was a level of misunderstanding among the respondents. The mean was 5.83 with 58.6% on the “understand” side (above 5) of the scale and 30.6% on the “not understand” side. This includes 22.0% who indicated they do not understand at all. Overall this indicates a degree of misunderstanding among the respondents. The respondents were next asked their support for using the Instant Runoff Voting Method using a 9-point scale from not supportive at all (1) to very supportive (9). The respondents were also informed the use of the method would save Cary taxpayers approximately \$28,000 by not having to hold a physical runoff election. Table 66 shows there is a relatively high level of support for using the method. The mean was 7.21 with 68.8% on the “support” side of the scale versus only 7.2% on the “no support” side.

Table 64. Registered to Vote in NC.

Year	% Yes	% No
08	91.6	8.4

Table 65. How Well Do You Understand the Instant Runoff Voting Method (n=282).

Year	Mean	Do Not Understand at All 1	2	3	4	Neutral 5	6	7	8	Understand Very Well 9	% Above 5
08	5.83	22.0	5.0	2.5	1.1	11.0	4.3	10.3	8.9	35.1	58.6

Table 66. Support for Instant Runoff Voting Method Being Used in Future Cary Elections (n=350).

Year	Mean	Not Supportive at All 1	2	3	4	Neutral 5	6	7	8	Very Supportive 9	% Above 5
08	7.21	5.7	0.3	0.9	0.3	24.0	1.7	7.7	8.0	51.4	68.8

Instant Runoff Voting Crosstabulations

The crosstabulations for registered to vote in North Carolina are shown in Tables B360-B367. They were conducted for age, education, gender, housing type, income, internet access, race, and years in Cary. The only subgroups not reaching the 90% range for registration were Asians (50.0%), 0-1 year Cary residents (78.9%), apartment dwellers (83.9%), 18-25 age group (84.6%), 6-10 year Cary residents (87.3%), and African-Americans (88.5%).

The crosstabulations for understanding the Instant Runoff Voting Method are shown in Tables B368-B375. There were several subgroups indicating considerably lower levels of understanding including apartment dwellers (3.65), 0-1 year Cary residents (4.10), and those with no internet access (4.62). Also exhibiting a degree of misunderstanding were \$30,001-\$50,000 income level (4.96), 18-25 age group (5.00), 2-5 year Cary residents (5.25), townhouse/condo dwellers (5.33), 6-10 year Cary residents (5.52), and those without a college degree (5.55).

The crosstabulations for support for using the Instant Runoff Voting Method in future elections are shown in Tables B376-B383. There were generally high levels of support among the breakdowns. However, there were somewhat lower levels from those without internet access (6.00), 18-25 age group (6.38), apartment dwellers (6.48), \$50,001-\$70,000 income level (6.50), 56-65 age group (6.69), and 0-1 year Cary residents (6.89).