This November, New York City voters will have the opportunity to implement ranked choice voting (RCV) for city primaries and special elections by voting yes on Question 1. It’s a crucial step. In cities that have already put RCV in place, candidates from historically underrepresented communities are winning elections and taking office.

**RCV GIVES US MORE VOICE AND BETTER REPRESENTATION.**

- RCV gives voters the opportunity to express their honest preferences without worrying they’re accidentally helping candidates they don’t support.
- That means non-establishment, community-oriented candidates no longer have to fear “spoiling” an election by entering a race and splitting the vote.

**THE RECORD IS CLEAR. WITH RCV, CANDIDATES OF COLOR CAN RUN FOR OFFICE—AND WIN.**

- In four Bay Area cities that adopted RCV, including San Francisco and Oakland, representation for people of color increased in majority-minority districts by 17 percentage points.
- In diverse multi-ethnic districts, representation for candidates of color increased by 24 percentage points.
- Overall, the transformation has been impressive: before RCV was put in place, 38 percent of the candidates winning election in these cities were people of color. By 2018, people of color were winning 62 percent of RCV races.

**AND WOMEN—ESPECIALLY WOMEN OF COLOR—HAVE BEEN EMPOWERED TO RUN FOR OFFICE WITH RCV.**

- Another study compared election rates in California cities, and found the predicted probability a woman would win an election was 15 percentage points higher in cities with RCV than those without.
- The percentage of women of color actually winning office in RCV cities increased by almost 9 percentage points, while female candidates of color lost ground in the non-RCV cities.
- What’s that mean in practice? A shift: three of the four mayors of these Bay Area cities are women, and two of the four are people of color, including the first Latino and the first black woman elected to lead Berkeley and San Francisco, respectively.

We have a real opportunity. New York City is synonymous with the melting pot of backgrounds, cultures, and identities that makes our nation special. We need a voting system that reflects our city, and RCV has the power to make our elections more representative of all our diverse communities.