



FISCAL IMPACT NOTE

Ordinance: O-35-25

Title: Ranked Choice Voting in Annapolis City Elections

Date: July 22, 2025

This ordinance implements ranked choice voting for the election of the Mayor, City Council members, and party committee members. It will not affect the upcoming City elections and, as such, is not reflected in the FY2026 budget.

The City of Annapolis utilizes voting equipment provided by the State of Maryland and collaborates with the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections to conduct its elections. The State's voting equipment is capable of generating ranked choice ballots and scanning the resulting ballot data.

Currently, the City can access federally-tested, no-cost software for tabulating ranked choice voting results. While the software itself is free, the City may consider procuring services to assist with testing and implementation.

To support the transition, voter education materials will need to be expanded to include information on ranked choice voting. The estimated cost for this outreach is between \$0.50 and \$1.00 per voter, which equates to approximately \$13,850 to \$27,700 for 27,700 registered voters.

These are the known expenses at the time of this fiscal impact note. The Finance Department believes the costs could be much greater but given the quick turnaround requirement of the fiscal note, we have been unable to do the necessary research to determine costs.

Prepared by Jake Trudeau, Budget Manager