

Office of Regulatory Management
Economic Review Form

Agency name	Department of Elections
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	1VAC20-100-10; 1VAC20-100-50
VAC Chapter title(s)	Ranked Choice Voting: Definitions; Ballot Treatment; Ranked Choice Voting Tabulation
Action title	RCV Batch Elimination Amendments
Date this document prepared	7/5/2024
Regulatory Stage (including Issuance of Guidance Documents)	Final - Exempt

Cost Benefit Analysis

Complete Tables 1a and 1b for all regulatory actions. You do not need to complete Table 1c if the regulatory action is required by state statute or federal statute or regulation and leaves no discretion in its implementation.

Table 1a should provide analysis for the regulatory approach you are taking. Table 1b should provide analysis for the approach of leaving the current regulations intact (i.e., no further change is implemented). Table 1c should provide analysis for at least one alternative approach. You should not limit yourself to one alternative, however, and can add additional charts as needed.

Report both direct and indirect costs and benefits that can be monetized in Boxes 1 and 2. Report direct and indirect costs and benefits that cannot be monetized in Box 4. See the ORM Regulatory Economic Analysis Manual for additional guidance.

Table 1a: Costs and Benefits of the Proposed Changes (Primary Option)

<p>(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)</p>	<p><i>The direct & indirect costs & benefits listed below only apply to the current amendments to IVAC20-100. The initial regulation regarding ranked choice voting (RCV) became effective on 12/03/2021. Therefore, the economic review only addresses the economic impact of the changes to RCV currently being made and not to RCV as a whole as this is not a brand-new regulatory chapter.</i></p> <p>Direct Costs: There are no monetizable direct costs associated with the amendments as these changes are procedural.</p> <p>Indirect Costs: There are no monetizable indirect costs associated with the amendments as these changes are procedural.</p> <p>Direct Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While most of the procedural changes do not have any direct or indirect monetizable benefits, these amendments will increase efficiency in RCV elections. Batch elimination saves time for local election officials by reducing the number of tabulation rounds by eliminating multiple candidates at once which is mathematically impossible for those candidates to be elected. ELECT cannot quantify the specific amount of time it will save local election officials at this time. However, we can provide the following overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The average cost of an officer of election is \$150 per day ○ The average general registrar makes \$31hr ○ On average election officials work 18 hours on Election Day, starting from 5am – 11pm without RCV ○ RCV tabulation can take multiple days ○ By allowing for batch elimination localities can save on average \$398 a day for as many days as it takes to tabulate RCV results <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no monetizable indirect benefits associated with the amendments as these changes are procedural.</p>	
<p>(2) Present Monetized Values</p>	<p>Direct & Indirect Costs</p>	<p>Direct & Indirect Benefits</p>
	<p>(a) 0.00</p>	<p>(b) 0.00</p>
<p>(3) Net Monetized Benefit</p>	<p>+\$398 savings per day for every day not required to tabulate results if multiple candidates can be eliminated at once.</p>	

(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	<p>Costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no non-monetized costs for this regulation. <p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These amendments increase RCV tabulation efficiency and make tabulation more concise.
(5) Information Sources	Department of Elections Staff; Arlington County General Registrar; Maine RCV Tabulation Process; NYC Tabulation Process.

Table 1b: Costs and Benefits under the Status Quo (No change to the regulation)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<p>Direct Costs: Local election officials would have to spend more time going through multiple tabulation rounds without batch elimination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We cannot quantify directly how much time it would take local election officials to conduct multiple tabulation rounds and timing could be impacted by the number of seats on an active ballot • It could cost localities an average of \$398 a day to tabulate RCV results if localities do not have the ability to remove candidates who are mathematically impossible to be elected. <p>Indirect Costs: There are no monetizable indirect costs associated with the amendments as these changes are clarifying and procedural</p> <p>Direct Benefits: There are no monetizable direct benefits associated with the amendments as these changes are clarifying and procedural</p> <p>Indirect Benefits: There are no monetizable indirect benefits associated with the amendments as these changes are clarifying and procedural</p>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0.00	(b) 0.00
(3) Net Monetized Benefit	-\$398 a day on average for every day needed to tabulate results	
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	With batch elimination election officials can potentially take less time tabulating results.	
(5) Information Sources	Department of Elections Staff	

Table 1c: Costs and Benefits under Alternative Approach(es)

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	N/A	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a)	(b)
(3) Net Monetized Benefit		
(4) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)		
(5) Information Sources		

Impact on Local Partners

Use this chart to describe impacts on local partners. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 2: Impact on Local Partners

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	<i>See Table 1a. The direct & indirect costs & benefits for local partners consists of the same information contained in Table 1a as localities primarily administer ranked choice voting elections.</i>	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0.00	(b) 0.00
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	Batch elimination allows localities to spend less time tabulating RCV results	
(4) Assistance		
(5) Information Sources	Department of Elections Staff; Arlington County General Registrar; Maine RCV Tabulation Process; NYC Tabulation Process.	

Impacts on Families

Use this chart to describe impacts on families. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 3: Impact on Families

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	Direct Costs: There are no monetizable direct costs associated with the amendments Indirect Costs: There are no monetizable indirect costs associated with the amendments Direct Benefits: There are no monetizable direct benefits associated with the amendments Indirect Benefits: There are no monetizable indirect benefits associated with the amendments	
(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0.00	(b) 0.00
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	The amendments may provide tabulation results more efficiently to members of the public.	
(4) Information Sources	Department of Elections Staff	

Impacts on Small Businesses

Use this chart to describe impacts on small businesses. See Part 8 of the ORM Cost Impact Analysis Guidance for additional guidance.

Table 4: Impact on Small Businesses

(1) Direct & Indirect Costs & Benefits (Monetized)	Direct Costs: There are no monetizable direct costs associated with the amendments Indirect Costs: There are no monetizable indirect costs associated with the amendments Direct Benefits: There are no monetizable direct benefits associated with the amendments Indirect Benefits: There are no monetizable indirect benefits associated with the amendments	
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(2) Present Monetized Values	Direct & Indirect Costs	Direct & Indirect Benefits
	(a) 0.00	(b) 0.00
(3) Other Costs & Benefits (Non-Monetized)	There are not costs or benefits for small businesses associated with the amendments.	
(4) Alternatives	There are no alternatives	
(5) Information Sources	Department of Elections Staff	

Changes to Number of Regulatory Requirements

Table 5: Regulatory Reduction

For each individual action, please fill out the appropriate chart to reflect any change in regulatory requirements, costs, regulatory stringency, or the overall length of any guidance documents.

Change in Regulatory Requirements

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Authority of Change	Initial Count	Additions	Subtractions	Total Net Change in Requirements
1VAC20-100-50	(M/A):				
	(D/A):				
	(M/R):	12	1		+1
	(D/R):				
				Grand Total of Changes in Requirements:	(M/A): (D/A): (M/R): +1 (D/R):

Key:

Please use the following coding if change is mandatory or discretionary and whether it affects externally regulated parties or only the agency itself:

(M/A): Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting the agency itself

(D/A): Discretionary requirements affecting agency itself

(M/R): Mandatory requirements mandated by federal and/or state statute affecting external parties, including other agencies

(D/R): Discretionary requirements affecting external parties, including other agencies

Cost Reductions or Increases (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Requirement	Initial Cost	New Cost	Overall Cost Savings/Increases
1VAC20-100-50	Provides for batch elimination	N/A	+\$398 per day on average to specifically tabulate results	+\$398 per day on average to specifically tabulate results
				<i>ELECT cannot assess a percentage of overall savings at this time as a batch elimination has not been used yet and RCV is not widely adopted.</i>

Other Decreases or Increases in Regulatory Stringency (if applicable)

VAC Section(s) Involved*	Description of Regulatory Change	Overview of How It Reduces or Increases Regulatory Burden
1VAC20-100-50	Provides for batch elimination	Reduces the burden on the number of tabulation rounds a locality must complete if multiple candidates can be eliminated at once due to it being mathematically impossible for them to be elected.

Length of Guidance Documents (only applicable if guidance document is being revised)

Title of Guidance Document	Original Word Count	New Word Count	Net Change in Word Count
N/A			

*If the agency is modifying a guidance document that has regulatory requirements, it should report any change in requirements in the appropriate chart(s).