



2021 South Dakota Legislature

Senate Bill 91

Introduced by: **Senator Nesiba**

1 **An Act to authorize ranked-choice voting for certain local elections.**

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

3 **Section 1.** That a NEW SECTION be added:

4 **12-20-39.1. Municipal elections--Ranked-choice voting.**

5 A municipality may adopt ordinances that provide for a ranked-choice voting
6 process for electing officers under the municipality's jurisdiction. If a municipality adopts
7 an ordinance under this section, a person may only be deemed elected with the most
8 votes under § 12-20-39 after the ranked-choice voting process has been completed.

9 For the purpose of this section, ranked-choice voting process means an electoral
10 system in which voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. If any candidate
11 receives a majority of the vote, that candidate wins. If not, the candidate with the fewest
12 votes is eliminated, with the votes going to that candidate being redistributed to the next
13 choice indicated on those voters' ballots. The process is repeated, having the candidate
14 with the fewest votes after redistribution be eliminated, until a candidate receives an
15 outright majority.