BROOKLAWN MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL PREFERENTIAL "RANK CHOICE" BALLOTING

VOTING PROCEDURE

- Instead of simply voting for one candidate, students will **RANK ORDER** the three candidates on the ballots provided – beginning with 1 (for whom they think will do the best job) and ending with 3. There will be a separate ballot for each contested office.

- A "1" rank is called a first preference, a "2" rank is called a second preference, and a "3" rank is called a third preference.

- Any ballot that does not have three different candidates marked 1, 2, and 3 will be removed, and its' vote will NOT be counted. If only two candidates are running for a given office, the ballot must have the candidates marked as 1 and 2 to be counted.

BALLOT COUNTING PROCEDURE

- In the **First Count** all first preferences ("1" ranks) will be counted…

  - ✓ If any candidate receives a majority (50% + 1) of the ballots, they will be declared the winner and receive the Office.

  - ✓ If the above happens AND another candidate receives a majority (50% + 1) of the remaining ballots, they will be declared the second place winner and receive a seat on the Board of Directors.

  - ✓ If BOTH of the above do not happen, the candidate with the lowest number of ballots will be eliminated (in case of a tie, all those tied would be eliminated) and a "Second Count" will be conducted…

- In the **Second Count,** all ballots that belonged to the candidate eliminated after the First Count are now redistributed to the other remaining candidates, according to the second preferences ("2" ranks) named on them. If the second preference named on a ballot has already won office or been eliminated, then the third preference ("3" rank) named will receive the ballot. If none of the three named preferences remain, the ballot is removed.

  - ✓ If the additional redistributed ballots push any candidate to a majority (50% + 1) of all ballots, they will be declared the winner and receive the Office.

  - ✓ If the above happens AND additional redistributed ballots push any candidate to a majority (50% + 1) of the remaining ballots, they will be declared the second place winner and receive a seat on the Board of Directors.

  - ✓ If BOTH of the above do not happen, the remaining candidate with the lowest number of votes will be eliminated (in case of a tie, all those tied will be eliminated) and a "Third Count" will be conducted…

- In the **Third Count**, all ballots that belonged to the candidate eliminated after the Second Count are now redistributed to the other remaining candidates, according to the second preferences ("2" ranks) named on them. If the second preference named on a ballot has already won office or been eliminated, then the third preference ("3" rank) named receives the ballot. If none of the three named preferences remain, the ballot is removed.

  - ✓ The candidate with the most ballots – majority or not – will be declared the winner and receive the Office.

  - ✓ The candidate with the second most ballots will be declared the second place winner and receive a seat on the Board of Directors.

  - ✓ This will be the final result – there will be no Fourth Count.

HOW PREFERENTIAL "RANK CHOICE" BALLOTING WORKS:

Instead of simply voting for one candidate, students **rank order** the three candidates on the ballots provided – beginning with 1 (for their first choice) and ending with 3. To provide an example, these are ballots from a homeroom of 16 students, in which there are 4 candidates:

1. Nancy 2. Henry 3. Joey	1. Joey 2. Henry 3. Nancy	1. Nancy 2. Joey 3. Henry	1. **Michael** 2. **Henry** 3. **Joey**
1. Joey 2. Michael 3. Henry	1. **Michael** 2. **Henry** 3. **Joey**	1. Nancy 2. Joey 3. Henry	1. Joey 2. Henry 3. Michael
1. **Michael** 2. **Henry** 3. **Joey**	1. Joey 2. Nancy 3. Henry	1. Nancy 2. Joey 3. Michael	1. **Henry** 2. **Michael** 3. **Joey**
1. Joey 2. Michael 3. Henry	1. Nancy 2. Joey 3. Michael	1. **Henry** 2. **Nancy** 3. **Joey**	1. Nancy 2. Michael 3. Joey

Since there are 16 students, a majority of 9 votes is needed to win in the First or Second count. The results of the **First Count**, taken by simply counting all the "1" ranks are:

Nancy 6   Joey 5   Michael 3   Henry 2

Since no candidate yet has 9 votes, Henry is eliminated and the ballots that named her as the first preference (these are shaded) are now used for the **Second Count**, which gives these votes to the candidate ranked **second** on each of these ballots. The updated results are:

Nancy 6 + 1 = 7   Joey 5 + 0 = 5   Michael 3 + 1 = 4

Since no candidate yet has 9 votes, Michael is eliminated and the ballots that belonged to him (these are bold) are now used for the **Third Count**, which gives these votes to the candidate named **second** on each of these ballots. On those ballots that named Henry or Michael (who have been eliminated) as their second preference, we look to the **third** preference. After the Third Count, the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner. Therefore, the final results are:

Nancy 7   Joey 5 + 4 = 9

JOEY WINS!

NOTE: If a tie occurs after the Third Count is completed, the remaining candidate with the most first preferences is declared the winner.

While a plurality of students named Nancy first (most popular?), more of the students in this homeroom ranked Joey ahead of Nancy overall to do a better job as homeroom representative, and this fact came out in the preferential balloting procedure.