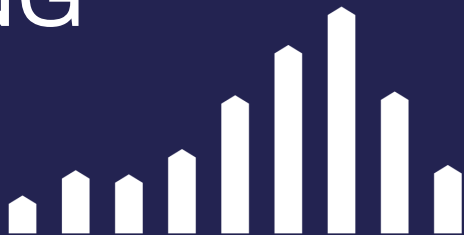


UPVOTE

VIRGINIA

MULTI-WINNER RANKED CHOICE VOTING



Arlington County
June 2023

OVERVIEW

1. What is Ranked Choice Voting?
2. How does RCV work for 1 winner?
3. How does RCV work for 2+ winners?
4. Questions?

What is Ranked Choice Voting?

Ranked Choice Voting is a **simple change** to the ballot that enables a **better voter experience, better campaigns**, and ultimately, **better government**.

RCV gives voters more freedom, more expression, and more power. Instead of picking just one candidate, a voter has the option to rank their candidates in order of preference — 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and so on.

When is Ranked Choice Voting used?

- In races with more than 2 candidates* on the ballot.
- When not enough candidates have reached the “election threshold” after the first round.

Why Ranked Choice Voting now?

- Our politics is polarized and paralyzed, and the incentive structure is skewed.
- More people than ever are stepping up to run for office, and our current system isn't built to support more choice.

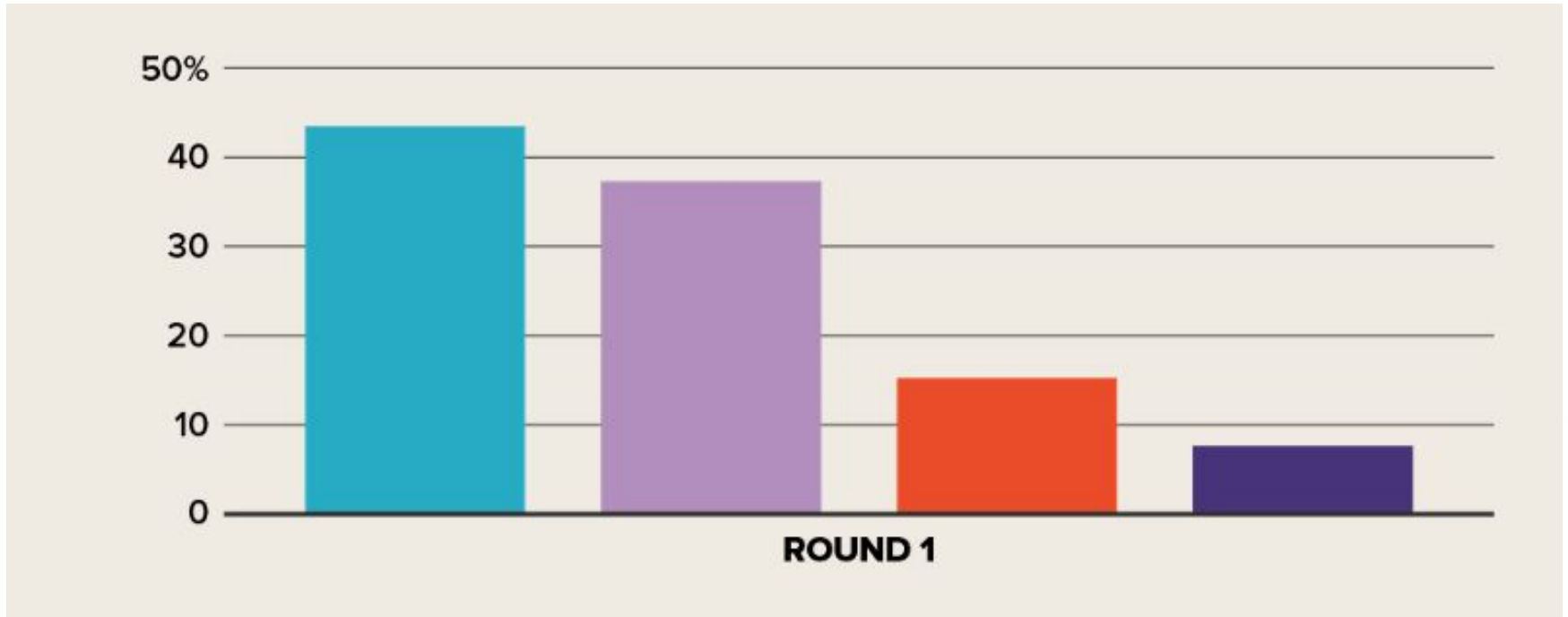
Benefits of RCV

1. Ensures winners who have broad support.
2. Rewards candidates who build consensus + diminishes negative campaigning.
3. Shown to elect more non-traditional candidates.
4. Eliminates “spoilers.”
5. Shown to increase voter turnout.
6. Easy to understand.

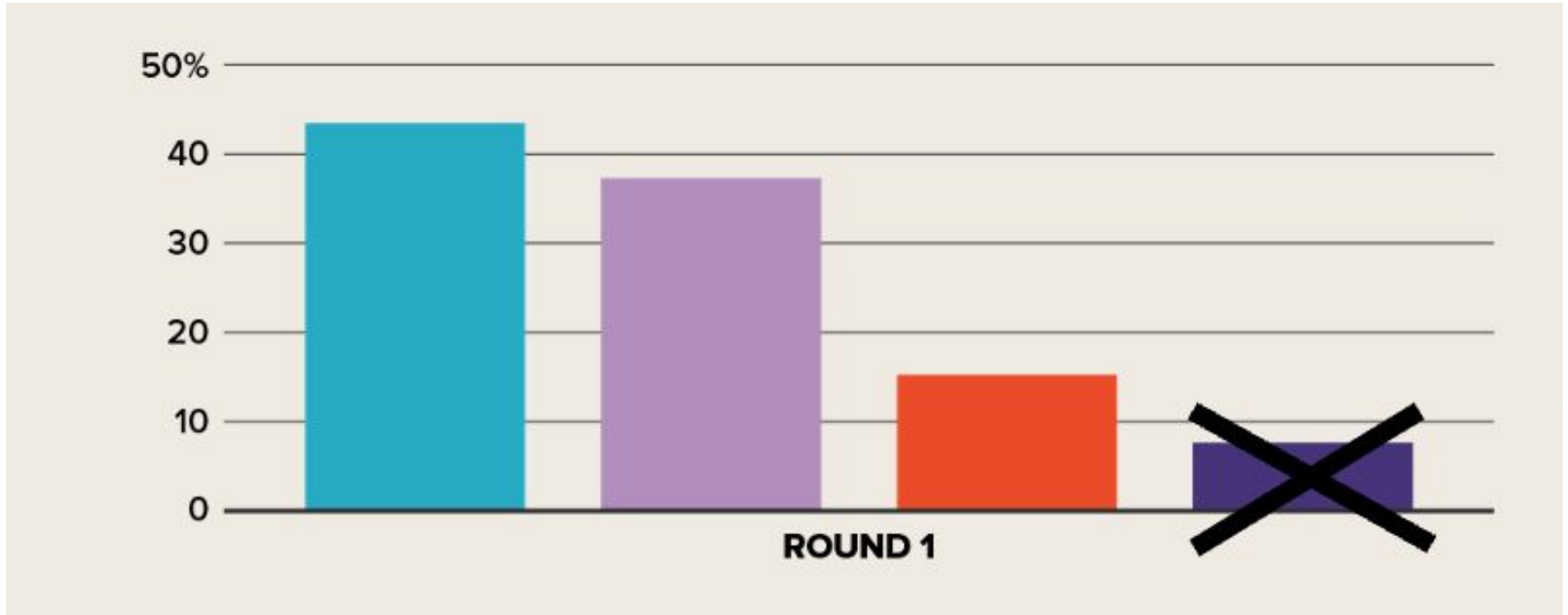
How Does Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Work?

1. Voters have the **option** to rank candidates in order of preference: 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on.
2. If no candidate receives majority support on the initial round, the last place candidate is eliminated and that candidate's 2nd place votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates.
3. The process continues until a winner has earned over 50% of voters' support.

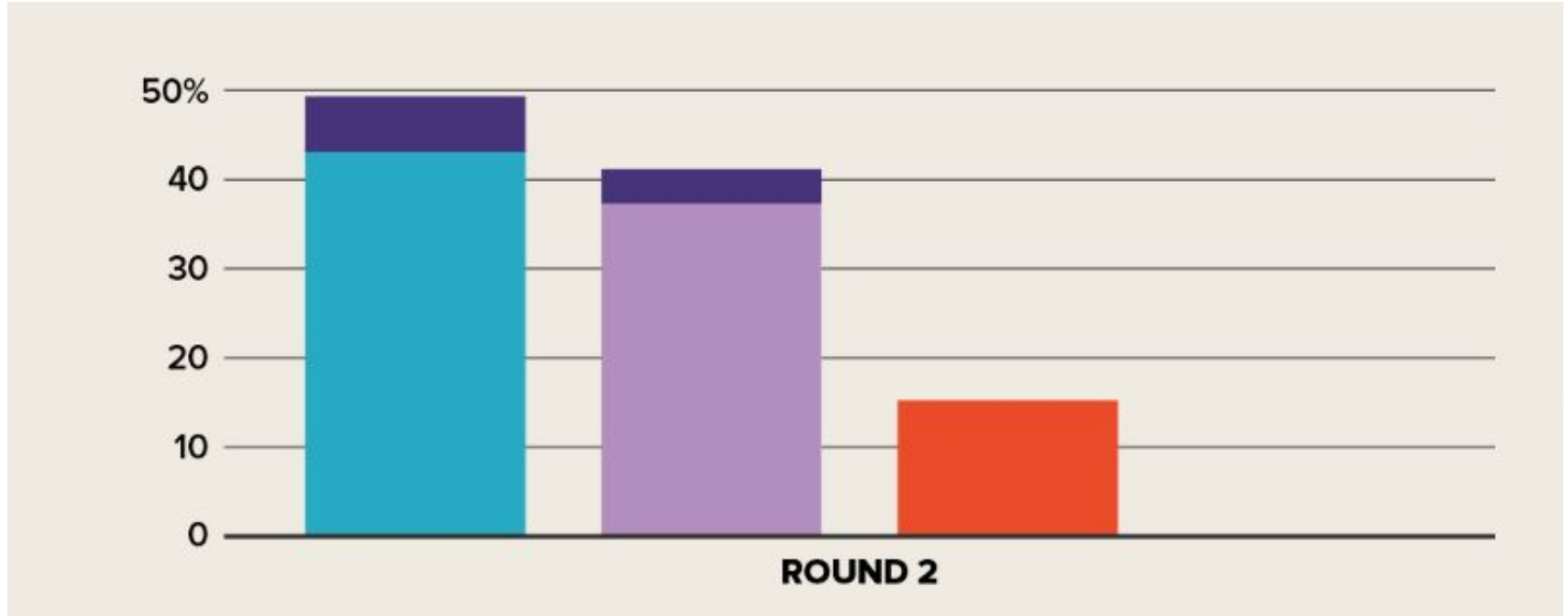
Counting votes in RCV (single-winner)



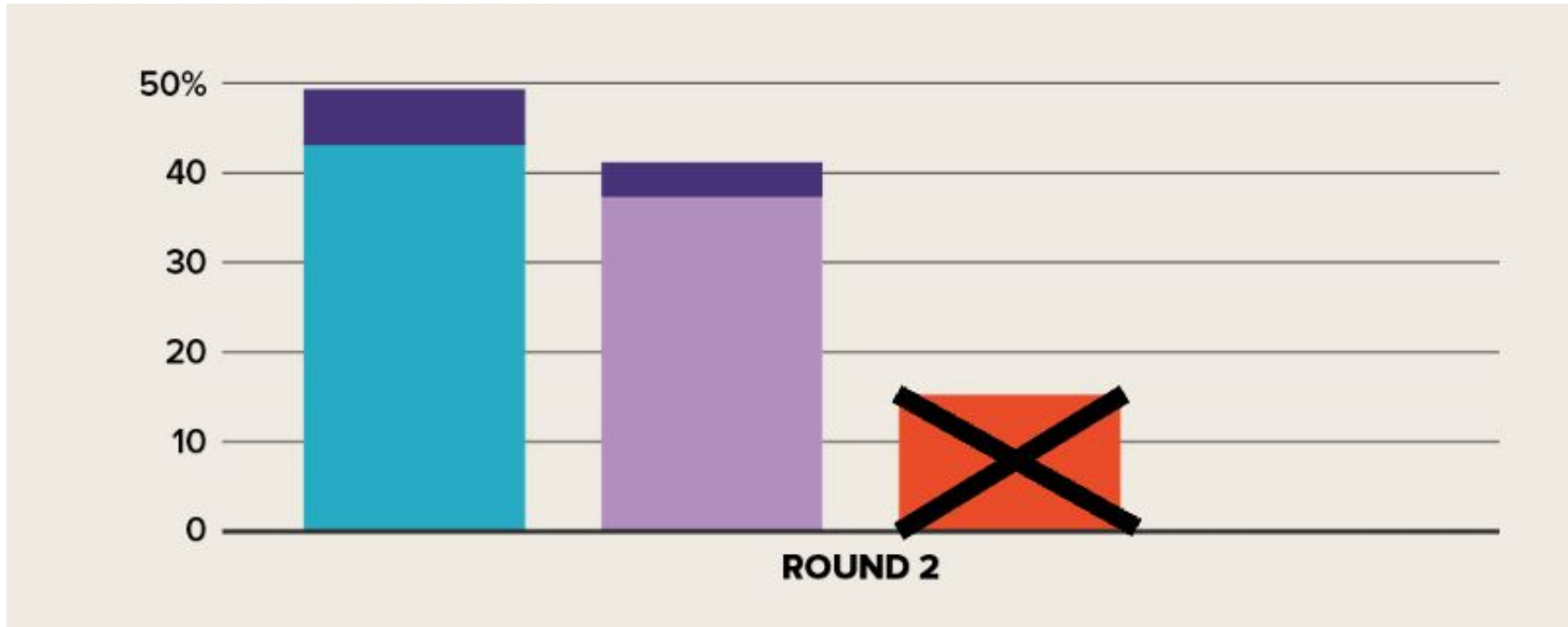
Counting votes in RCV (single-winner)



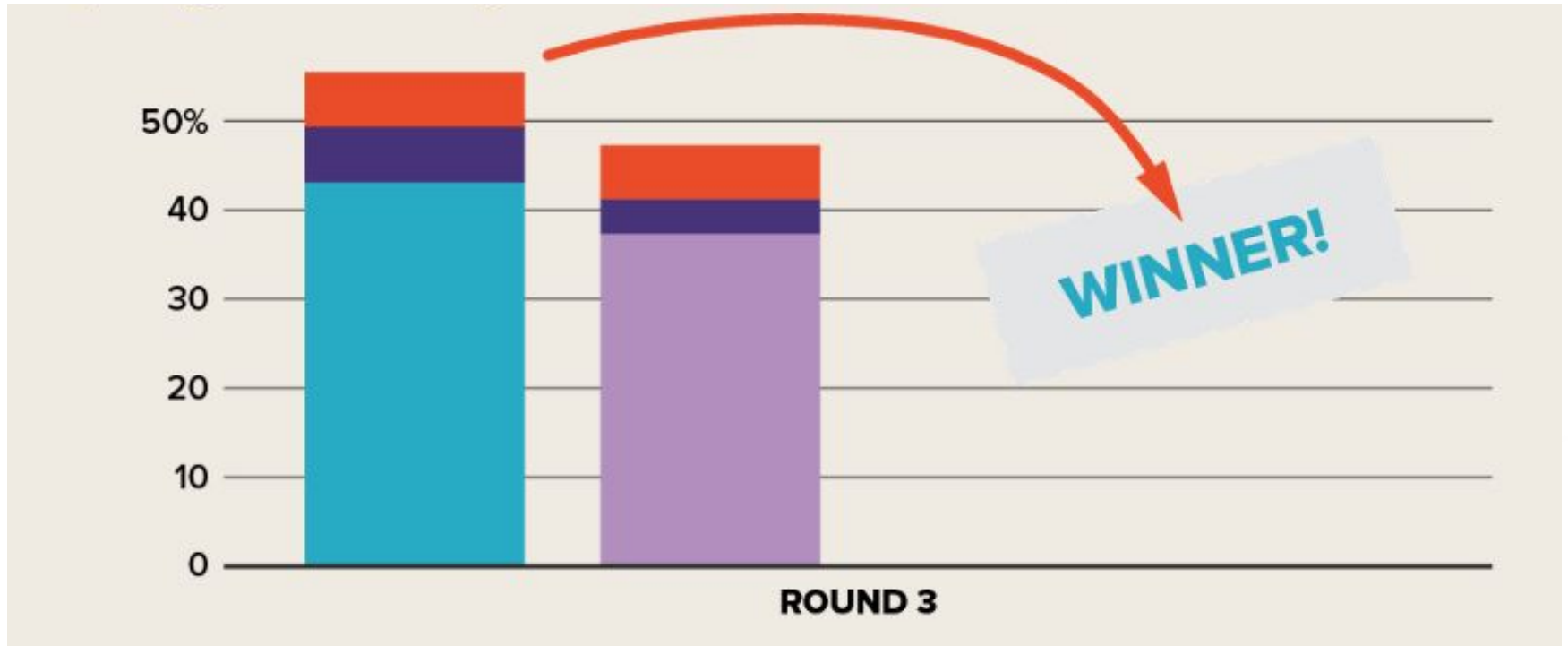
Counting votes in RCV (single-winner)



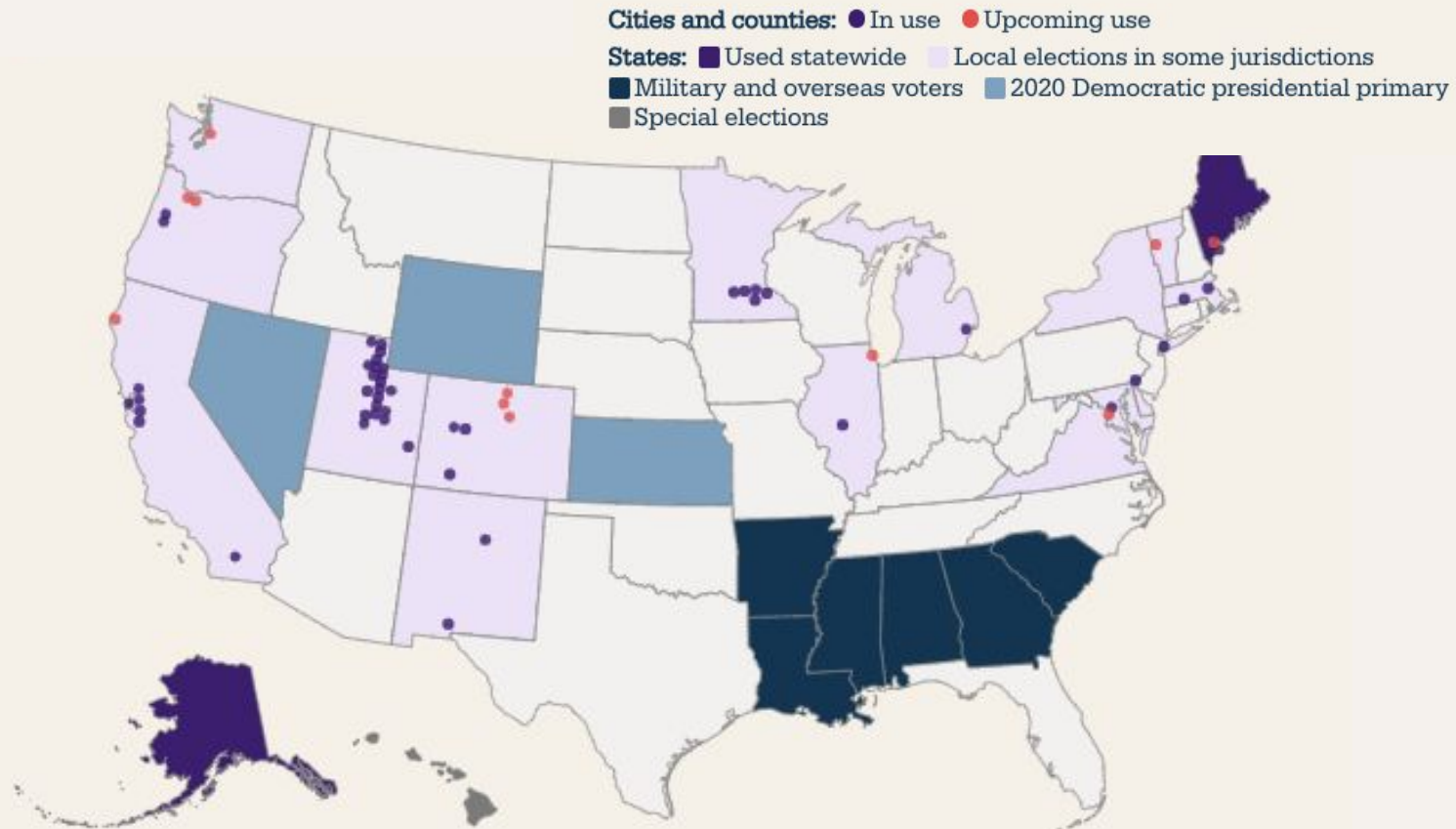
Counting votes in RCV (single-winner)



Counting votes in RCV (single-winner)



Where is RCV used?



How Does RCV Work for 2+ Winners?

1. Voters have the option to rank candidates in order of preference: 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice, and so on - **EXACTLY THE SAME.**
2. All candidates who cross the “election threshold” earn a seat/nomination.

What's the “Election Threshold?”

$$\frac{\text{Total number of ballots cast}}{\text{\# of seats to be filled}} + 1$$

$+ 1 = \text{Election Threshold}$

Percent for One Seat	Seats to Elect
50% + 1	1 Seat
33.3% + 1	2 Seats
25% + 1	3 Seats
20% + 1	4 Seats
16.7% + 1	5 Seats

Surplus Fractions

If a candidate exceeds the election threshold, a fraction of their votes are transferred to the next-ranked candidate on their voters' ballots.

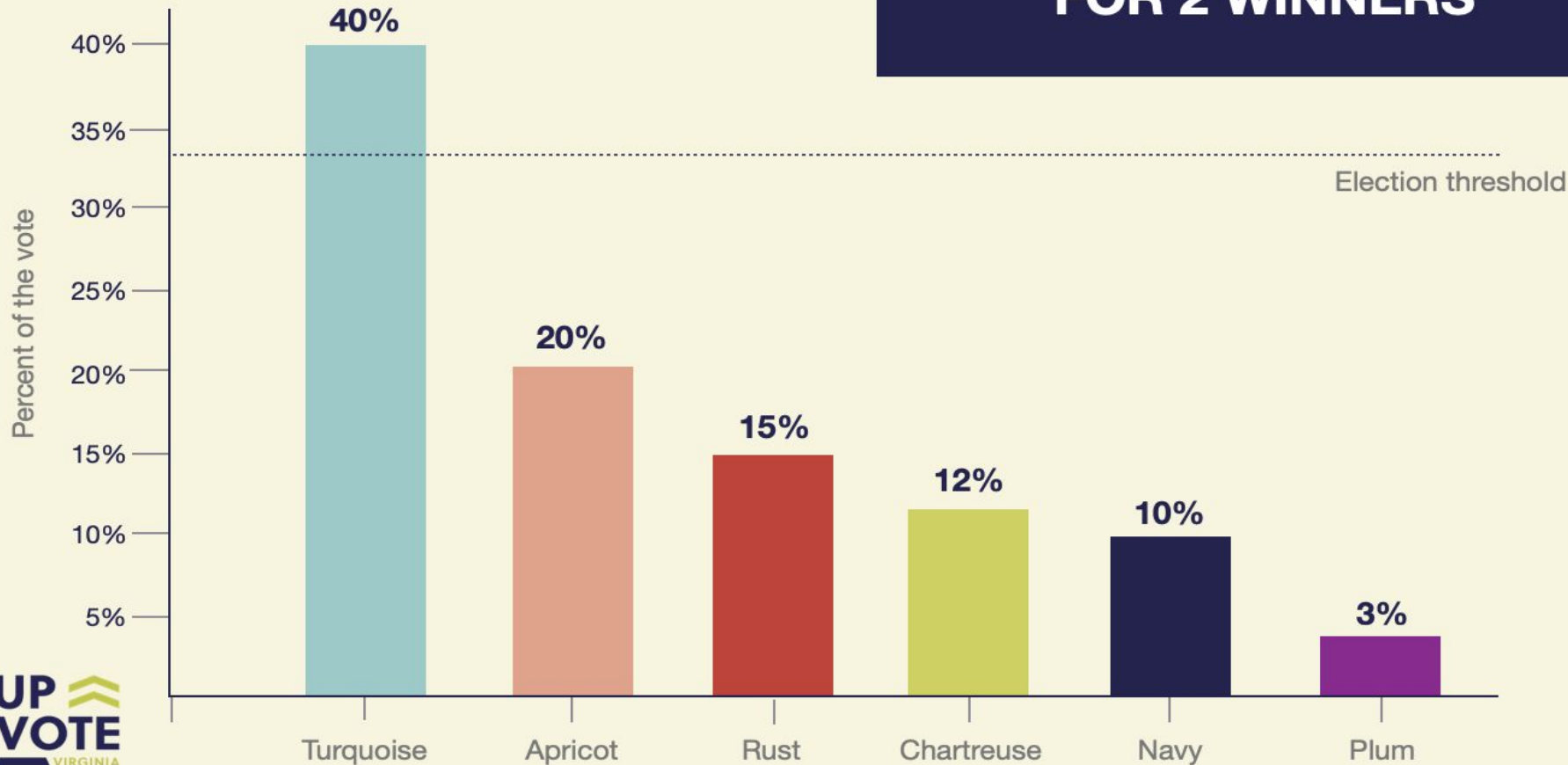
$$\frac{\text{Candidate's total \# of votes} - \text{Election Threshold}}{\text{Candidate's total \# of votes}} = \text{Surplus Fraction}$$

*NOTE: **Every person** who voted for this candidate will have a fraction of their vote applied to their next-ranked candidate.

Round 1

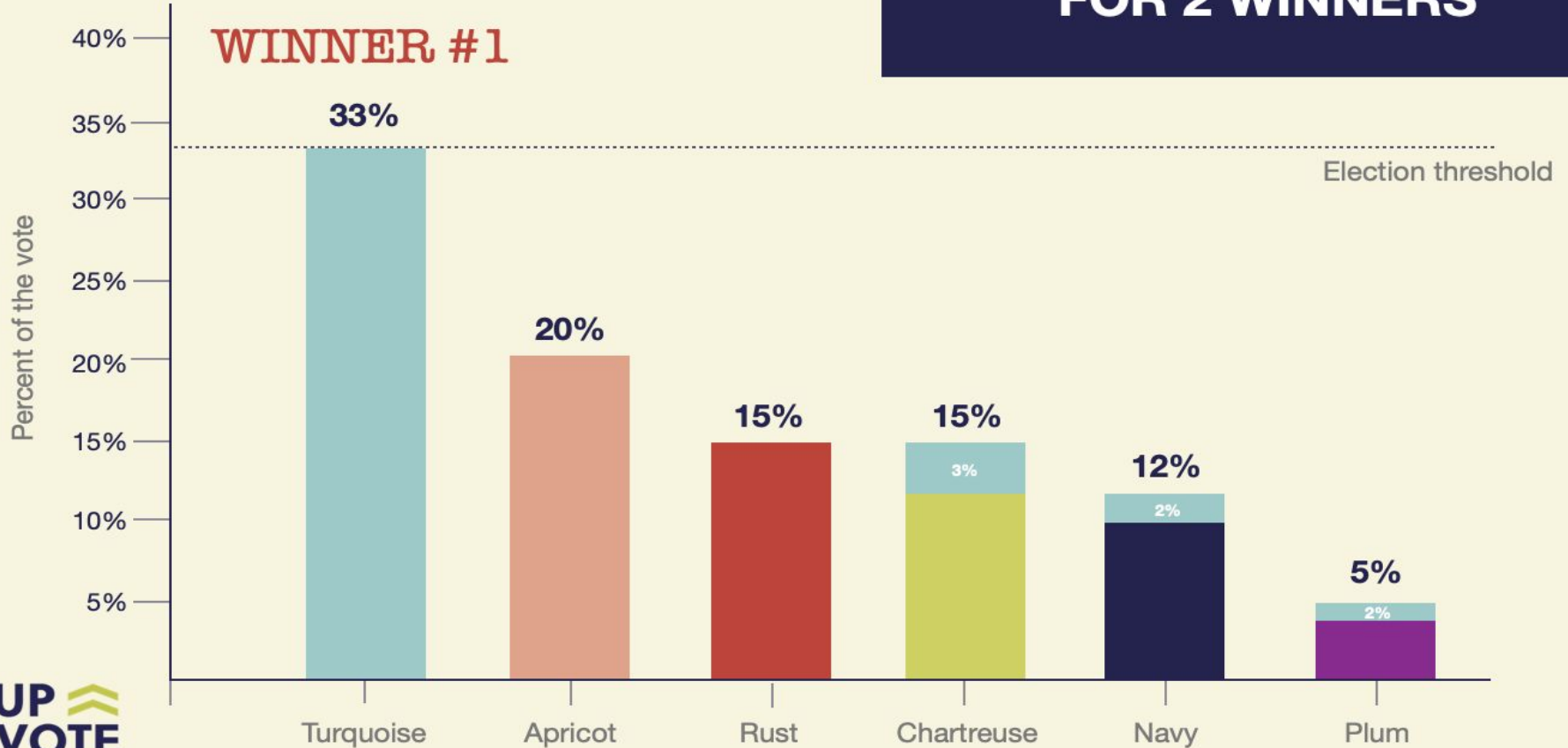
WINNER #1

RCV TABULATION FOR 2 WINNERS

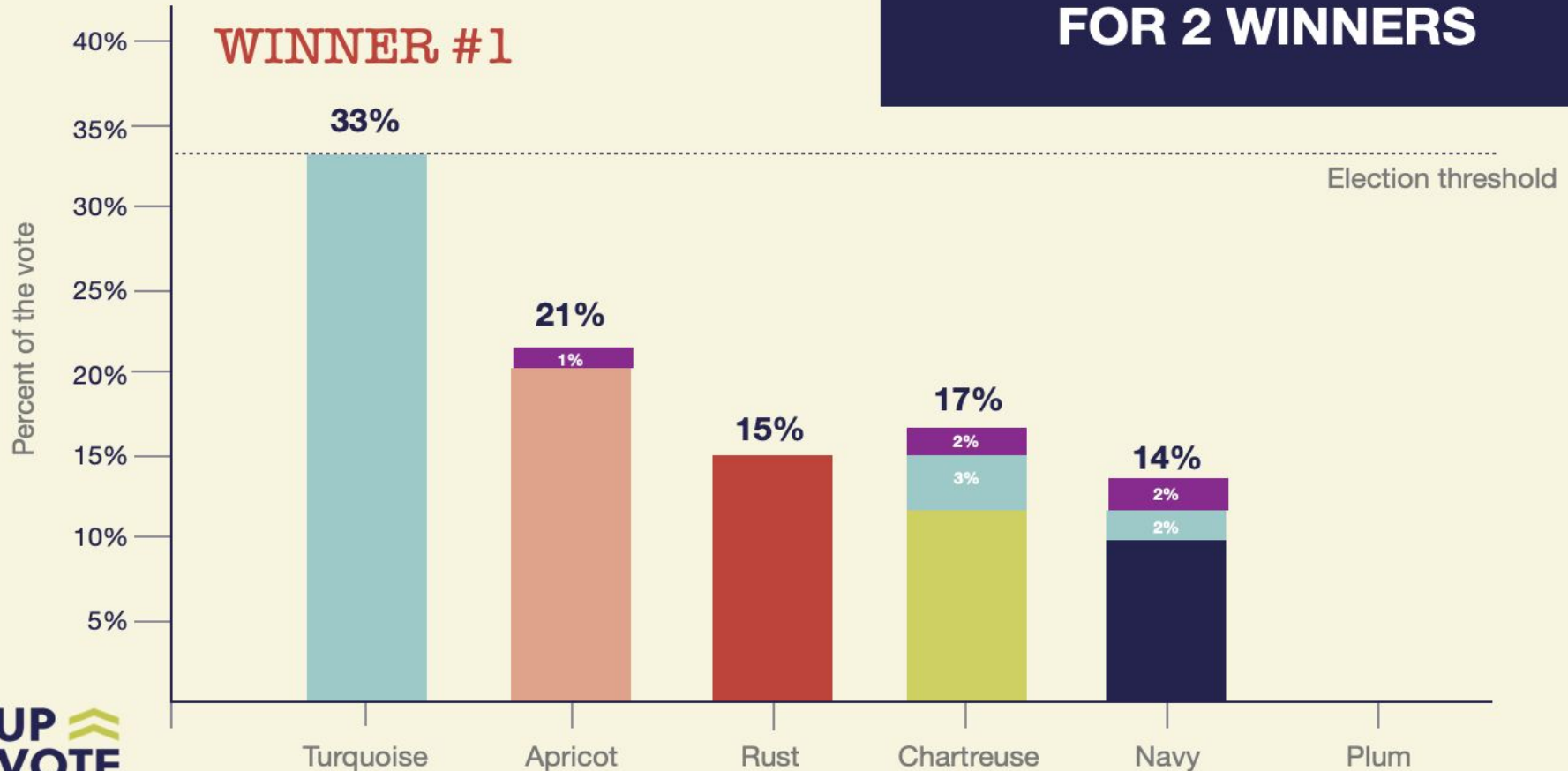


Round 2

RCV TABULATION FOR 2 WINNERS



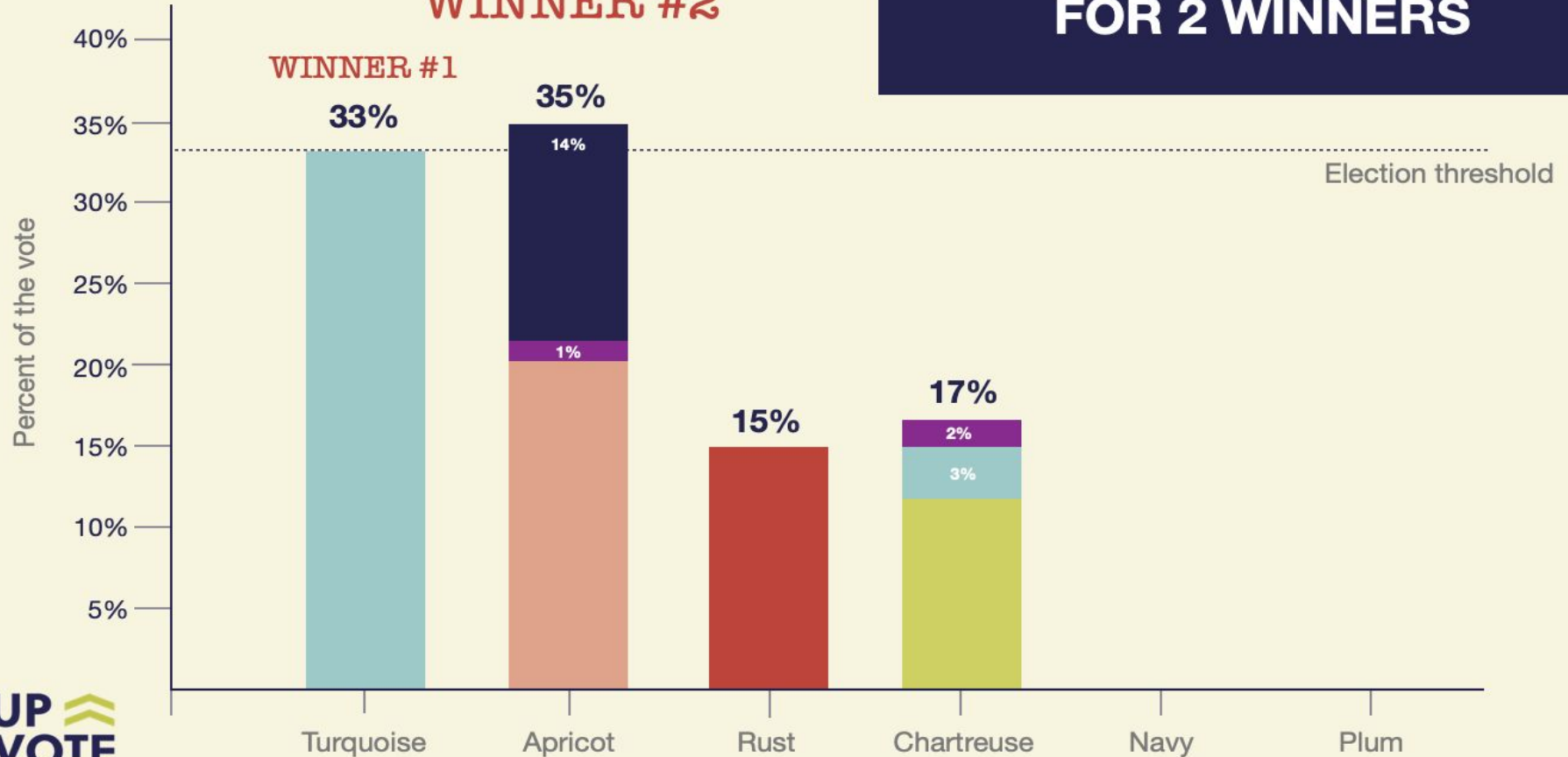
RCV TABULATION FOR 2 WINNERS



RCV TABULATION FOR 2 WINNERS

WINNER #2

WINNER #1



Election Night Reporting in Arlington

RCV results (County Board) will not be known on Election Day. Only the first ballot will be announced - further tabulation will not be run until all eligible ballots are processed.

Confirming winners may take up to 7 days.

Results will only be determined after all ballots cast have been received:

- Mail ballots (due by noon on Friday)
- Provisional ballots

Questions?

www.upvoteva.org

liz.white@upvoteva.org

