



A Muppet Voting Fable

It's the Early 90's



The Henson company started to pay the Muppets with stock options.



Quietly, they gained a controlling interest

The Muppets Take Control

Henson's out!
They decide to elect one of their
own as CEO.



Who Will be the New CEO?



Five candidates threw
their hats in the ring:

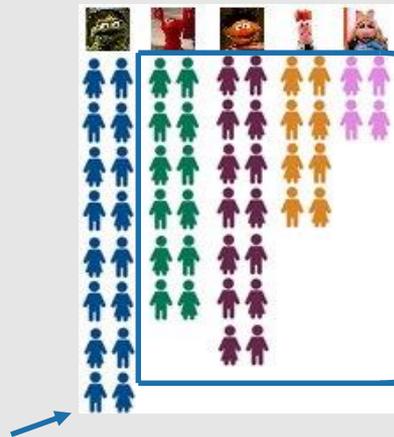


Beaker, Elmo, Ernie,
Miss Piggy and Oscar
the Grouch.



How would they choose from this crowded field?

Let's See How Traditional Voting Would Work



But 70% of the voters actually preferred other candidates (38 out of 54 votes cast)

Is this the fairest, most representative way to determine who has the most support?

Oscar would get a plurality – and win

The Muppets Use RCV

Wanting a really fair process, they decided on Ranked Choice Voting



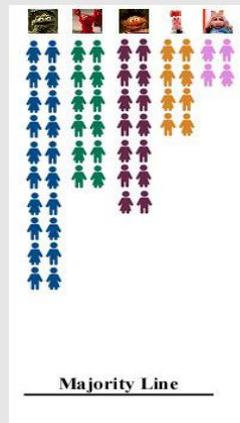
A Different Way

Sample Ballot

Candidate	Rank
Beaker	4
Elmo	2
Ernie	3
Oscar	5
Miss Piggy	1

In ranked choice voting (RCV), voters cast one ballot and rank all the candidates: '1' for their favorite, '2' for their next favorite and so on.

Will Oscar the Grouch Win with RCV?



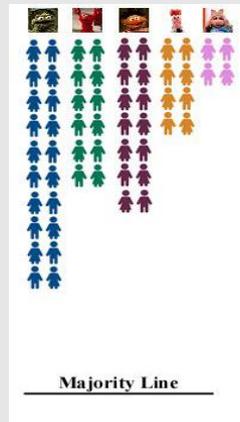
Remember how it looked in traditional voting?

Oscar got a plurality and won.

RCV doesn't work that way.

We don't want to see only who racked up the most votes, we want to see who has the widest support.

No Muppet Has a Majority



To win, a candidate must receive a majority – 50% +1 - not just a plurality.

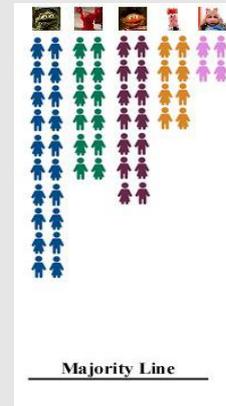
(Sometimes traditional voting requires a majority too. But if no candidate gets it a run off is needed.)

RCV accomplishes this in one ballot – no run off required.

No Muppet Has a Majority

A CEO needs both strong **and** wide support.

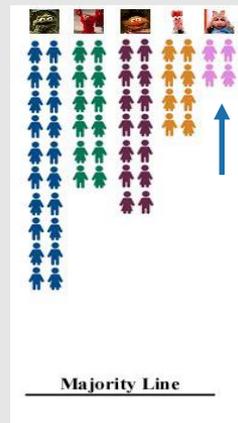
So we continue counting votes until one candidate emerges who has that balance.



Here's how we'll get there.....

Eliminate the Weakest Candidate

Miss Piggy, with the fewest #1 choices in the first round, is eliminated.



Piggy's Out - her Votes are Re-distributed

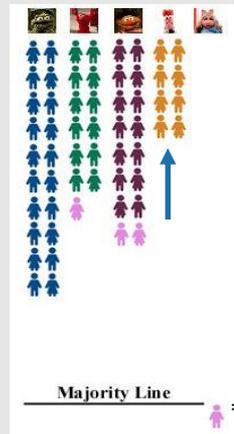
Sample Ballot

Candidate	Rank
Beaker	4
Elmo	2
Ernie	3
Oscar	5
Miss Piggy	1

The #2 choice on each ballot cast for Miss Piggy is moved to the count for that candidate.

*

Piggy's Out - her Votes are Re-distributed



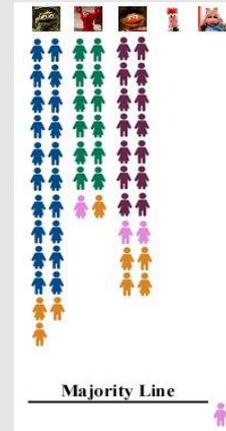
Two votes go to Ernie and one to Elmo.

*(*Note one ballot does not have a #2 choice -- rumor has it that Miss Piggy only voted for 'Moi.' That ballot is set aside.)*

No one has a majority yet, so Beaker, with fewest votes in this count, is eliminated.

Beaker's Out – his Votes are Re-distributed

Four go to Ernie,
three to Oscar and
one to Elmo.



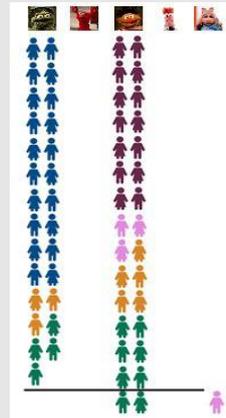
Still no majority so Elmo, with fewest votes in this count, is eliminated.

Elmo's Out – His Votes are Re-distributed

With Oscar and Ernie left, Elmo's ballots are distributed to the candidate who ranked higher on them.

Ernie gets 8 and Oscar gets 4.

Ernie crosses the 'majority line.'



Studying RCV Rankings

Here again is that ballot of the Muppet who voted for Miss Piggy.

When she was eliminated, it went to the #2 choice - Elmo.

Sample Ballot

Candidate	Rank
Beaker	4
Elmo	2
Ernie	3
Oscar	5
Miss Piggy	1

When Elmo went out, the ballot counted for #3 - Ernie.

Note that Oscar is ranked last on this ballot. This voter supported Ernie over Oscar. It's important to register this preference - it keeps the voter's voice in play all the way through.

RCV Produced the Winner with the Widest Support



In traditional voting, a candidate would have been elected who most Muppets didn't like as much as Ernie.

RCV assured the victory of the candidate with strong and wide support.