



# 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:

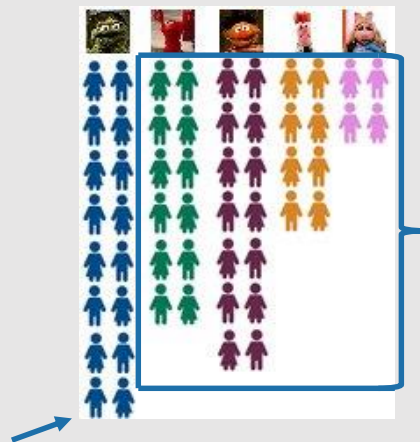


Beaker, Elmo, Ernie,  
Miss Piggy and Oscar  
the Grouch.



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



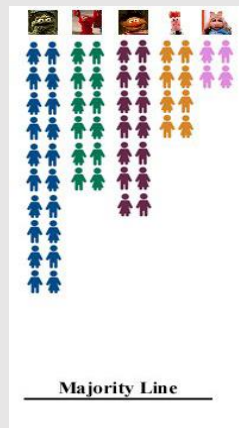
## A Different Way

### 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?

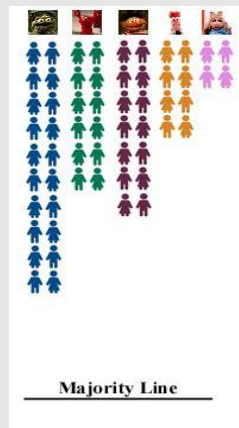
Oscar got a plurality and won.

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.

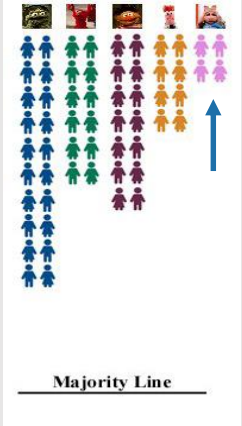
So we continue counting votes until one candidate emerges who has that balance.



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

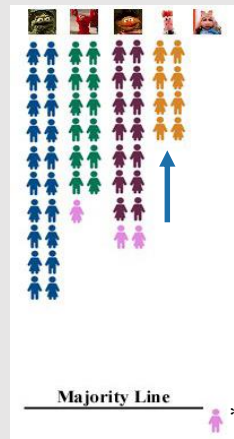
### Sample Ballot

| 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



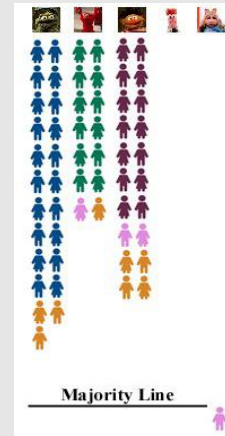
Two votes go to Ernie and one to Elmo.

*(\*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.



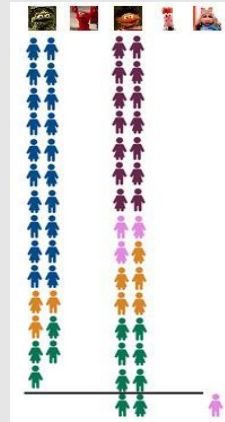
Still no majority so Elmo, with fewest votes in this count, is eliminated.

## 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.