

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 27, 2023

Vermont General Assembly
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

Re: H.508, AN ACT RELATING TO APPROVAL OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE
RANKED CHOICE VOTING PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF
BURLINGTON

Dear Legislators:

Today, I am letting H.508, *An Act Relating to Approval of an Amendment to the Ranked Choice Voting Provisions of the Charter of the City of Burlington*, become law without my signature.

As I wrote last year when Burlington amended its charter to institute ranked choice voting for City Councilors, I am allowing this bill to move forward because its scope is limited to the method of elections of the Burlington Mayor, school commissioners and ward election officers. As we know, ranked choice voting went terribly wrong over a decade ago, resulting in Burlington abandoning the practice. Nevertheless, it appears the politics have changed in the City, for now, in favor of ranked choice voting.

To be clear, I remain opposed to a statewide system of ranked choice voting. I believe one person should get one vote, and candidates who get the most votes should win elections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip B. Scott", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Philip B. Scott
Governor

PBS/kp