





A RANKED-CHOICE ELECTION, THE SWEET WAY

BY CRISTOF TRAUDES

Attendees of a mock election last month were asked to rank their top three candy bars. The top two vote-getters between Snickers, Baby Ruth, Twix and Butterfinger would win. Voters cast 51 ballots, which meant that for a candy bar to seal a victory by majority, it would have to receive 18 votes. This is how the multiple-seat election played out:

				
→ Round 1	8	22	9	12
→ Redistribution 1 Based on simply the voters' No. 1 picks, Snickers wins the first seat. Because they put it four votes over the 18-votes-to-win threshold, Snickers' voters also get their No. 2 votes redistributed. Those votes are broken into percentages. Two and a half votes go to Baby Ruth; a half vote goes to Twix.	+2½	Winner, Seat One	-	+½
→ Round 2	10½		9	12½
→ Redistribution 2 Because there still is no second winner — no other candy bar has reached 18 votes — the lowest vote-getter is eliminated. Those who chose Butterfinger No. 1 now instead have their votes count toward their No. 2 choices. Three votes go to Baby Ruth; five votes go to Twix.	+3		Eliminated	+5
→ Round 3	13½			17½
→ Redistribution 3 Still, no second winner after three rounds. Twix is short a half vote. Baby Ruth has to be eliminated, which adds to Twix's haul and puts it over the threshold. This ends the election.	Eliminated			Winner, Seat Two