

MAINE PEOPLE'S RESOURCE CENTER PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY

October 28-30, 2011 ■ N=477

Methodology

2

- A survey of 477 likely Portland voters was conducted by interactive voice response from October 28th through October 30th, 2011. Calls were made at different times of day to maximize the diversity of possible respondents. Questions were recorded by a female interviewer.
- Survey results were mathematically weighted by gender, age and voting precinct to ensure an accurate representation of the population being surveyed. Results were not weighted by party or ideology.
- The margin of error of this survey is 4.44%, 95 times out of 100. Sub-samples may have a larger margin of error.
- Frequencies and percentages may not always add up to the total number of responses or to 100%, due to weighting and rounding.

MPRC is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to giving Maine people, especially those groups that are under-represented in civic life, skills and information to participate in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Candidate Choice/Question Wording

3

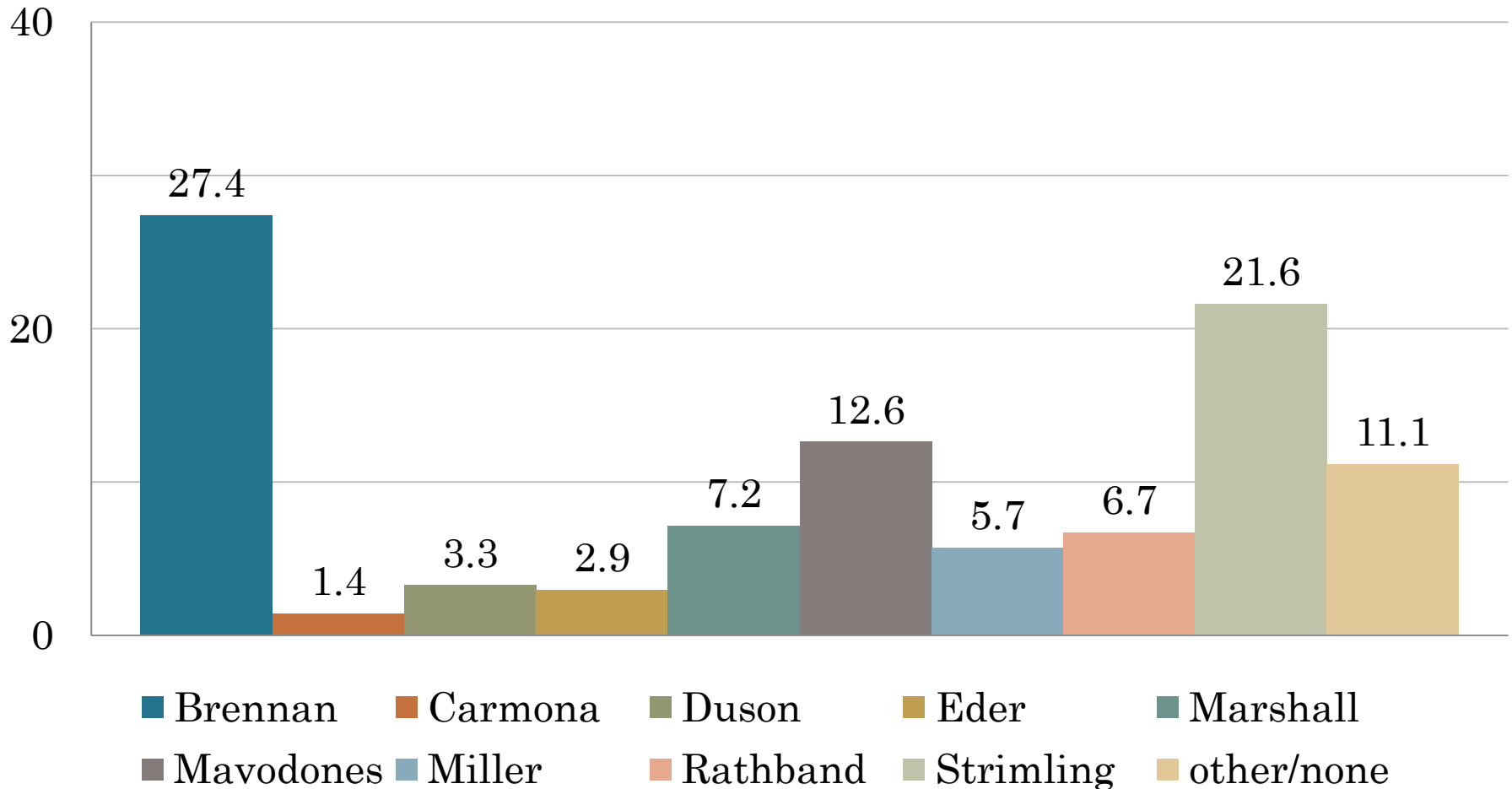
- The nine mayoral candidates polled of fifteen total were chosen based on political experience, media reports, fundraising strength and straw poll results. Particularly attention was paid to the “odds of winning” provided by The Bollard, which ranked the candidates into tiers of electability. The nine candidates polled represent the “frontrunners” and “middle of the pack” from that publication’s assessment of the race.

Candidate Questions:

- Q3. I’m going to list nine candidates running for Mayor of Portland. Please press the number of the candidate that is your first choice for mayor. [listing of candidates in ballot order]
- Q4. The Portland election will use ranked choice voting, so your second and third choices for mayor are also important. Please press the number of the candidate that is your second choice for mayor. [listing of candidates]
- Q5. Please press the number of the candidate that is your third choice for mayor. [listing of candidates]

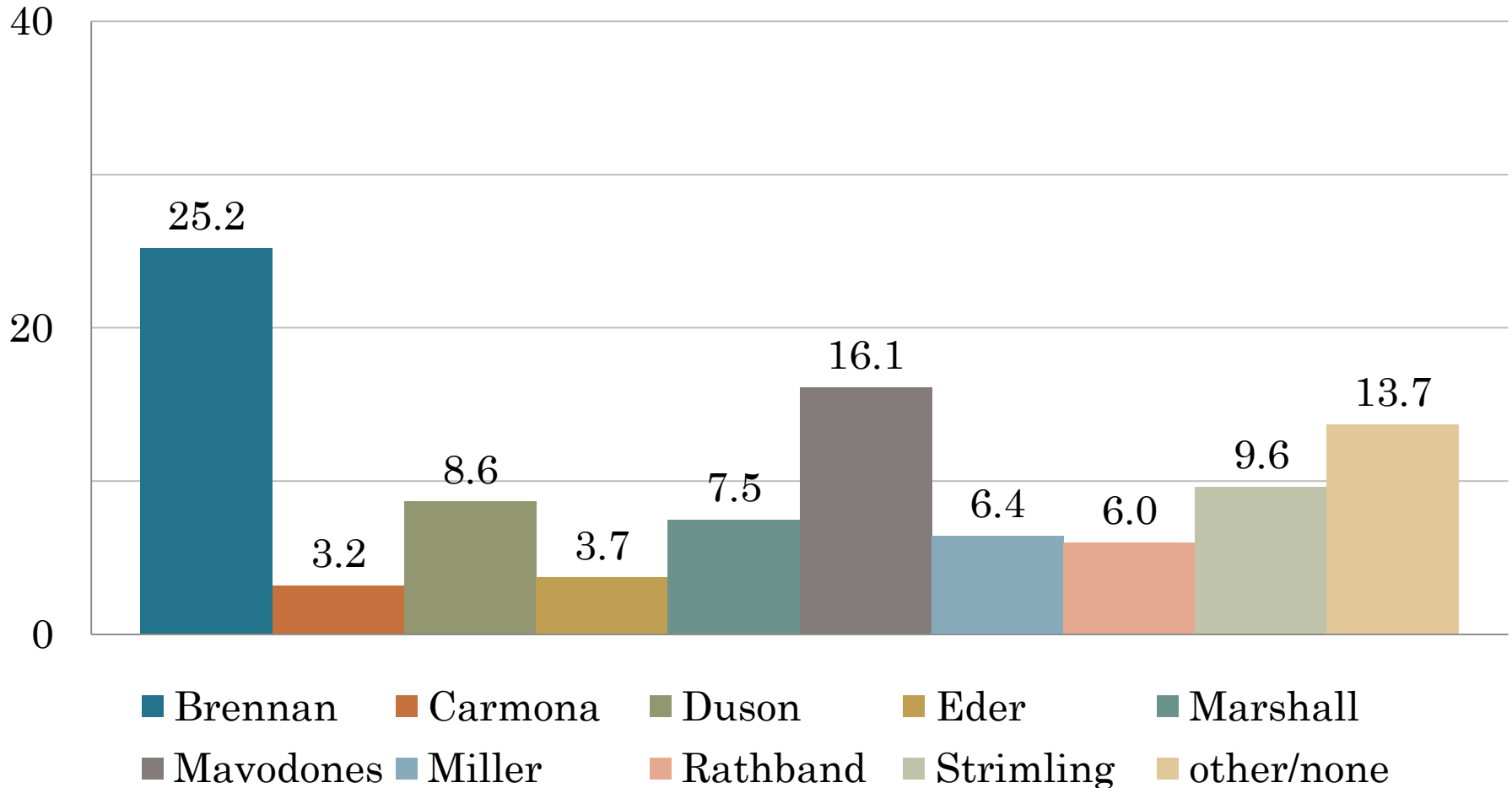
First Preference

4



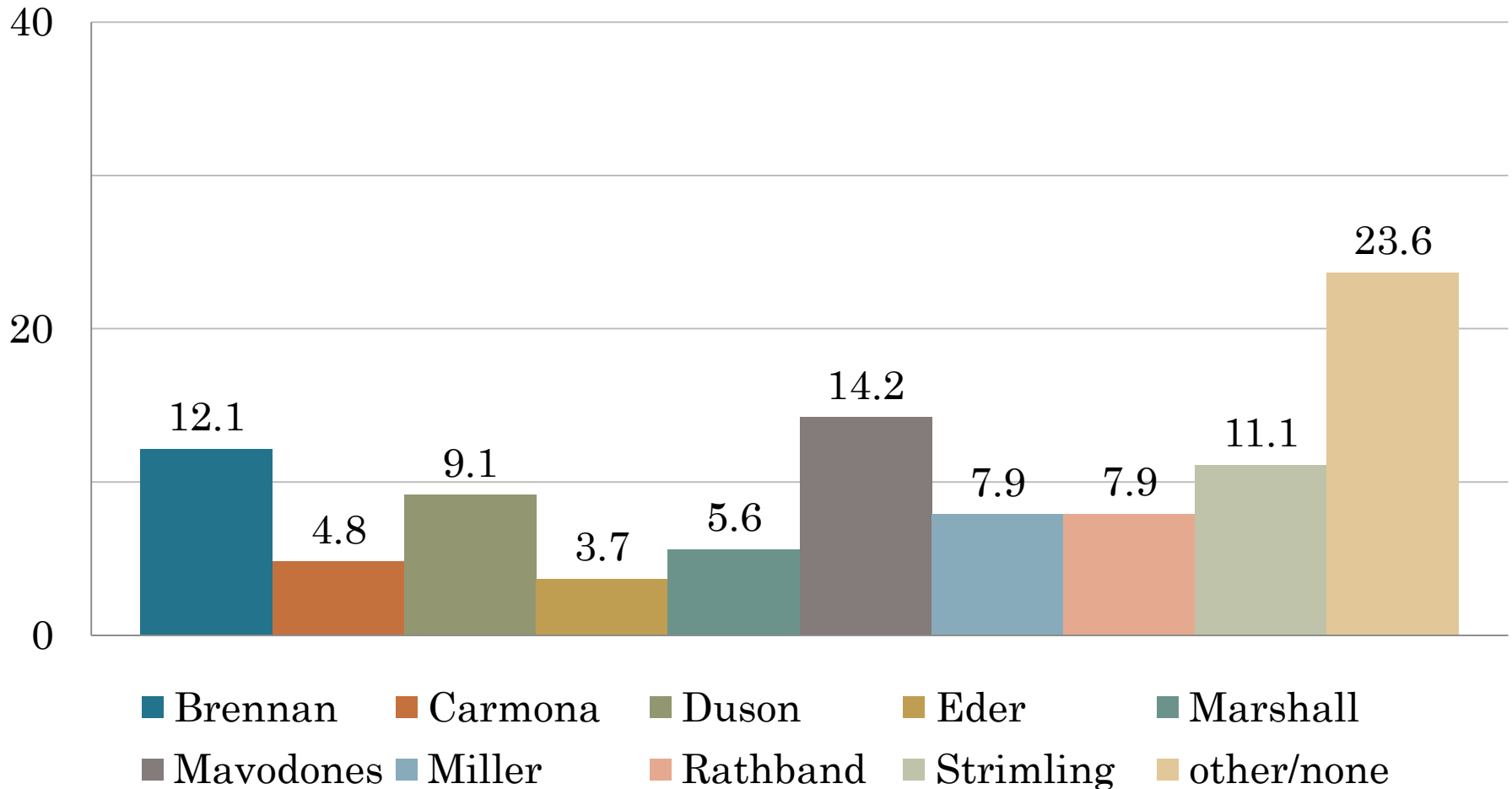
Second Preference

5



Third Preference

6



Accounting for Ranked Choice

7

In an instant-runoff election, it doesn't just matter how many second and third (and further) choice votes a candidate receives. It also matters who the first choice of those voters is or was.

By charting second preferences by first choice candidate, it can be determined how votes will likely be distributed once particular candidates are eliminated.

- According to these results, the advantage in second choice votes will mostly accrue to Brennan, the initial frontrunner. Second place candidate Strimling receives a much lower rate of second choice votes, particularly from voters preferring Marshall, Miller and Mavodones.
- While a plurality of Strimling voters support Brennan as their second choice, the opposite is not true of Brennan voters, a plurality of which favor Mavodones.
- In this poll, Eder voters preferred Marshall, a fellow Green Party candidate, to Strimling, although that may change with Eder's endorsement of Strimling's campaign. Eder's low initial total, however, means that this dynamic likely won't factor heavily in the race.

Second Preferences by Candidate

8

choice 2

	Brennan	Carmona	Duson	Eder	Marshall	Mavodones	Miller	Rathband	Strimling	other/none
Brennan		5%	8%	2%	8%	30%	13%	5%	16%	12%
Carmona	20%		20%	0%	0%	10%	0%	30%	10%	10%
Duson	26%	5%		11%	11%	16%	5%	5%	16%	5%
Eder	7%	0%	20%		27%	13%	13%	7%	0%	13%
Marshall	37%	11%	11%	14%		9%	11%	0%	3%	3%
Mavodones	39%	3%	11%	2%	0%		6%	5%	12%	23%
Miller	39%	0%	4%	4%	29%	7%		14%	4%	0%
Rathband	25%	0%	0%	6%	14%	17%	3%		14%	22%
Strimling	38%	2%	13%	2%	4%	13%	6%	12%		10%

Election Projection

Although instant-runoff or ranked choice voting is straightforward for voters, who only have to rank their choices, tracking and tallying the votes can be a complicated process and usually requires dedicated software.

Using that same kind of single transferable vote software (in this case a package called OpenSTV) the weighted results of this survey can be used to extrapolate the potential outcomes of each round of balloting.

Two notes:

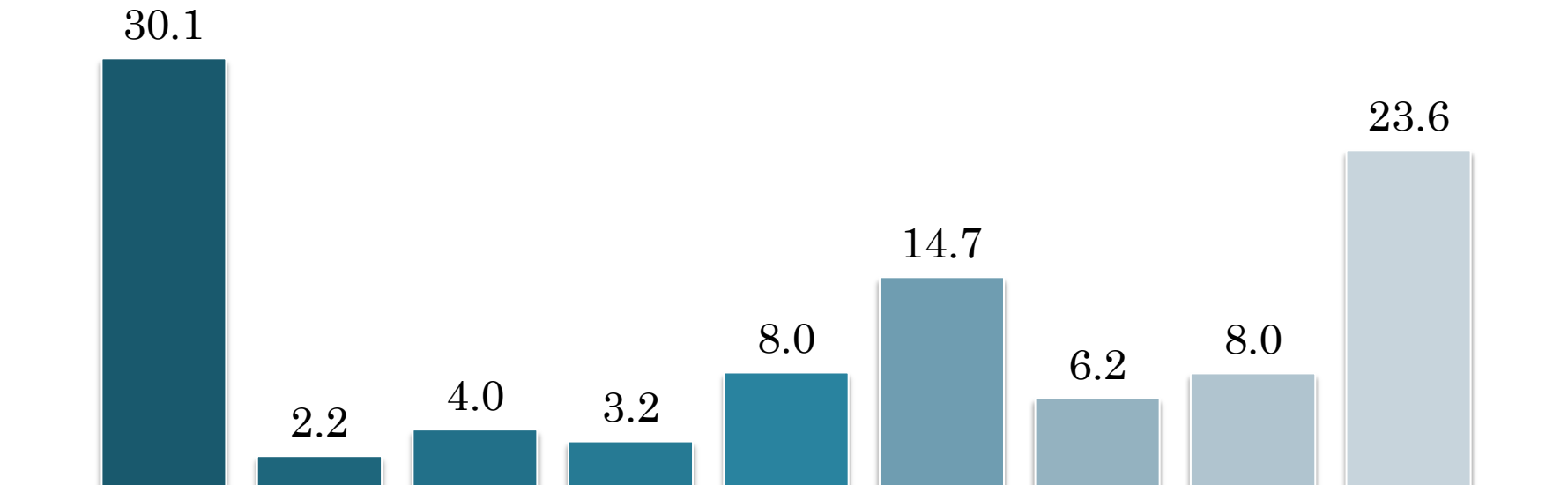
- Because this poll did not measure the support of five candidates, the projection begins with round six, having assumed the elimination of those candidates.
- This poll does not measure fourth and further candidate preferences, causing some ballots to be “exhausted” more quickly than they might in an actual election. In the last round the total number of exhausted ballots was less than the margin between the remaining candidates.

IRV – Round 6

10

(five candidates eliminated)

■ Brennan ■ Carmona ■ Duson ■ Eder ■ Marshall
■ Mavadones ■ Miller ■ Rathband ■ Strimling

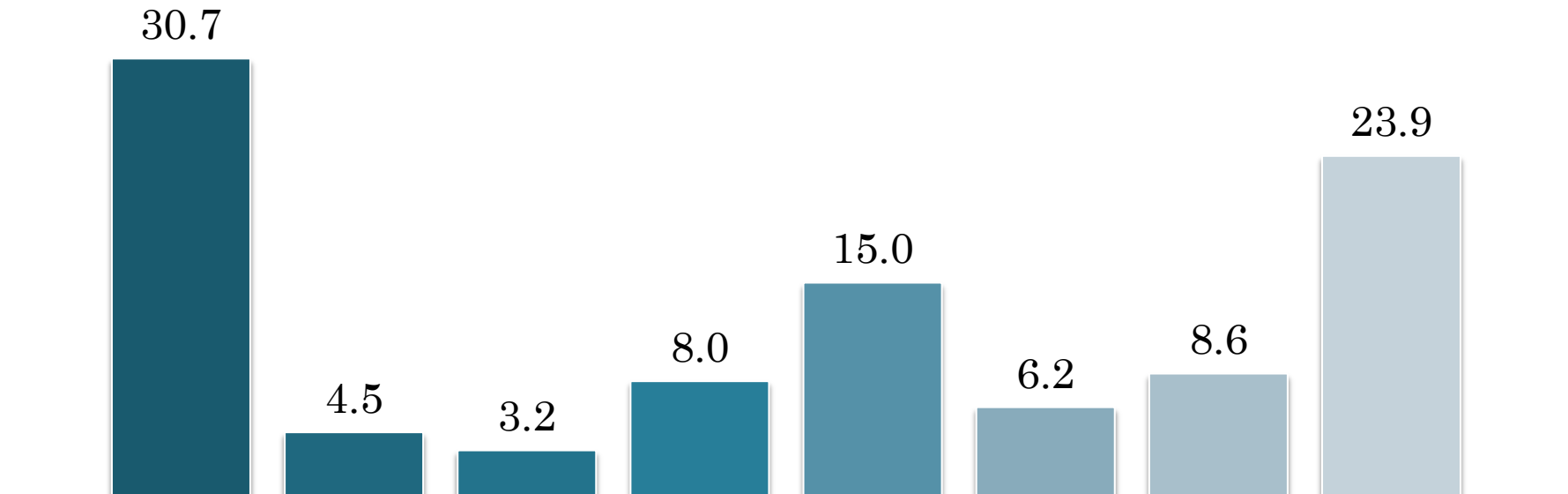


IRV – Round 7

11

(Carmona eliminated)

■ Brennan ■ Duson ■ Eder ■ Marshall
■ Mavodones ■ Miller ■ Rathband ■ Strimling

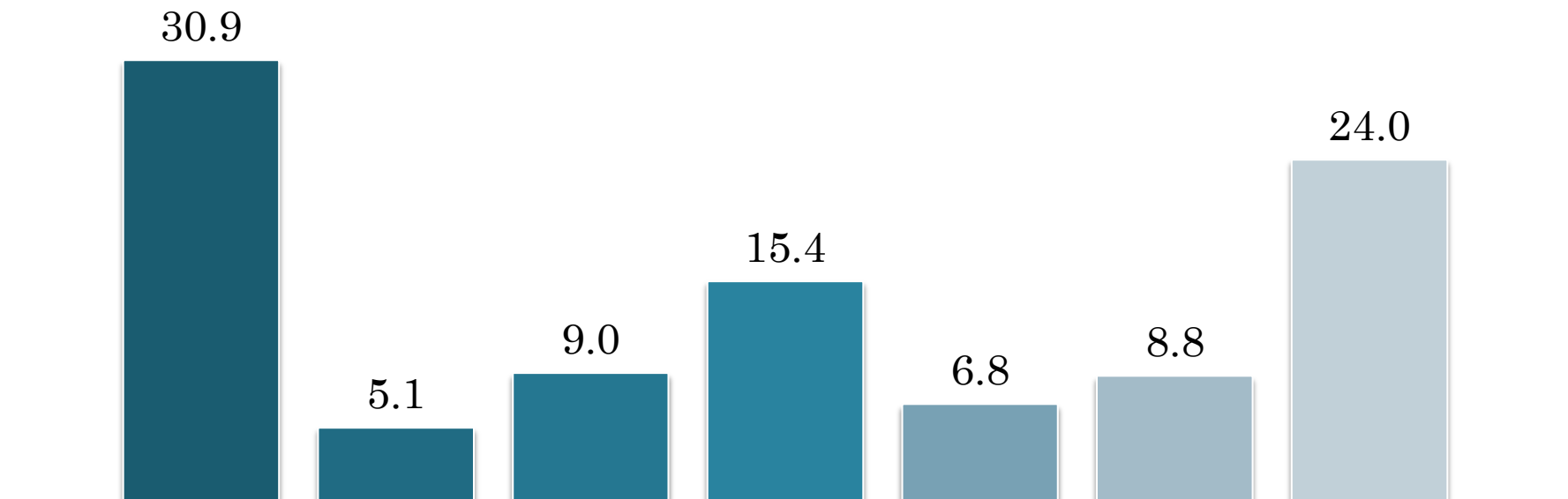


IRV – Round 8

12

(Eder eliminated)

■ Brennan ■ Duson ■ Marshall ■ Mavodones
■ Miller ■ Rathband ■ Strimling

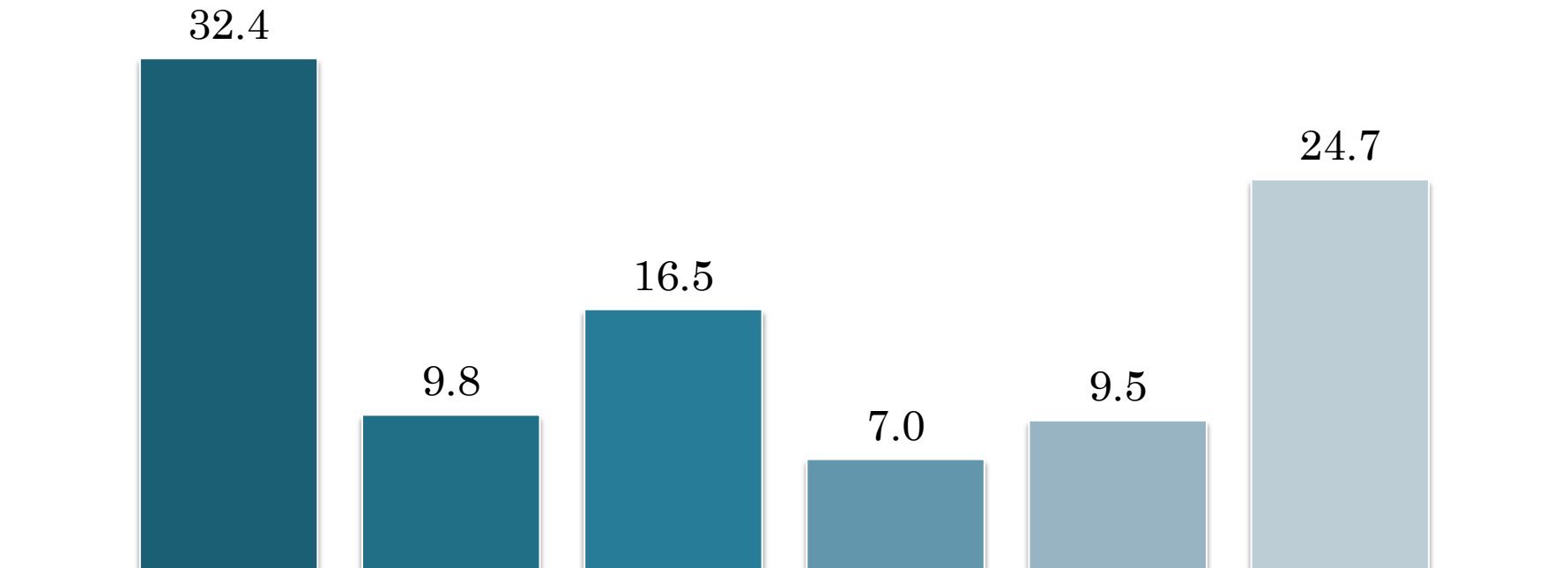


IRV – Round 9

13

(Duson eliminated)

■ Brennan ■ Marshall ■ Mavodones ■ Miller ■ Rathband ■ Strimling

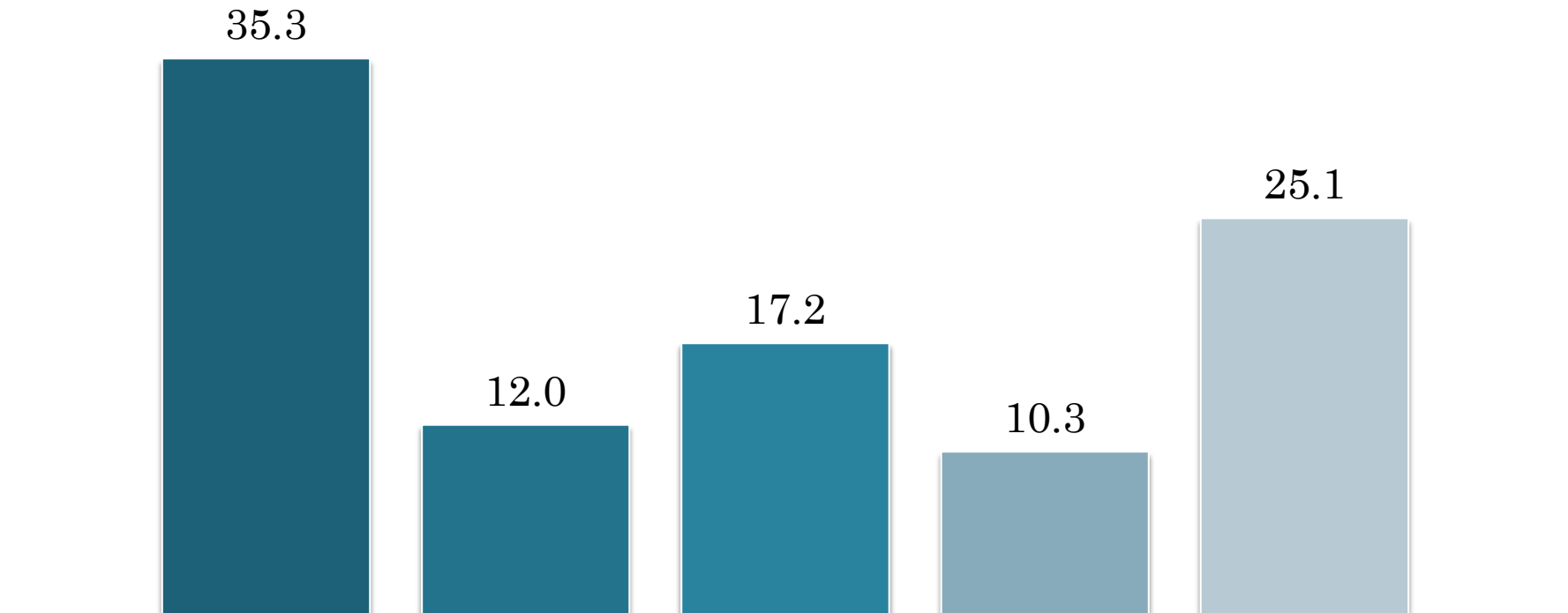


IRV – Round 10

14

(Miller eliminated)

■ Brennan ■ Marshall ■ Mavodones ■ Rathband ■ Strimling

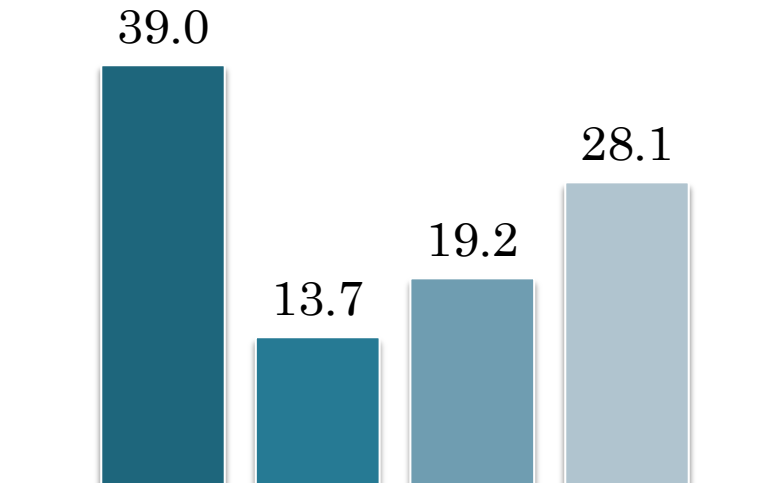


IRV – Rounds 11 and 12

15

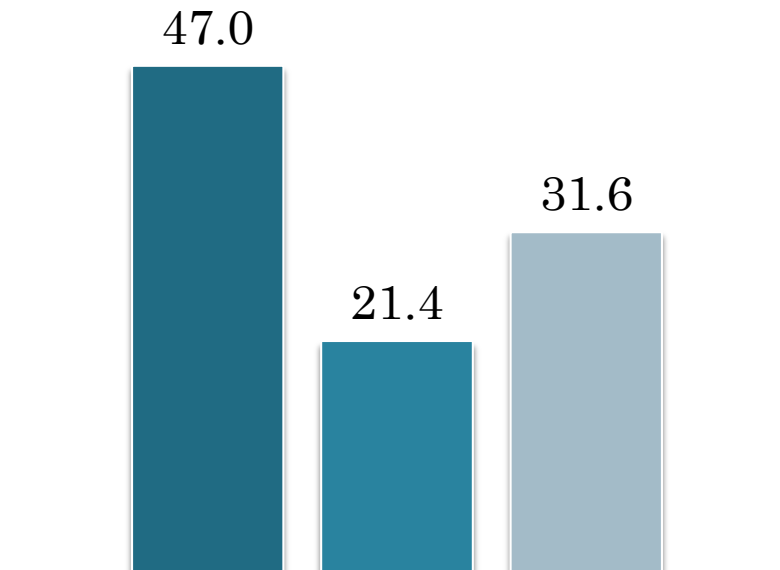
(Rathband eliminated)

- Brennan
- Marshall
- Mavodones
- Strimling



(Marshall eliminated)

- Brennan
- Mavodones
- Strimling

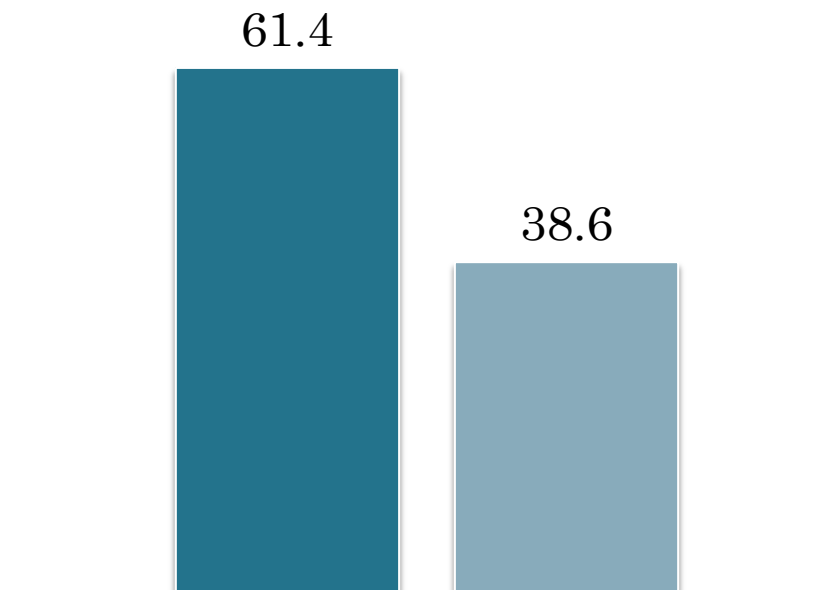


IRV – Final Round

16

(Mavodones eliminated)

■ Brennan ■ Strimling



- Brennan is the projected winner, having gained 31.3 percentage points and surpassed the 50 percent threshold after seven rounds of eliminations.
- Strimling gained 15 percentage points over the same period
- In this projection, it occurred that all candidates were eliminated in the order of their relative first-choice vote totals. This is not always the case in instant-runoff elections.

Frequencies

17

gender

	Percent
female	53.2
male	46.8

party

	Percent
Democratic	62.6
Republican	15.2
other/unenrolled	22.2

age

	Percent
18-34	20.1
35-49	25.2
49-64	32.2
65+	22.4

precinct

	Percent
1-1	8.3
1-2	5.3
1-3	2.7
2-1	10.5
2-2	6.5
3-1	10.0
3-2	12.2
4-1	13.2
4-2	8.4
5-1	8.7
5-2	14.3

Crosstabs

gender * choice 1 Crosstabulation

% within gender

		choice 1										Total
		other/none	Brennan	Carmona	Duson	Eder	Marshall	Mavodones	Miller	Rathband	Strimling	
gender	female	5.1%	33.5%	.4%	5.1%	2.4%	7.1%	12.2%	4.3%	5.5%	24.4%	100.0%
	male	11.2%	21.0%	3.6%	2.2%	3.6%	8.0%	14.7%	7.6%	9.8%	18.3%	100.0%
Total		7.9%	27.6%	1.9%	3.8%	2.9%	7.5%	13.4%	5.9%	7.5%	21.5%	100.0%

precinct * choice 1 Crosstabulation

% within precinct

		choice 1										Total
		other/none	Brennan	Carmona	Duson	Eder	Marshall	Mavodones	Miller	Rathband	Strimling	
precinct	1-1	2.5%	37.5%		5.0%	7.5%	10.0%	10.0%	17.5%		10.0%	100.0%
	1-2	4.0%	20.0%			8.0%	8.0%		24.0%	16.0%	20.0%	100.0%
	1-3	7.7%	23.1%	15.4%				15.4%			38.5%	100.0%
	2-1	4.0%	30.0%		6.0%	4.0%	10.0%	10.0%	2.0%	10.0%	24.0%	100.0%
	2-2	6.3%	25.0%	6.3%	12.5%		9.4%	9.4%	3.1%	12.5%	15.6%	100.0%
	3-1	4.3%	29.8%	4.3%	4.3%	2.1%	12.8%	14.9%	2.1%	6.4%	19.1%	100.0%
	3-2	6.8%	25.4%	1.7%	3.4%		6.8%	16.9%	6.8%	6.8%	25.4%	100.0%
	4-1	9.5%	42.9%	3.2%	1.6%		9.5%	11.1%	1.6%	11.1%	9.5%	100.0%
	4-2		20.0%		2.5%	5.0%	2.5%	25.0%		12.5%	32.5%	100.0%
	5-1	16.7%	14.3%		2.4%	9.5%		7.1%	11.9%	2.4%	35.7%	100.0%
	5-2	16.2%	26.5%	1.5%	2.9%	1.5%	4.4%	20.6%	1.5%	4.4%	20.6%	100.0%
Total		7.7%	28.0%	2.1%	3.8%	3.1%	7.1%	13.6%	5.6%	7.5%	21.5%	100.0%

Crosstabs

19

party * choice 1 Crosstabulation

% within party

		choice 1										Total
		other/none	Brennan	Carmona	Duson	Eder	Marshall	Mavodones	Miller	Rathband	Strimling	
party	Democratic	2.3%	34.4%	.7%	3.7%	2.3%	6.4%	11.4%	7.7%	7.0%	24.1%	100.0%
	Republican	23.3%	13.7%	5.5%	5.5%	1.4%		24.7%		13.7%	12.3%	100.0%
	other/unenrolled	12.3%	17.9%	3.8%	2.8%	5.7%	15.1%	12.3%	4.7%	3.8%	21.7%	100.0%
Total		7.7%	27.6%	2.1%	3.8%	2.9%	7.3%	13.6%	5.9%	7.3%	21.8%	100.0%

age * choice 1 Crosstabulation

% within age

		choice 1										Total
		other/none	Brennan	Carmona	Duson	Eder	Marshall	Mavodones	Miller	Rathband	Strimling	
age	18-34	5.2%	28.1%		6.3%	4.2%	16.7%	6.3%	8.3%	10.4%	14.6%	100.0%
	35-49	11.7%	17.5%	1.7%	1.7%	4.2%	7.5%	13.3%	6.7%	10.8%	25.0%	100.0%
	50-64	7.8%	36.4%	3.2%	3.2%	1.3%	6.5%	12.3%	5.2%	4.5%	19.5%	100.0%
	65+	6.4%	25.7%	1.8%	4.6%	2.8%		22.0%	2.8%	5.5%	28.4%	100.0%
Total		7.9%	27.6%	1.9%	3.8%	2.9%	7.3%	13.6%	5.6%	7.5%	21.9%	100.0%