STATES SHOULD SWITCH TO PREFERRED VOTING

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By HERBERT BARRY III, Oakland, PA

A May 23 letter by Robert F. Patton proposed that the Republican and Democratic Parties both could split, thereby giving the voters a choice among four parties ("Imagine the Possibilities if Both Parties Split"). I agree with the desirability.

I believe that it will happen in any states that change the election procedure to instant runoff or preferential voting. If no candidate is ranked as the first choice by more than half of the voters, all votes cast for the candidate with the fewest first choices are recounted and added to the totals of the remaining candidates for the next ballot. The recounts continue until a candidate receives a majority of the votes.

This procedure encourages rank order preferences without regard to probability of agreement by the other voters. It encourages choices among larger numbers of candidates. It is used in national elections in Australia.

If this voting procedure is adopted by Pennsylvania, I expect to have the welcome opportunity of alocating my first preference to a candidate who advocates replacing the tax on earned income by a tax on mostly wealthy individuals and corporations that own valuable land. <<