

Results of Amherst First Day Celebration Candy Election

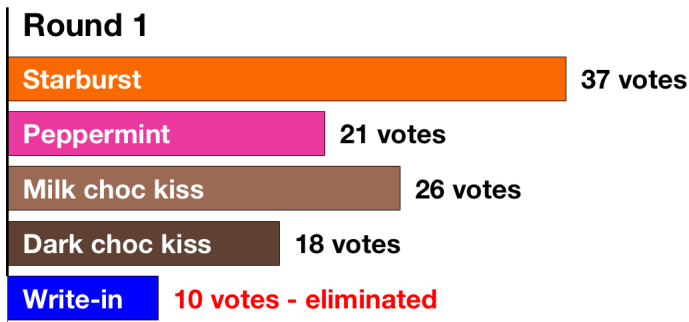
Attendees of the First Day Celebration had an opportunity to sample four candies and rank them in order of preference. Voters could also write in a different candy to include in their rankings. A total of 118 ballots were cast. Six ballots were spoiled, with more than one choice per column or per row, and had to be discarded. To win, a candy needs the support of the majority of properly cast votes (at least one more than half). Therefore, the winning candy needs at least $112/2+1=57$ votes to win. Below we work through the ranked choice voting method for the candy election.

RANK YOUR Favorite Candy!

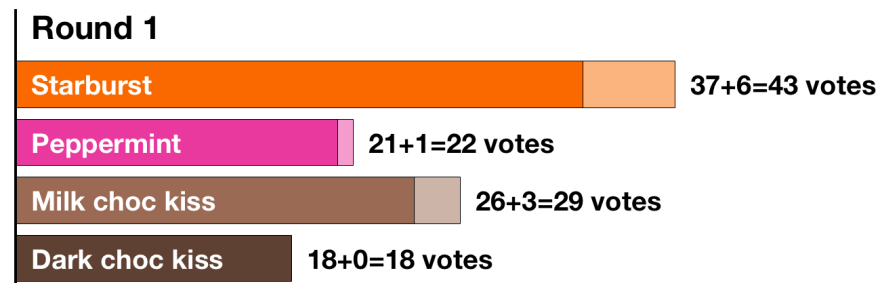
	1 ST CHOICE	2 ND CHOICE	3 RD CHOICE	4 TH CHOICE	5 TH CHOICE
STARBURST	1	2	3	4	5
PEPPERMINTS	1	2	3	4	5
MILK CHOCOLATE KISSES	1	2	3	4	5
DARK CHOCOLATE KISSES	1	2	3	4	5
WRITE-IN	1	2	3	4	5

RANK EACH CANDIDATE IN ORDER OF CHOICE
 Color in the ① next to your 1st choice, the ② next to your 2nd choice, and so on.
 Fill one bubble per row, one bubble per column.
 Don't rank a single candidate more than once.

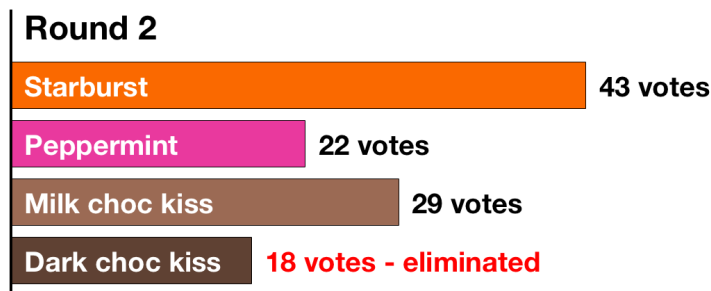
Starburst had the most 1st place votes, but not enough to win. Ten ballots had write-in candidates ranked as the 1st choice (2 for caramels, 2 for Reese's Pieces, and 1 each for Jolly Ranchers, Twizzler, Snickers, Twix, Ring Pop, and Red Hots).



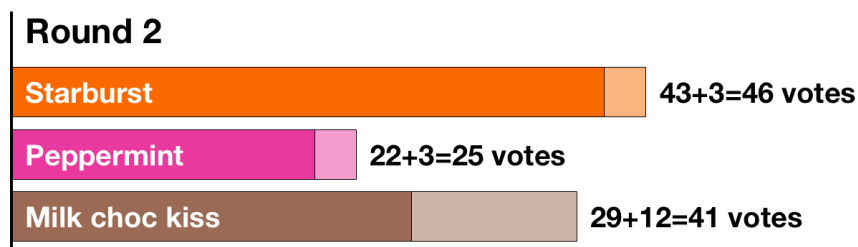
Because the write-in candidates did not have sufficient votes to possibly win, those ballots were immediately redistributed to the other four candy candidates according to the voters' 2nd choices.



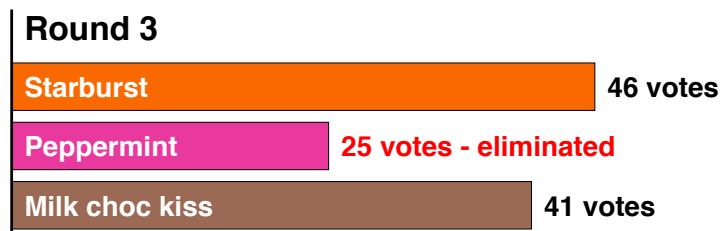
In round 2, the candidate with the least number of 1st place votes, dark chocolate kiss, is eliminated:



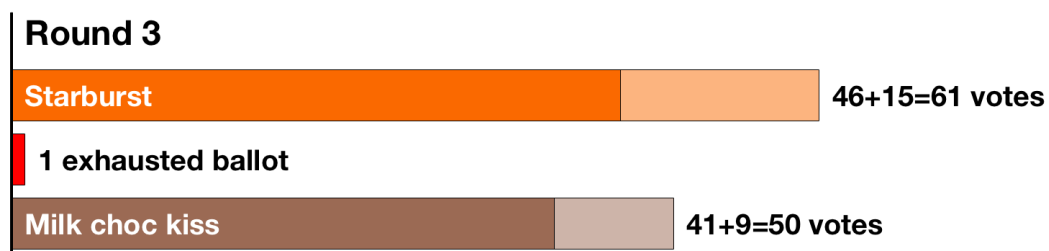
Those 18 ballots are redistributed to the remaining three candidates according to those voters' next choices:



The chocolate vote had been split between the two types of kisses, and the combined kiss vote provides a boost to nearly catch up to Starburst. Peppermint now has the fewest votes and is eliminated in Round 3:



One peppermint ballot only had 1st and 2nd choices indicated, both of which have now been eliminated, so that ballot is exhausted (we can't distribute that ballot to either of the remaining candidates). Hence, we redistribute 24 of the peppermint votes to the remaining candidates:



Recall that 57 votes are needed to win.

Starburst wins with 61!