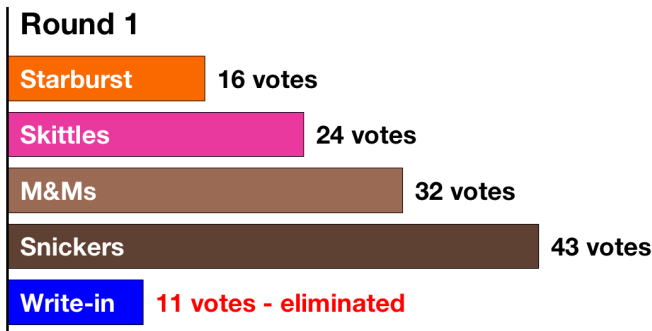# Results of Amherst Block Party Candy Election

Attendees of the Amherst Block Party 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 126 ballots were cast, with no ballots discarded due to errors. To win, a candy needs the support of the majority of votes (at least one more than half). Therefore, the winning candy needs at least 126/2+1=**64** votes to win. Below we work through the ranked choice voting method for the candy election.
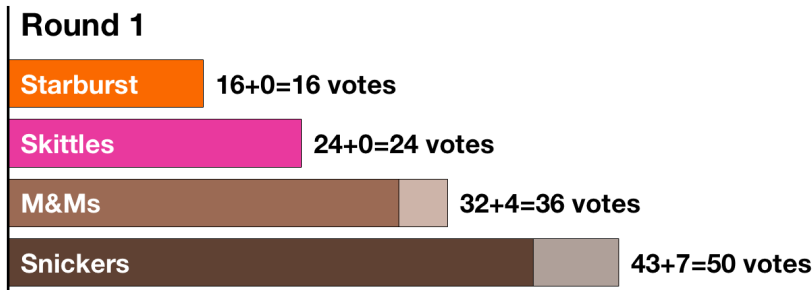

RANK YOUR *Favorite Candy!*

	1ST CHOICE	2ND CHOICE	3RD CHOICE	4TH CHOICE	5TH CHOICE
STARBURST	①	②	③	④	⑤
SKITTLES	①	②	③	④	⑤
M+M'S	①	②	③	④	⑤
SNICKERS	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.
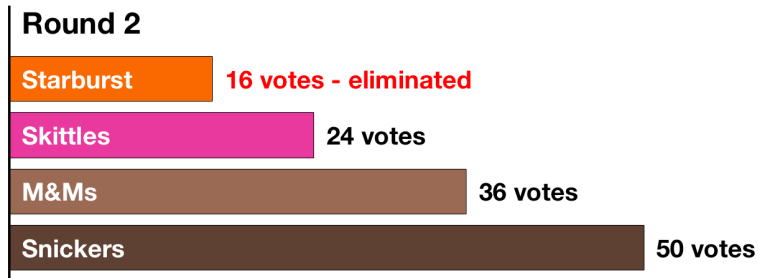Don't rank a single candidate more than once.

Snickers has the most 1st place votes, but not sufficient to win. Eleven ballots have write-in candidates ranked as the 1st choice (four for Reese's, two for Twix, and 1 each for KitKat, Mint Chocolate, Dark Chocolate, Brownies, and Gummy Bears).

Round 1

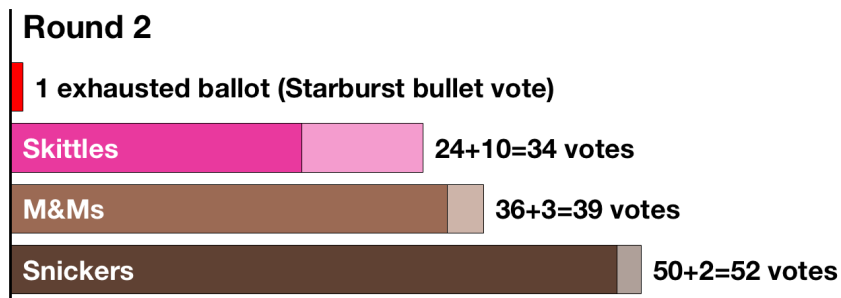|	
Starburst	16 votes
Skittles	24 votes
M&Ms	32 votes
Snickers	43 votes
Write-in	11 votes - eliminated

Because the write-in candidates did not have sufficient votes to possibly win, those ballots are immediately redistributed to the other four candy candidates according to the voters' 2nd choices.
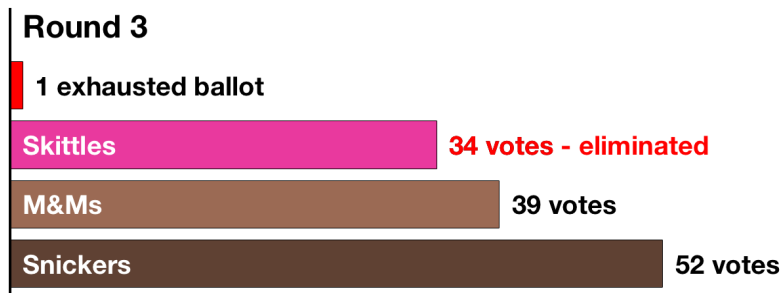
Round 1

Starburst	16+0=16 votes
Skittles	24+0=24 votes
M&Ms	32+4=36 votes
Snickers	43+7=50 votes

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

Round 2

Starburst — **16 votes - eliminated**

Skittles — **24 votes**
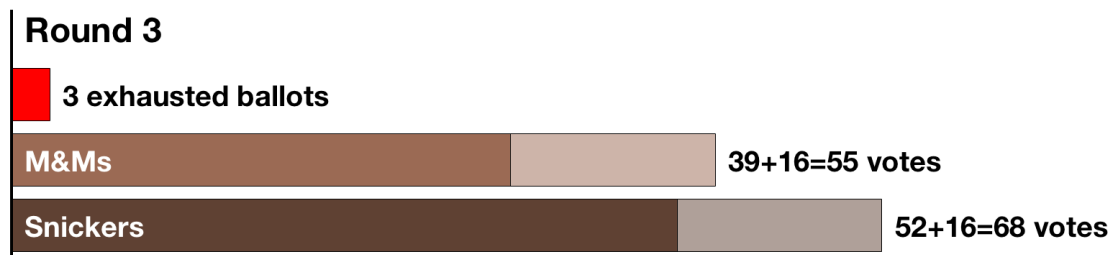
M&Ms — **36 votes**

Snickers — **50 votes**

Recall that Starburst won the First Day Celebration candy vote against peppermints and Hershey's kisses, but wasn't as popular against the new candy-dates at the Block Party. Twenty-five of Starburst's votes are redistributed to the remaining three candidates according to those voters' next choices; one ballot is a "bullet vote" only for Starburst and so is now exhausted:

Round 2

1 exhausted ballot (Starburst bullet vote)

Skittles — **24+10=34 votes**

M&Ms — **36+3=39 votes**

Snickers — **50+2=52 votes**

Skittles now has the least votes and is eliminated next:

Round 3

1 exhausted ballot

Skittles — **34 votes - eliminated**

M&Ms — **39 votes**

Snickers — **52 votes**

Based on those voters' next ranked preferences, the Skittles votes are redistributed between M&Ms and Snickers, 16 each, plus 2 more exhausted ballots:

Round 3

3 exhausted ballots

M&Ms — **39+16=55 votes**

Snickers — **52+16=68 votes**

Recall that 64 votes are needed to win.

Snickers wins with 68!