

Testimony for Minnesota House Elections Finance and Policy Committee

From: Commissioner Dave Mills, Cook County, MN

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 2024

RE: HF 3276

Greetings, and thank you for your service to our communities.

I am writing today in support of HF 3276 for local options for Ranked Choice Voting in Minnesota.

I am concerned about the divisions in our Country, and I believe Ranked Choice Voting would assist in building consensus. A democracy built on consensus is one much more resilient to division and much more productive in serving the people. Most people are not radical, by definition, yet more and more radical leaders are being elected which divides us all even further.

Ranked Choice Voting is designed to build consensus and ensure our leaders are indeed representative of our populations.

Ranked Choice Voting makes negative campaigning much more difficult. There would be too many targets for negative ads to work, and positive ads are much more effective at sharing visions, values, and strategies.

Ranked Choice Voting will also increase voter participation as it brings voter disenchantment down.

Allowing Local Option Ranked Choice Voting would not mandate it be used, but allow for local communities to decide if it is right for them.

Thank you for your service and please support HF 3276!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Mills', written in a cursive style.

Commissioner Dave Mills

Cook County, MN