

February 20, 2019

To the House Subcommittee on Elections

Letter in Support of HF 983, Local Option for Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Chair Dehn and Committee Members,

My name is Marcia Wattson, and I have been working to bring ranked choice voting to Bloomington. Please accept this written testimony in lieu of oral testimony.

As a former resident of Minneapolis and current resident of Bloomington, I have been watching and learning about ranked choice voting. I am impressed with its effectiveness at getting more voters engaged in civic issues in a positive way. I support HF983 in allowing local cities and school districts the option to use ranked choice voting (RCV) for their local elections.

- RCV makes expensive, low-turnout primaries unnecessary, saving cities money.
- Candidates campaigning under RCV connect with more constituents to hear their concerns, since they need to win 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place votes.
- Elected representatives win a majority of support from the community and are better prepared to work cooperatively on solutions to local needs.
- Minneapolis and St. Paul have had success demonstrating the viability of ranked choice voting. Research shows the voters understand it, like it, and do not want to go back to plurality winners.
- Cities and school boards deserve permission to use RCV if it seems right for them. This bill allows that; it does not require any city or school district to use RCV.

I urge you to vote for HF983. Thank you.



Marcia Wattson  
Bloomington