

LATINO LEAD

LEADERSHIP | EQUITY | ACHIEVEMENT | DEVELOPMENT

Date: March 12, 2024

Dear Members of the House Elections and Finance Policy Committee:

I am writing to share my strong support for HF 3276, which provides the option for all local jurisdictions to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) if they wish. As the CEO of LatinoLEAD, I work with Latine leaders across all sectors to create innovative strategies that drive and define policies and perceptions to advance the Latine community's collective influence, success, and power. And, RCV is a critical vehicle for electoral empowerment.

Minnesota cities that have adopted RCV have seen greater diversity in representation. As a Latina Minnesotan, I know firsthand the power that representation has in shaping and strengthening our democracy. RCV is proven to promote more inclusive representation and higher turnout elections, enabling more people's voices to be heard.

With our top-in-the-nation turnout and local experience with RCV, Minnesota is in a strong position to lead on this pro-voter initiative. That being said, our state has a ways to go in making sure that diverse voices have a seat at the table. The recent municipal election in St. Paul serves as a prime example of how RCV accelerates this process by enabling the structural reform that generates meaningful change.

Leading is what Minnesota does best, and now is the moment for us to continue to show the rest of the nation how to advance a democracy that is inclusive, participatory, representative, and responsive for all.

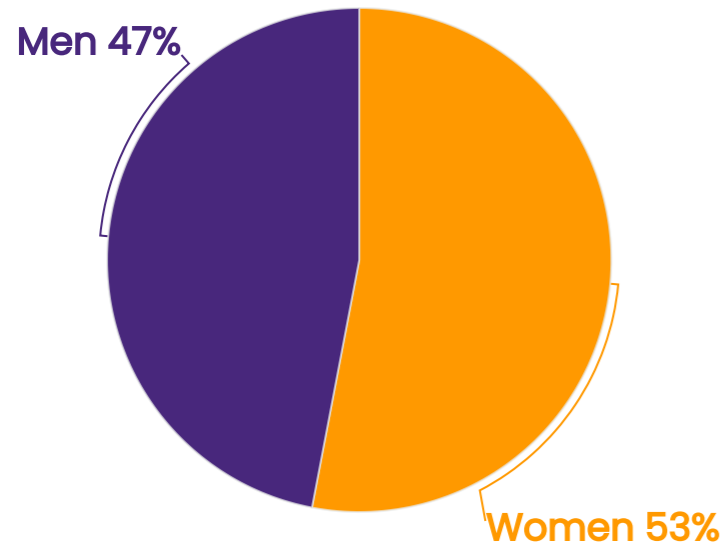
Sincerely,

Irma Márquez Trapero

Irma Márquez Trapero
Chief Executive Officer
LatinoLEAD

Local Level Data

Women make up 53% of seats on city councils in RCV cities

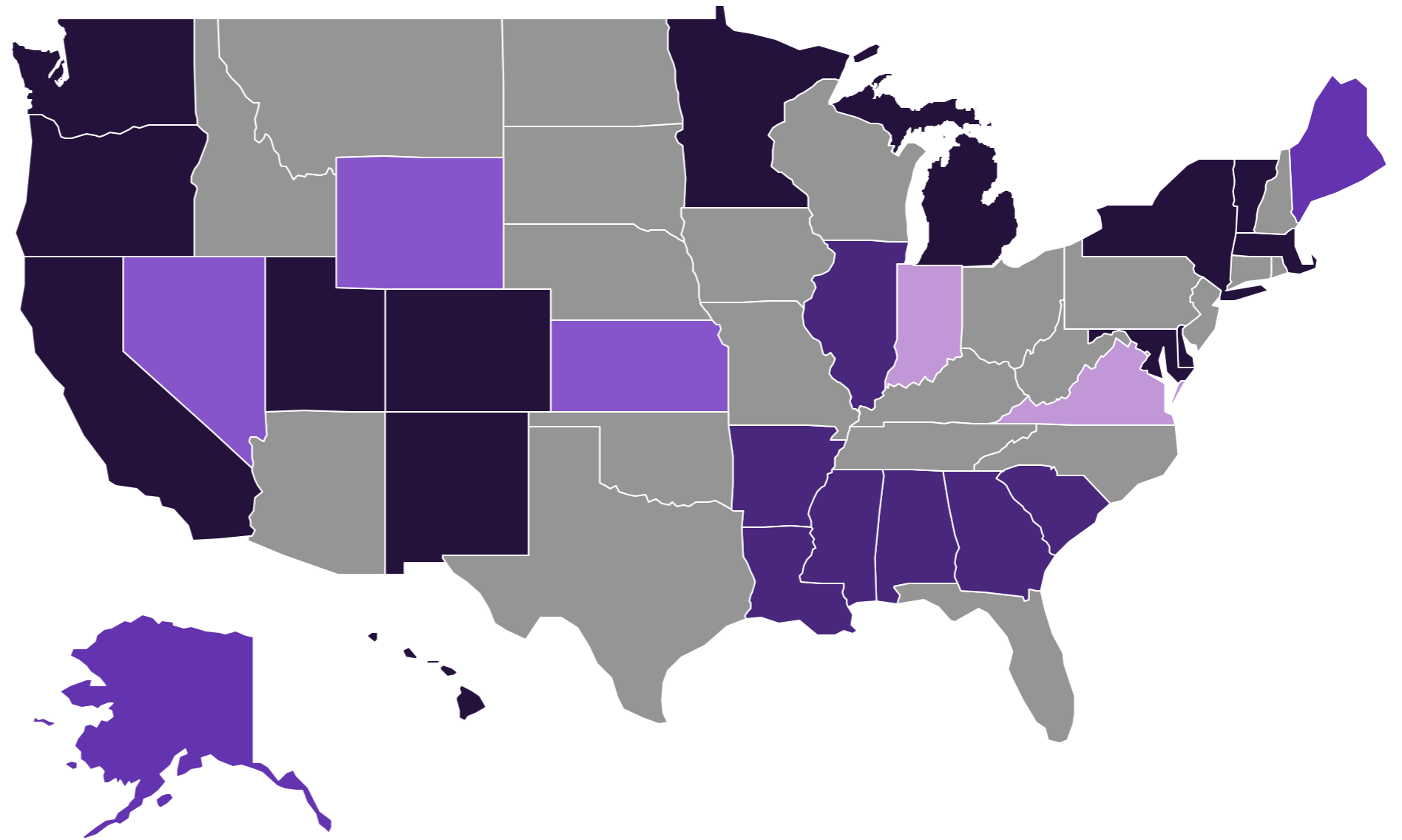


Women represent 12 of the 32 sitting mayors elected in RCV cities



● Women ● Men

Where Ranked Choice Voting is Used/Enacted in the U.S



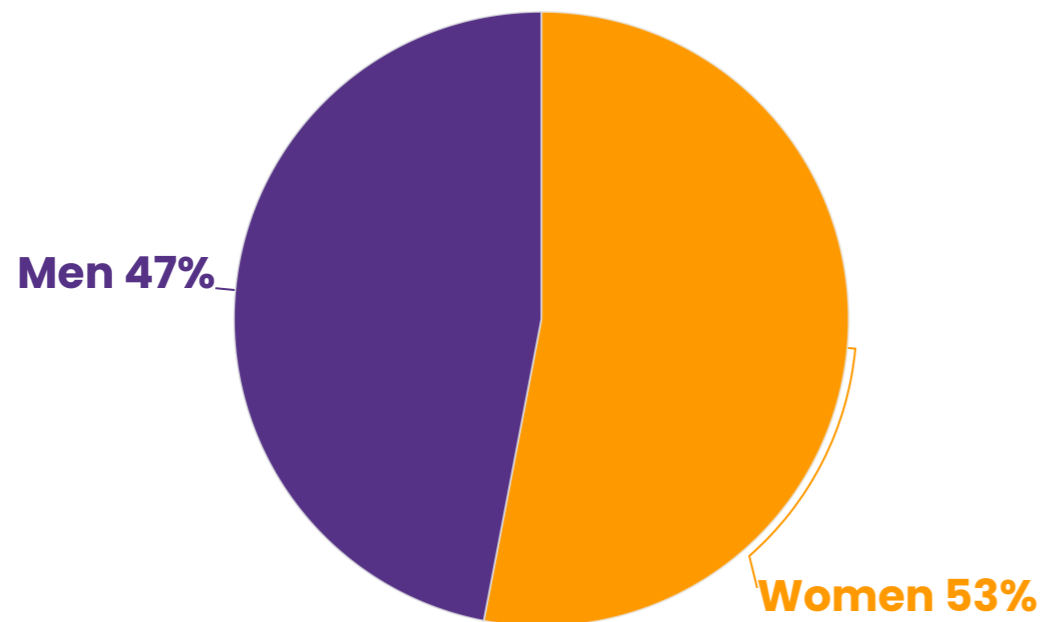
- Used For Military & Overseas Voting
- Used For Statewide & Federal Elections
- Not in Use
- Used For Local Elections
- Used for Party Elections
- Used For 2020 Presidential Primaries

Data true as of December 2023, Numbers refer to officeholders as of January 2024

Updated January 2024

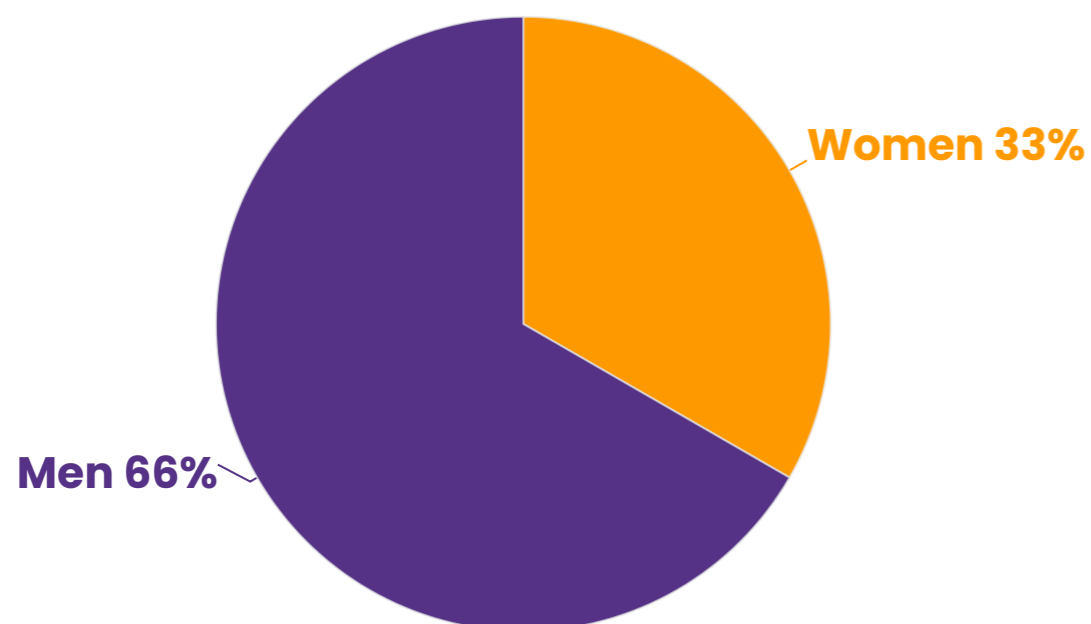
Ranked Choice Voting - City Councils

RCV Elected City Councils



Updated January 2024

City Councils of 100 Largest Cities



Updated January 2023

As of January 2024, 41 cities have used ranked choice elections to elect their sitting city councils. Of the seats, 53% are filled by women while women hold just 33% of all city council seats in the 100 largest cities.

*Note, 45 cities have RCV in place but not all have had 3+ candidate races.

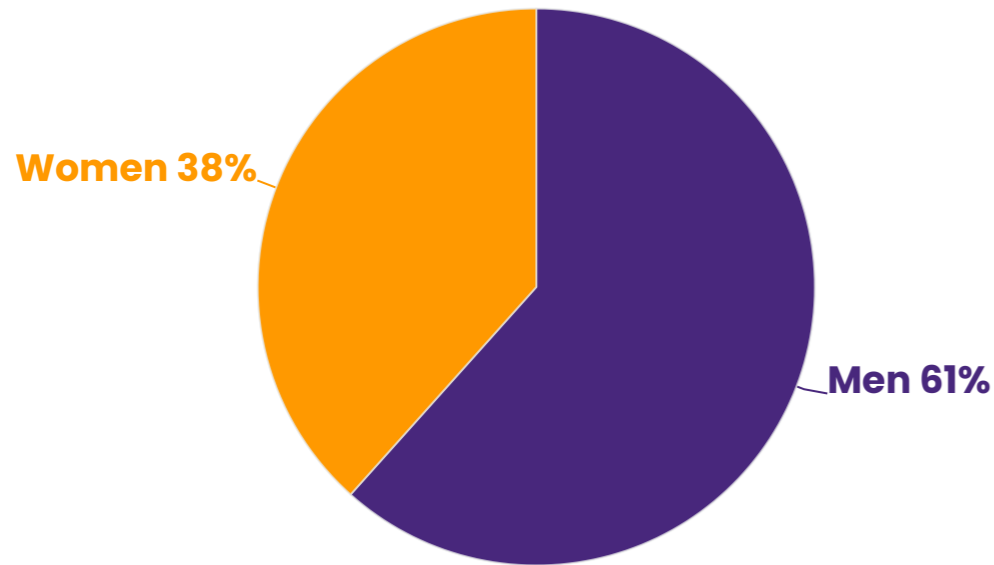
Below is a chart that lists all city councils elected by ranked choice voting.

City	State	% Women	Election Type	Last RCV Election
Albany	CA	25%	General	2022
Berkeley	CA	38%	General	2022
Oakland	CA	63%	General	2022
San Francisco	CA	36%	General	2022
San Leandro	CA	33%	General	2022
Arden	DE	71%	General	2023
Cambridge	MA	56%	General	2023
Easthampton	MA	22%	General	2023
Takoma Park	MD	50%	General	2022
Portland	ME	75%	General	2023
Eastpointe	MI	25%	General	2021
Bloomington	MN	33%	General	2023
Minneapolis	MN	62%	General	2023
Minnetonka	MN	100%	General	2023
St. Louis Park	MN	67%	Primary	2023
St. Paul	MN	100%	General	2023
Las Cruces	NM	83%	General	2023
Santa Fe	NM	75%	General	2023
New York City	NY	61%	General	2023
Corvallis	OR	67%	General	2022
Bluffdale	UT	40%	General	2023

Race/ethnicity breakdowns are unavailable for certain jurisdictions. For more information about race/ethnicity, please contact us : info@representwomen.org

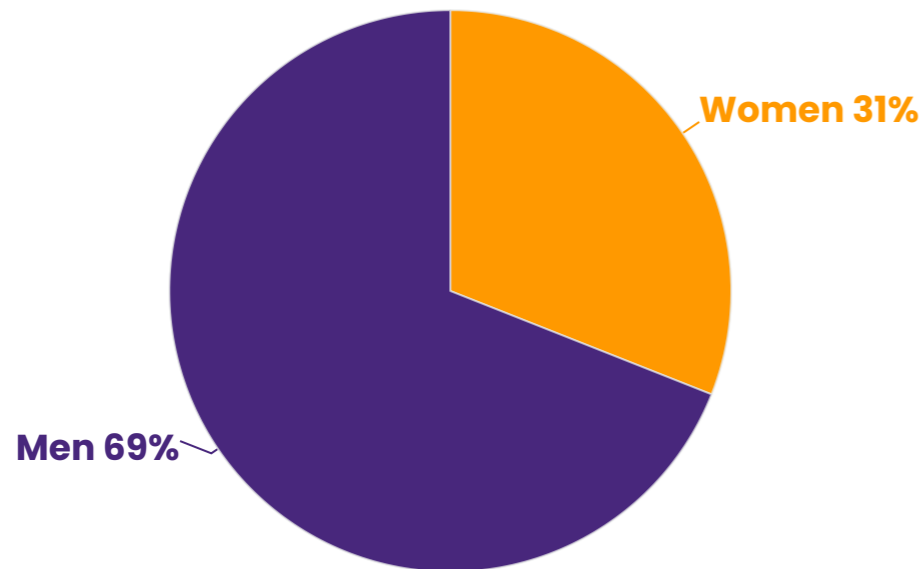
Ranked Choice Voting - Mayors

RCV Elected Mayors



Updated January 2024

Mayors of 100 Largest Cities



Updated January 2023

As of November 2023, 32 cities have used ranked choice elections to elect their sitting mayors. 38% percent of these mayors are women while only 31% of the 100 most populous cities in the U.S. have women mayors.

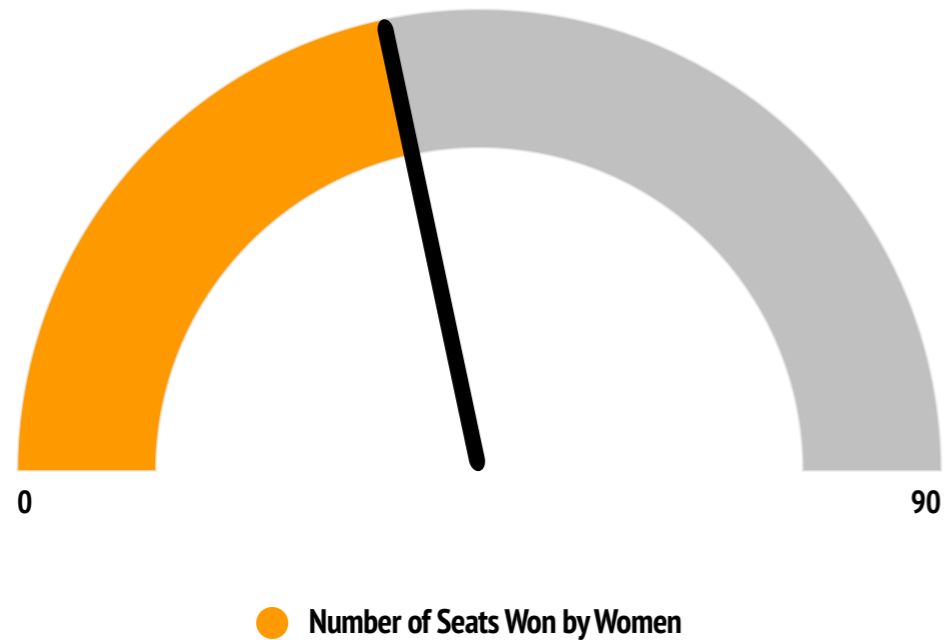
Below is a chart that lists all mayors elected by ranked choice voting as of January 2024.

Mayor	City	State	Woman Mayor?	Person of Color?	Last RCV Election
Jesse Arreguín	Berkeley	CA	No	Yes	2022
Sheng Thao	Oakland	CA	Yes	Yes	2022
London Breed	San Francisco	CA	Yes	Yes	2022
Juan Gonzalez III	San Leandro	CA	No	Yes	2022
Bill Kane	Basalt	CO	No	No	2020
Aaron Brockett	Boulder	CO	No	No	2023
Sumbul Siddiqui	Cambridge	MA	Yes	Yes	2021
Nicole LaChapelle	Easthampton	MA	Yes	No	2021
Talisha Searcy	Takoma Park	MD	Yes	Yes	2022
Mark Dion	Portland	ME	No	No	2023
Tim Busse	Bloomington	MN	No	No	2021
Jacob Frey	Minneapolis	MN	No	No	2021
Brad Wiersum	Minnetonka	MN	No	No	2021
Nadia Mohamed	St. Louis Park	MN	Yes	Yes	2023
Melvin Carter III	St. Paul	MN	No	Yes	2021
Eric Enriquez	Las Cruces	NM	No	Yes	2023
Alan Webber	Santa Fe	NM	No	No	2021
Eric Adams	New York City	NY	No	Yes	2021
Charles	Corvallis	OR	No	No	2022

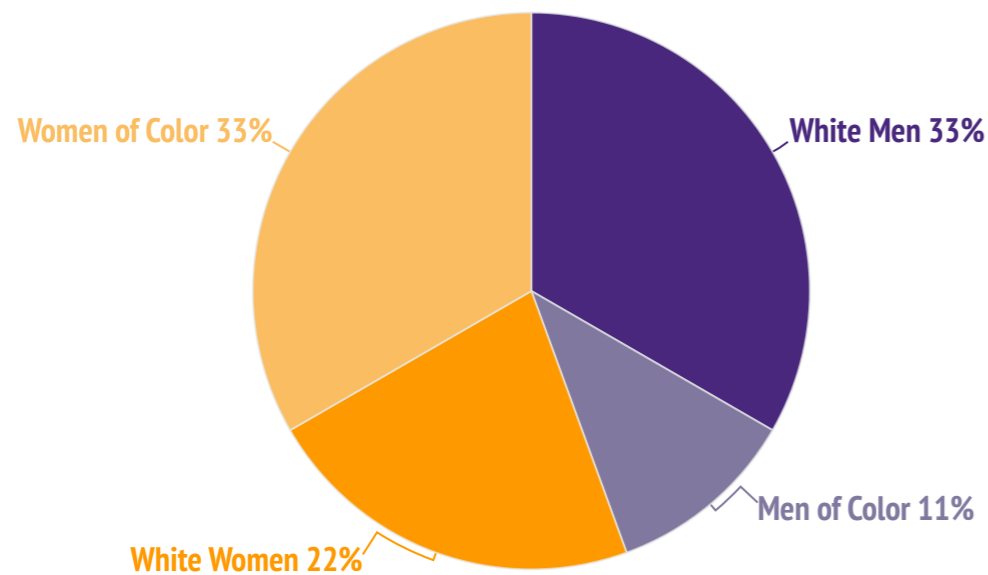
Demographic information for the mayors of the largest cities is courtesy of the Center of American Women and Politics.

2021 Case Study - Cambridge, MA

Number of Seats Won by Women 2010-2021



Gender and Race Breakdown of 2024 City Council



Data true as of January 2024

	2011	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021
Election						
Number of Candidates						
Women Candidates						
Percent Women						
Winners						
Woman						
School Committee		11	4	36%	Alfred B. Fantini	No
					Patricia M. Nolan	Yes
					Alice L. Turkel	Yes
					Mervan Osborne	No
					Richard Harding Jr.	No
					Marc C. McGovern	No
City Council		18	4	22%	Leland Cheung	No
					Timothy	No

History of Ranked Choice Voting in Cambridge, MA

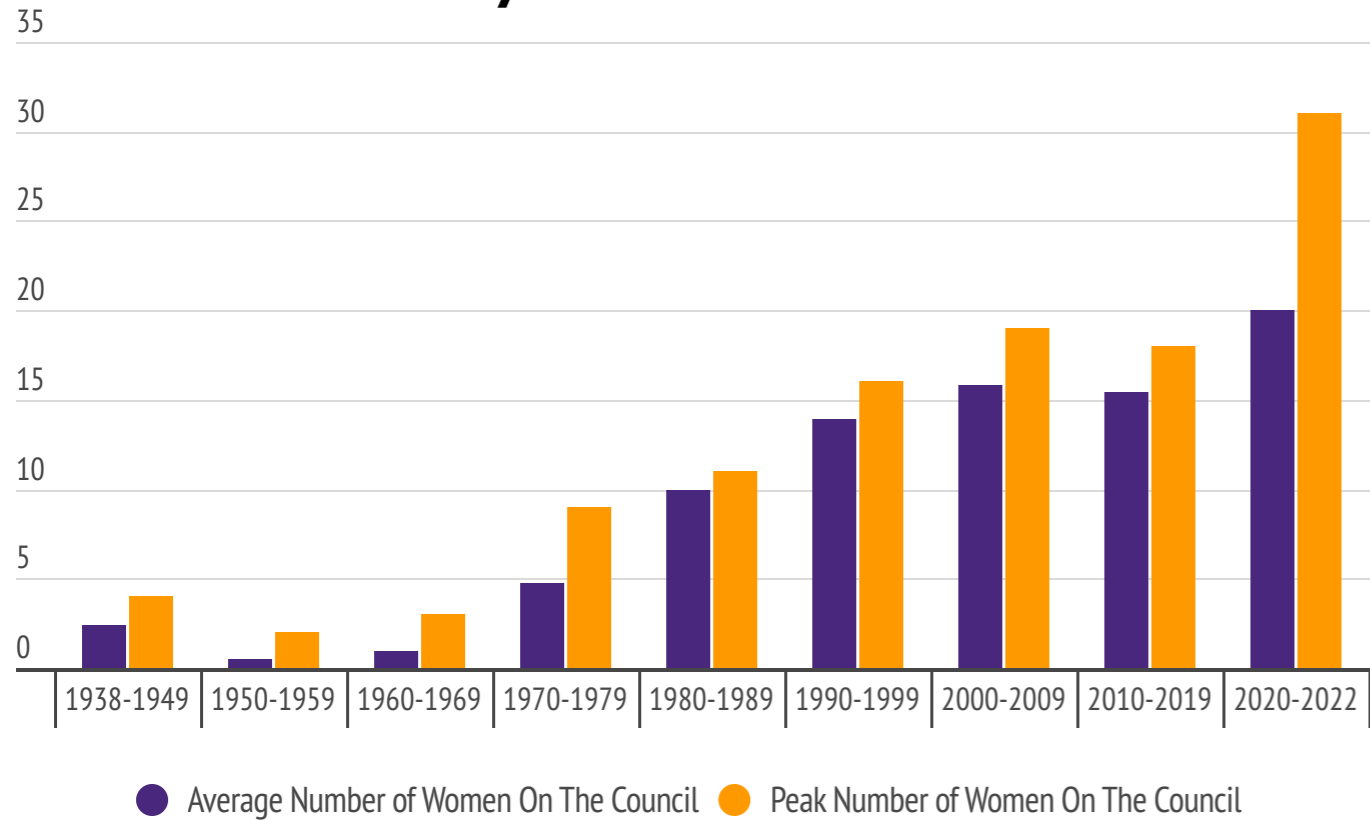
Voters in Cambridge, MA adopted RCV to elect the School Committee and City Council in 1940; and, first used RCV in the 1941 municipal elections.

Cambridge uses ranked choice voting in at-large districts, where candidates must reach a threshold of votes and additional votes are redistributed to the voter's second choice. The threshold is determined by the number of ballots cast divided by the number of seats open + 1.

From 2010-2020, women won 35% of the 74 seats up for election. Women of color won 38% of the seats won by women, and 16% of seats overall.

2021 Case Study - New York City, NY

Average and Peak Number of NYC Council Seats Held by Women Since 1939

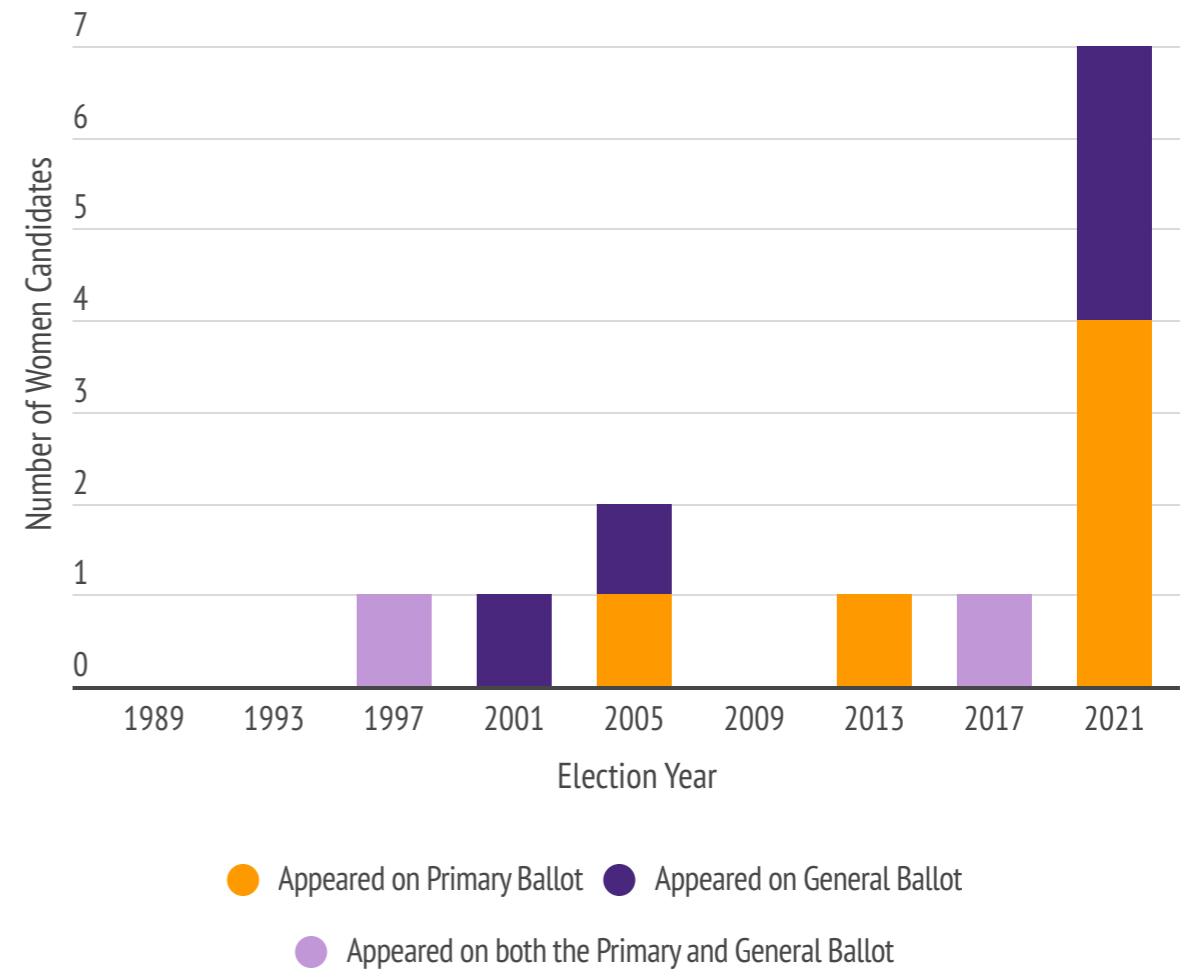


NYC Council Gender Balance as of January 2022



In 2021, history was made when 31 women were elected to the New York City Council - the first time ever the council would have a women majority. Of those women, 25 are women of color. Twenty-six of those women won ranked choice election primaries.

NYC Women Mayoral Candidates From 1989-2021



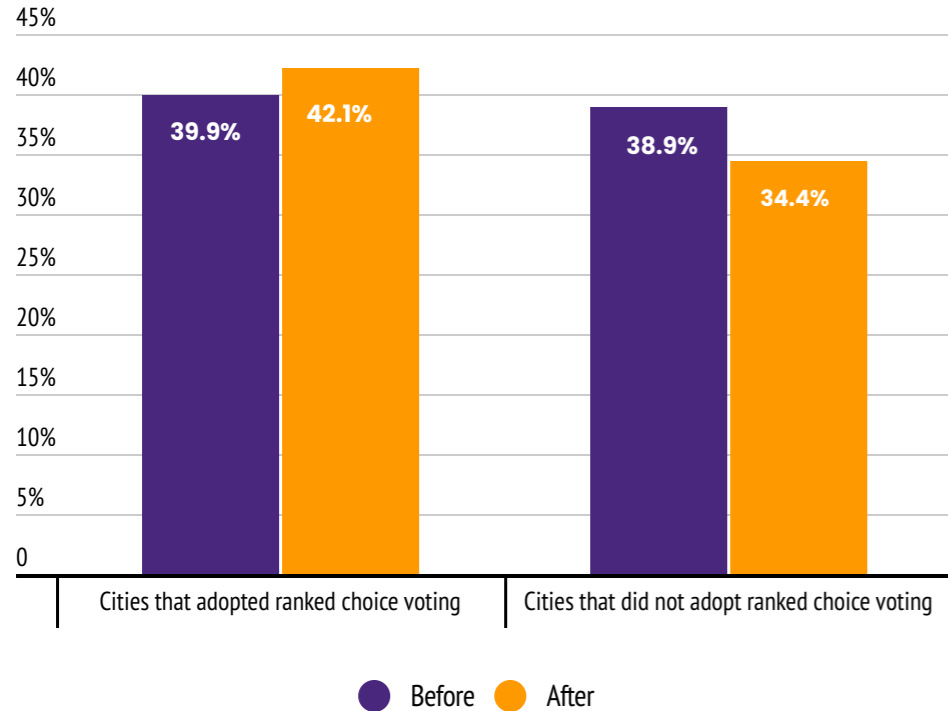
Since 1989, only 13 women have ever appeared on either a primary ballot or on the general ballot in NYC mayoral elections. Seven of those women (54%) ran in 2021. Two women - Kathryn Garcia and Maya Wiley - came within inches of winning the Democratic nomination and likely becoming the first ever woman mayor of NYC.

Post election, Maya Wiley published an opinion piece in The Washington Post titled, "[Opinion: Maya Wiley: I lost the NYC mayoral race, but women and minorities win with ranked-choice voting](#)"

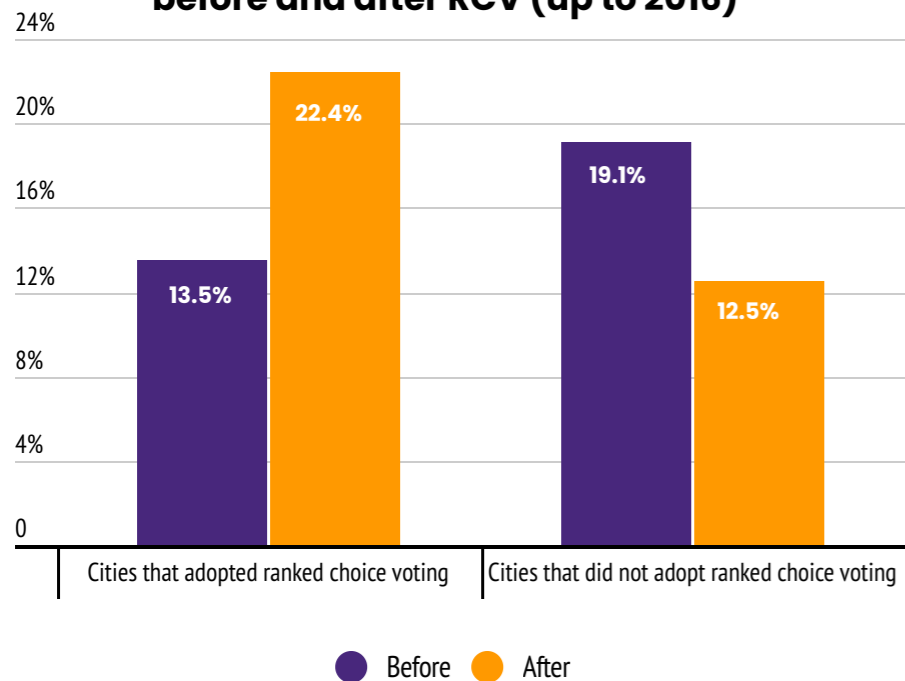
Data true as of December 2022

2016 Case Study - Bay Area

Percentage of Women Winning Office, before and after RCV (up to 2016)



Percentage of Women of Color Winning Office, before and after RCV (up to 2016)



In 2016, RepresentWomen published a report on the use of ranked choice voting in four cities in the Bay Area - Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, and San Leandro. RCV was implemented in San Francisco in 2004 and 2010 for the other three cities.

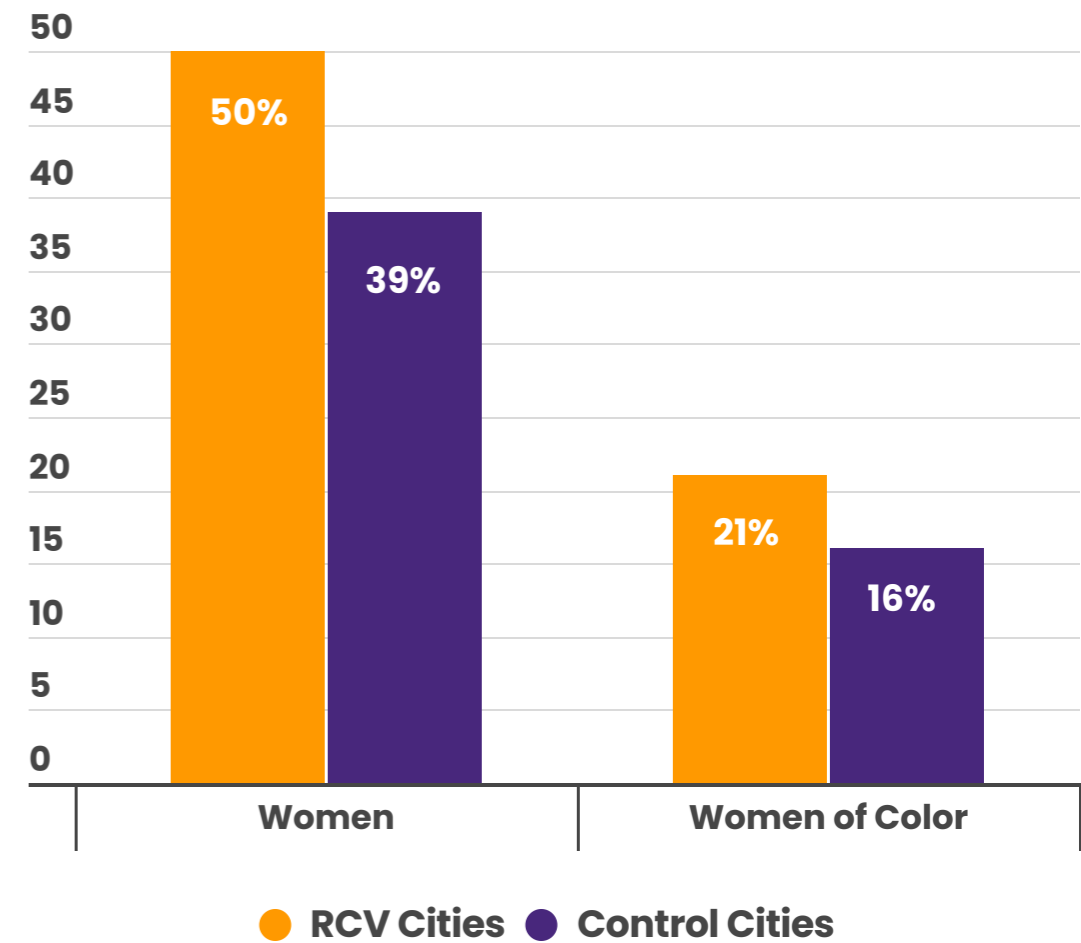
As part of the report, they tested the impact of RCV by studying the percentage of women and women of color that won in those four cities compared to seven control cities in California. The time span of the elections the report studied was from 1995-2014.

Results from that report are reflected in the graphs to the left. As a key:

"Before" references the statistics for elections in the time span before RCV was implemented in the four test cities.

"After" references the statistics for elections in the time span after RCV was implemented.

Percentage of Women and Women of Color In Office as of January 2022 (RCV vs Control Cities)



As of January 2022, RCV cities still have a higher percentage of women and women of color on their city councils.

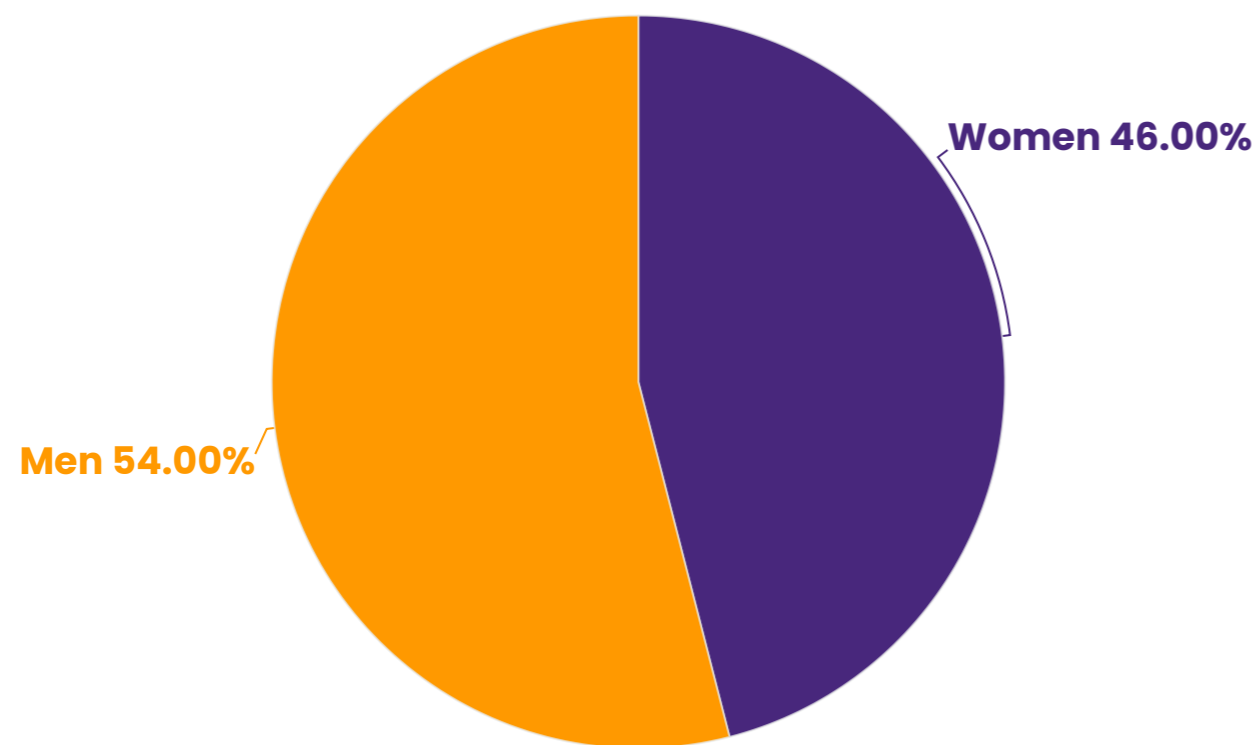
Also true as of January 2022, of the four RCV cities, 3 (75%) have women mayors. Of the seven control cities, only 2 (28.6%) have women mayors.

Data true as of December 2022

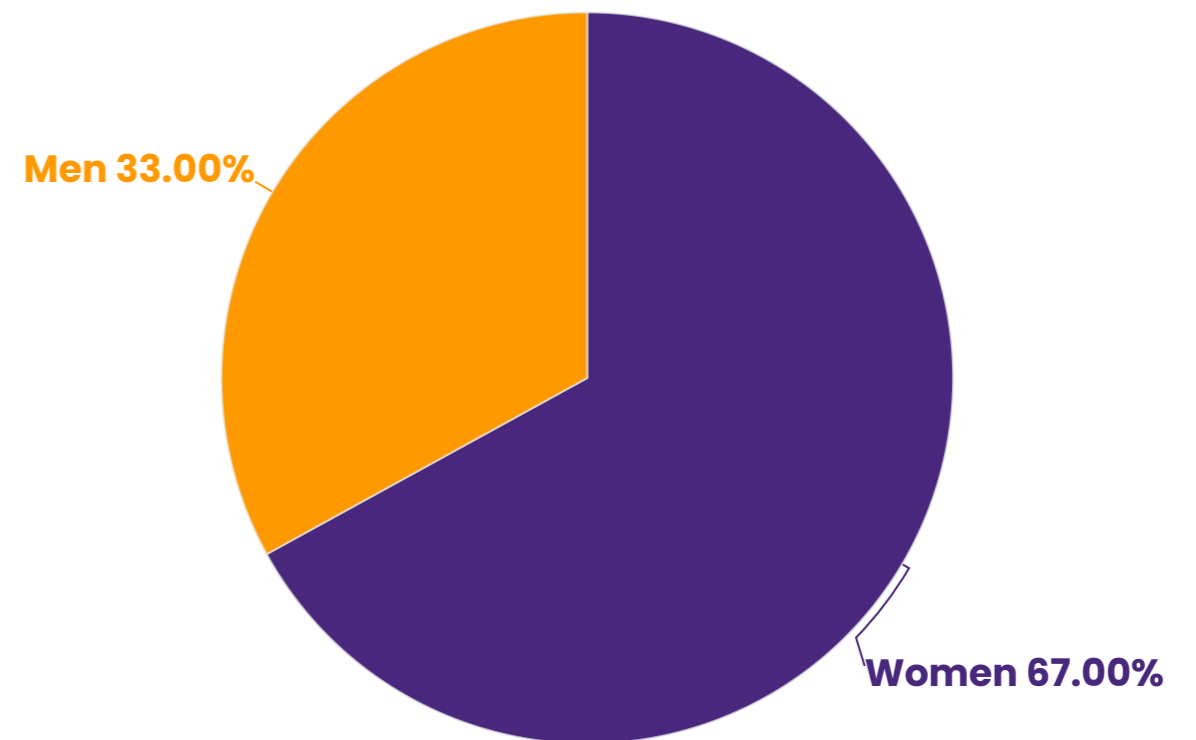
In 2021, 23 cities in Utah opted into a pilot program to use ranked choice voting for local elections. Of the 23, 20 actually held ranked choice elections (elections with 3+ candidates) with 19 cities using the system for the first time.

Women made up 32.5% of the candidates that ran to fill 46 seats that had races that used ranked choice voting (had 3+ candidates). Women won 37% of all RCV seats, but when looking at only the races that had women candidates, women won **46%** of them. **67%** (4 of 6) of mayoral seats that were contested by women were won by women.

Gender Breakdown of All RCV Seats Contested by Women (2021)



Winners of Mayoral Races Contested By Women (2021)



Of the 17 Utah cities that held RCV elections for their city councils, women make up 40% of their city councils.

Data true as of December 2022



2023

Golden Valley

State Legislative Priorities

city of
golden
valley



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The Golden Valley City Council declared by resolution a Climate Emergency Dec 21, 2021. The City joins more than 2,000 jurisdictions in 34 countries to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change.

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FINANCIAL



F1. Support Local-Option Sales Tax

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports a local-option sales tax at .05 percent. The estimated potential revenue of \$2.85 million per year would help fund critical infrastructure and building improvements.

Issues

City Buildings: Current City facilities do not accommodate contemporary fire protection, policing, administrative, or public works operations. To better serve the community, improve operational efficiencies, and expand economic development opportunities, the City developed a long-term, phased plan to address its building needs. The plan includes relocating public works operations out of the downtown area, constructing a modern public safety building and firefighting facilities that accommodate 24/7 duty crews, and a new City Hall. These improvements are scheduled to occur over the next 30 years at an estimated cost of \$160 million. Additional resources are needed to fund debt and keep property taxes in check.

Action

To fund the above described capital improvements, the City of Golden Valley requests authorization to enact a local-option sales tax in accordance with Department of Revenue steps, which include:

- passing a resolution that includes a proposed tax rate; detailed description of up to five capital projects funded with the tax; documentation of how each project will provide economic benefits to residents, businesses, and visitors from the jurisdiction; amount of revenue to be raised for each project and estimated time needed to raise funds; total amount of revenue to be raised for all projects; and estimated length of time the tax will be in effect if all proposed projects are approved
- submitting the resolution and supporting documents to the Senate and House Tax Committee chairs by Jan 31, then passing a resolution with approved language for a local ballot once legislative approval is received
- passing the resolution at least 90 days before a general election for voters to approve by a majority vote, and if a project is not approved, adjusting the revenue and expiration date

FINANCIAL



F2. Support Bond Allocation For Remote Fire Station

City Position

The City of Golden Valley is requesting State funding in the amount of \$17 million to acquire land, complete predesign and design work, and construct a new remote fire station for the Golden Valley Fire Department

Issues

The City of Golden Valley is in need of constructing a new remote fire station. Currently the City operates a paid on-call fire department out of three stations. To continue delivering effective service, the fire department needs to move to a duty-crew staffing model. However, the current three stations lack the facilities needed to accommodate a duty-crew model, and the two existing remote stations are not geographically located to provide optimal response time within the community, as well as within the western metro for mutual aid requests.

The City proposes to construct an approximately 20,000-square-foot remote fire station on the east side of Highway 100. This general location, combined with the current headquarters location at Winnetka Avenue and Golden Valley Road, provides quick access to major thoroughfares and improves response times throughout Golden Valley. The current department staffing model does not result in 13 to 15 personnel arriving on scene at a structure fire within eight minutes, as recommended by the National Fire Protection Association.

The City's bonding request includes funding for land acquisition, pre-design and design work, followed by station construction. The station is proposed to include an apparatus bay of approximately 7,500 square feet and support space (office, sleeping quarters, meeting area, etc) of approximately 7,700 square feet. The station will serve as a polling location for the City and provide community meeting and training space.

Action

- Advocate to include the City's funding request of \$17 million for design and construction of a new remote fire station in the 2022 bonding bill.

FINANCIAL



F3. Support Funding For Local Government Aid

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports funding of the Local Government Aid (LGA) component to help ensure needs for public services can be met by equalizing the tax base for all cities.

Issue

Golden Valley is one of the few cities statewide that does not receive LGA but has many basic public service needs that are underfunded.

Action

Advocate for the state to keep pace with inflationary pressures and support increased funding for LGA. Golden Valley supports an increase in the LGA appropriation and a review in its entirety of the formula that would at least provide a minimum distribution to help fund public services. Golden Valley supports HF 2031 authored by Representative Hertaus in 2019.

Additional Documents (See Appendix F3)

- Table: 10-Year History Of Local Government Aid Distribution And Its Impact On Golden Valley (1 page)

FINANCIAL



F4. Support Sales Tax Exemption On Local Purchases

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports the tax exemption of motor vehicle tax of 6.5 percent on all municipal vehicles.

Issues

Currently only police and fire emergency vehicles are exempt. The City has many other vehicles, such as sweepers and large trucks, that respond to snow emergencies, flooding, road repair, etc.

Action

Support language regarding the exemption of Motor Vehicle Sales Tax on all municipal vehicles purchased by governmental agencies.

FINANCIAL



F5. Modify Obsolete Fiscal Disparities Formula To Assist Local Units Of Government With Basic Needs

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports reviewing and amending the 50-year-old Fiscal Disparities formula to ensure all metro area local governments have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs. By amending the Fiscal Disparities formula, all metro area cities can use the additional amount of property taxes received to help fund needed improvements.

For nearly 50 years, the Fiscal Disparities program has reapportioned 40 percent of tax capacity from metro area cities with higher commercial/industrial tax bases to those with less market value per capita. This is to help equalize funding for the betterment of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

While all cities have needs, those that historically have been net Fiscal Disparities contributors have aged and are experiencing greater infrastructure needs than 50 years ago. Much of this infrastructure was built before the early 1960s and is due for replacement. It is time to recalculate the Fiscal Disparities formula to reflect today's realities. Since just 2001, Golden Valley has contributed almost \$40 million to help other communities meet their needs. With the proposed change, over the next 20 years Golden Valley would keep an estimated \$18 million help meet its needs.

Issue

Golden Valley, like most cities in Minnesota and the nation at large, is facing a looming infrastructure crisis. All across the US, aging systems for water supply, sanitary sewer management, storm water and flood control, transportation, etc, are in need of repair and/or replacement. Not only is much of Golden Valley's infrastructure a half century or more old, but as populations grow, it's taking on service demands it was not built to handle. The Fiscal Disparities program has been in existence for almost 50 years and is in need of an overhaul.

Action

Advocate for modifying the obsolete Fiscal Disparities formula so all metro area cities can fund needed infrastructure improvements while keeping taxes and utility expenses lower than they inevitably would be if this infrastructure problem is allowed to grow into a full-blown crisis.

Additional Documents (See Appendix F5)

- Table: 20-Year History Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Contributions With 40 Percent Program And 20-Year Projection Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Gains With 30 Percent Program (1 page)

FINANCIAL



F6. Support Funding For Affordable And Workforce Housing

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports additional tools for local communities to develop and preserve affordable and workforce housing and to advance diverse, inclusionary, and equitable housing opportunities.

Issue

Cities must ensure they provide a full range of housing choices in the community. As cities, businesses, and the overall economy in the Minneapolis–St Paul region continues to grow, the need for housing available to those with low and moderate incomes also grows. Failure to expand housing options will impact the region’s ability to attract talent, grow its economy, and reinvest in itself.

If resources and policies needed to advance affordable housing opportunities for BIPOC homeowners and renters across the state are specifically identified, housing opportunity would be more effective from a diversity, equity and inclusion perspective.

Actions

Advocate for policy and financial tools that support both the preservation of naturally occurring affordable housing, construction of new affordable housing, as well as additional resources needed for cities to address the unequal distribution of housing resources, including:

- policies, programs and resources for affordable rental housing eligibility based on income and social vulnerability indicators
- policies, programs and resources for affordable homeownership eligibility based on income, social vulnerability indicators, and first generation homebuyers
- increasing funding for the state’s rental rehab loan fund for naturally occurring affordable housing and including use of the fund in the metro region
- enhancing state programs, policies, and funding allocations to promote and finance the preservation and construction of affordable housing, particularly for assisted, senior, and supportive housing
- modifying Tax Increment Financing (TIF) statutes to clearly enable pooling of TIF revenue for affordable housing
- establishing a statewide notification requirement for rental properties prior to ownership transfer
- creating incentives for property owners to participate in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program to increase housing options for low and moderate income earners
- preserving and expanding the state’s 4d low-income property tax program that provides a property tax benefit to qualifying low-income rental properties

Additional Documents (See Appendix F6)

- Memo: Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan (2 pages)

TRANSPORTATION



T1. Support Full Funding For Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) And Multimodal Infrastructure Or Transportation

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports investment in Bus Rapid Transit and multimodal infrastructure on the Highway 55 corridor from Wright County to Minneapolis due to a high concentration of jobs, strong reverse-commute patterns, and increased residential development along the corridor. This includes improving safety and mobility at key intersections, like Winnetka Avenue, to better accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, transit, etc.

Issue

Trunk Highway 55 is a major transportation route serving the west metro area and beyond. The corridor contains a high concentration of jobs, has a strong reverse-commute pattern, and is experiencing increased residential development. Bus Rapid Transit is a practical and affordable component of a comprehensive regional transportation system.

Because Highway 55 also creates a barrier between the northern and southern portions of communities, infrastructure to support BRT ridership and promote multi-modal transportation must be planned for and funded as part of the Highway 55 BRT corridor.

Actions

- Advocate for full funding for Bus Rapid Transit on Highway 55, which impacts all communities along the corridor (Minneapolis, Golden Valley, Plymouth, Medina, and beyond).
- Leverage federal dollars to the extent possible to fund infrastructure improvements that support BRT, including a pedestrian overpass at Highway 55 and Winnetka Avenue.
- Aggressively pursue Federal infrastructure funding to advance these initiatives.

Additional Documents (See Appendix T1)

- Resolution: Supporting Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service On Highway 55 And Participation In Additional Study Of The Corridor (2 pages)
- Highway 55 & Winnetka Avenue Concept (1 page)

TRANSPORTATION



T2. Support Comprehensive Transportation Funding

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports dedicating more resources to all components of the state's transportation system and ensuring local units of government have access to resources and funding tools to meet growing needs.

Issue

A comprehensive regional transportation system that meets the physical, social, and economic needs of Golden Valley and the state requires adequate funding. This transportation system includes streets, bridges, highways, transit, and multi-modal solutions. Collaborative efforts and initiatives are already in progress.

Actions

- Establish a sustainable formula to increase transit and transportation funding.
- Advocate for including improvements to US Highway 169 between I-394 and Medicine Lake Road in the MnDOT Capital Improvement Plan.

ENVIRONMENTAL



E1. Continue To Adequately Fund The DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program For Local Projects

City Position

The City of Golden Valley is requesting legislative approval of funds through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Flood Damage Reduction Program to continue to implement public improvements within the DeCola Ponds and Medicine Lake Road watershed. These projects include improvements within the Cities of Crystal, New Hope and Golden Valley (eg, flood storage, subwatershed diversion, and runoff rate control projects).

Issue

The City of Golden Valley experiences localized flooding in the Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue area and flooding from Bassett Creek in numerous locations throughout the community. This flooding causes damages to homes and businesses, and impacts infrastructure and emergency services. The City is currently pursuing Phase III of a multi-phase project.

Action

Advocate for continued full funding of the Minnesota DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program, including funding of the Medicine Lake Road and Winnetka Avenue Area Long Term Flood Mitigation Project.

Additional Documents (See Appendix E1)

- Map: DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (1 page)



E2. Climate Emergency Declaration: Support Policies And Investments Mitigating The Impact Of Climate Change

City Position

The Golden Valley City Council declared by resolution a Climate Emergency Dec 21, 2021. On Jan 18, 2022, the City passed an additional resolution to join more than 2,000 jurisdictions in 34 countries to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change.

Issue

Golden Valley residents, businesses, and property owners are experiencing the impacts of climate change through increased flooding and flood risk, excessive heat, drought, invasive species, diminished air quality, and extreme weather events. Not only do these events affect the health, safety, well-being, and economic vitality of Golden Valley residents and businesses, these climate-related impacts affect the City's operations, infrastructure, and finances.

Additionally, climate change disproportionately impacts historically excluded, marginalized, and underserved communities, low-income families, and residents with disabilities who are most at risk from the negative impacts of climate change.

Actions

The City of Golden Valley calls on the Minnesota Legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support mitigation and adaption efforts by providing funding and resources to develop and implement climate actions plans.

Additional Documents (See Appendix E2)

- City Council Resolution No. 21-100 Declaring a Climate Emergency in Golden Valley (5 pages)
- City Council Resolution No. 22-009 Joining with Cities and Counties Across Minnesota/US/World Declaring a Climate Emergency

ENVIRONMENTAL



E3. Support Funding For Metropolitan Council Inflow/ Infiltration Grants—Public And Private Improvements

City Position

Because I/I reduction efforts benefit the entire metropolitan area, the City of Golden Valley supports the state providing continued capital assistance for grants to cities as well as financial assistance for private property through future Clean Water Legacy Act appropriations.

Issue

Many metro communities are contributing excess inflow and infiltration of clear water into the regional wastewater system. Excess I/I results in wastewater flows that exceed the capacity of conveyance and treatment systems, resulting in significant environmental and public health issues and excessive costs to upgrade these systems.

Action

Advocate for financial assistance through future Clean Water Legacy appropriations to metro area cities with excess I/I. These resources should include assistance for cities to address I/I contributions from private property.

Additional Documents (See Appendix E3)

- Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits - City of Golden Valley (1 page)

ENVIRONMENTAL



E4. Advance Building Performance

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports statewide energy efficiency improvements in buildings, lighting, and infrastructure and includes these as local goals in the Resilience and Sustainability Chapter of its 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Issue

The State of Minnesota has a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050 but is not on track to do so. Buildings are a top greenhouse gas emitter, and a different approach is needed to building design and construction. Building codes, which are established by the State, are not advancing fast enough to reach carbon reduction goals.

Action

The City of Golden Valley supports policy changes and other solutions that lead to increased building efficiency, including:

- clear standards for developers and designers
- financial support and incentives for energy efficient improvements
- educational support and training
- advancing code requirements at a rate faster than the typical building code update cycle
- statewide adoption of building codes that advance energy performance in new and remodeled buildings

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



C1. Support For Ban On Conversion Therapy Practices

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports the State Legislature banning the practice of conversion therapy for minors in the State of Minnesota.

Issue

Conversion therapy, also known as reparative therapy, is a practice or treatment that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity, including efforts to change behaviors or gender expressions or to eliminate or reduce sexual or romantic attractions or feelings toward individuals of the same gender.

Conversion therapy is based on the discredited premise that being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ+) is a mental disorder that can be cured or corrected. Medical, mental health, and child welfare experts, including the American Medical Association and the American Psychiatric Association, have denounced conversion therapy as ineffective, unreliable, unethical, and unsafe for the people who undergo such treatment, including LGBTQ+ people.

Furthermore, conversion therapy has been shown to cause serious and dangerous harm to those who are subjected to such treatments, including depression, anxiety, increased suicidal behaviors, lowered self-esteem, internalized homophobia, self-blame, intrusive imagery, sexual dysfunction, and interpersonal harm, such as alienation, loneliness, social isolation, interference with intimate relationships, and loss of social supports. The State of Minnesota regulates and licenses behavioral and mental health professionals but has so far not addressed the serious issue of conversion therapy.

Action

The City of Golden Valley supports the State Legislature banning the practice of conversion therapy for minors in the State of Minnesota. The City supports a ban that applies to any and all forms of conversion therapy, but that excludes a prohibition on practices or treatments that provide acceptance, support, and understanding for the facilitation of an individual's coping, social support, and identity exploration and development, or treatment to support gender identity transition.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



C2. Support For Gun Control/Reform

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports Minnesota’s red flag legislation for gun reform and a bill that would require criminal background checks for all firearm transfers and sales.

Issue

Gun violence is at an all-time high across the country as well as in Minnesota, especially in the Twin Cities area. In 2021 the number of Minnesota people killed by gunfire rose to the highest level in 20 years—there were 570 gun deaths, including 164 homicides and 393 suicides where a gun was used. Weak guns laws are hurting police officers and, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention statistics, disproportionately harming communities of Color.

Action

The City encourages the Minnesota Legislature to pass the red flag law for gun reform and the bill requiring criminal background checks for all firearm transfers and sales.



C3. Support Equitable And Inclusive Elections

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports expansive and accessible voting rights. Providing consistent statewide standards, allowing local decision-making control of certain aspects in city elections, and expanding voting rights are vital to improving access to voting and the efficiency of election administration.

Issue

Current law limits the ability for some residents of Golden Valley to use voting as their voice. Many Golden Valley residents are unable to vote due to:

- burdensome rules and inconsistent information about when voting rights are restored to those convicted of a felony
- restrictions prohibiting taxpaying, lawful, noncitizens from participating in selecting their local representatives
- state laws that do not allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections

Furthermore, local decision-making control to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in city elections is currently only available to charter cities. RCV allows voters to rank candidates by preference, which leads to a more representative government because the winning candidate in an RCV election has the broadest support of all voters in the community.

Actions

The City of Golden Valley supports:

- restoring voting rights for those convicted of a felony who have served the entirety of their sentence and are not incarcerated
- giving cities the authority to consider and adopt regulations that would allow all lawful residents over age 18 to vote in city elections, regardless of US citizenship status
- creating consistency in absentee voter outreach opportunities, including legislation to allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections
- allowing statutory cities to consider and adopt RCV
- enacting state-level standards and equipment for RCV



C4. Police Arbitration Reform

City Position

The City of Golden Valley strongly urges the Minnesota State Legislature to consider changes to the current Minnesota Public Employment Labor Relations Act (MPELRA) arbitration system in any further discussions or proposals that address police reform measures.

Issue

As it now stands, the arbitration system undermines the ability of elected and appointed officials, including police chiefs and city managers, to make lasting departmental disciplinary or termination decisions that protect residents and help to ensure a responsible public safety environment in their communities. Without systemic changes, arbitrator opinions are allowed to override the professional judgment of police supervisors when it comes to deciding what constitutes just cause and who ultimately is permitted to return to the streets as an officer. Consequently, rigorous police department accountability standards continue to be compromised at a time when they are needed more than ever.

Actions

- The City supports a new reasonable standard of review in police misconduct cases. This is necessary to uphold discipline decisions that are entrusted to the local officials ultimately responsible for protecting their communities. Including a new, reduced standard of review in police discipline matters is important to foster cultural change as well as to enhance and support effective police officer accountability and transparency measures that are included in the Police Accountability Act of 2020. The new standard should focus the arbitrator's role on simply determining whether the facts presented show that the employer's actions were reasonable and consistent with city and departmental policies.
- The City supports using administrative law judges (ALJs) for grievances involving terminations and discipline related to police misconduct. The ALJ process would involve robust fact-finding and technical legal parameters that would help ensure a thorough review of the officer's and employer's actions. This model also provides an appeals process, which the arbitration process does not. The City believes the severity and importance of police cases involving terminations and discipline related to police misconduct warrant them being elevated into the ALJ system.

APPENDIX

Appendix F3. Support Funding For Local Government Aid

10-Year History Of Local Government Aid Distribution And Its Impact On Golden Valley		
	Total LGA Statewide Distribution	Golden Valley Portion
2011	\$425,345,348	0
2012	\$425,238,384	0
2013	\$427,494,640	0
2014	\$507,598,012	\$219,081
2015	\$516,898,012	\$240,503
2016	\$519,398,012	\$252,446
2017	\$519,398,012	\$252,895
2018	\$534,398,012	\$37,185
2019	\$534,398,012	0
2020	\$560,398,012	0

Appendix F5. Modify Obsolete Fiscal Disparities Formula To Assist Local Units Of Government With Basic Needs

20-Year History Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Contributions With 40 Percent Program	
2001	\$629,460
2002	\$1,289,977
2003	\$873,927
2004	\$1,343,255
2005	\$1,384,112
2006	\$1,462,884
2007	\$1,437,447
2008	\$1,756,887
2009	\$2,141,648
2010	\$2,325,874
2011	\$2,311,610
2012	\$2,262,916
2013	\$2,119,872
2014	\$2,662,702
2015	\$2,401,573
2016	\$2,321,355
2017	\$2,676,662
2018	\$2,674,558
2019	\$2,727,495
2020	\$2,961,983
Total	\$39,766,196

20-Year Projection Of Golden Valley's Fiscal Disparities Gains With 30 Percent Program*	
2021	\$698,408
2022	\$718,685
2023	\$739,182
2024	\$759,902
2025	\$780,845
2026	\$802,012
2027	\$823,406
2028	\$845,026
2029	\$866,876
2030	\$888,956
2031	\$911,266
2032	\$933,810
2033	\$956,587
2034	\$979,600
2035	\$1,002,848
2036	\$1,026,335
2037	\$1,050,060
2038	\$1,074,026
2039	\$1,098,233
2040	\$1,122,682
Total	\$18,078,744

** New commercial/industrial tax capacity value prospectively*

Appendix F6. Support Funding For Affordable And Workforce Housing

- **Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan 2022 (2 pages)**

Golden Valley Affordable Housing Work Plan 2023

Last updated: December 2022

Prepared By

Cherie Shoquist, Housing and Economic Development Manager

Summary

Based on direction from the Council and Manager, staff has developed a work plan on affordable housing strategies and policies.

Key Points

- The role that the City plays in local housing policy and programming has expanded rapidly since 2017. Staff will continue to:
 - Promote increased investment in affordable, mixed income, market rate rental and ownership housing development
 - Preserve Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing
 - Provide diverse, equitable, and inclusionary housing opportunity
- The 2040 Comprehensive Plan identifies many goals and action steps for the City to take. They are categorized into five goals: quality, variety, affordability, sustainability, and equity. Staff will work with existing human and financial resources to implement the plan.
- Since health and safety are central to the City's housing interests, any new policies or programs should not unintentionally discourage property improvements, rehabilitation, and code compliance.
- Staffing and budgeting impacts associated with policy and program options must continue to be examined to ensure that administration, enforcement, and education can be completed properly.
- Some policies and program ideas will be most impactful if enacted on a regional or state level. Staff at Golden Valley and other city governments regularly attend meetings with Hennepin County and other counties, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Metropolitan Council, Metro HRA, Urban Land Institute, Family Housing Fund, Twin Cities LISC, and Minnesota Housing Partnership. The meetings are held to inform policy recommendations, share knowledge, and bring important stakeholders to the conversations. These groups continue to meet regularly:
 - Minnesota Housing NOAH Preservation Working Group
 - Minnesota Homeownership Center/Homeownership Opportunity Alliance
 - ULI Regional Housing Policy Work Group
 - LISC Housing Collaborative Initiative

Actions:

1. Approved a Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy to advance affordable housing strategies in Golden Valley and build a fund to support affordable housing efforts.
2. Adopted a Tenant Protection Ordinance (applicable to owners upon sale of NOAH property), notified property owners, and drafted a communication plan for tenants in the event of a sale.
3. Promoted the 4d property tax program to help preserve existing NOAH units within the City.
4. Adopted a Fair Housing Policy.
5. Adopted the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, which includes an extensive list of actions to be taken to meet affordable housing goals.
6. Actively engaged in the implementation of the adopted Mixed Income Housing Policy; working with developers to include affordable housing units in proposed developments, and refining the planning, contracting and compliance process.
7. Explored additional applications for CDBG, AHIF, HOME and LHIA funding for future land trust homes in partnership with West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust Homes Within Reach.
8. Created a plan and timeline for selling and developing publicly owned vacant land for affordable housing.
9. Established the Home Ownership Program for Equity for non-profit developers in partnership with Homes Within Reach to provide homeownership opportunity to homebuyers with incomes at 60%- 80% of Area Median Income. The approved developers have a proven track record of serving Black, Indigenous and people of color including first generation homebuyers. Three homes are likely to begin construction in 2023 and an additional four homes in 2024.
10. Performed an evaluation of the Stable Renters and Tenants program for rental properties and recommended enhancements that help the City meet a variety of housing goals.
11. Planning, Fire, and Police department staff met regularly to monitor condition of housing stock, including NOAH properties.
12. Expanded the City's legislative priorities on affordable housing.

Continuing Actions:

13. Actively engage in the implementation of the adopted Mixed Income Housing Policy to include affordable housing units in proposed developments and refine the planning, contracting and compliance process.
14. Strengthen relationships with NOAH property owners, landlords, and property managers. Partner with non-profit organizations to plan to acquire any NOAH properties that enter the market to preserve affordable rental units.
15. Implement the Home Ownership Program for Equity to develop three homes in 2023 and plan for the development of four homes in 2024.
16. Explore the establishment of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and/or revolving loan program for new construction of affordable rental units, the acquisition and/or maintenance of NOAH and/or single-family homes as well as other programs that further the Housing Policy Plan in the 2040 Comp Plan.

17. Explore an advance notice of eviction ordinance to provide tenants the opportunity to access rental assistance or move out before an eviction is filed.
18. Continue monitoring condition of housing stock and rental rates:
 - a. Request rental rate information with rental licensing program applications
 - b. Perform update to housing inventory every 5 years – Complete the 2020 Housing Study in 2023
 - c. Continue monitoring housing stock conditions with inspections
19. Continue to explore additional applications for CDBG, AHIF, HOME and LHIA funding for future land trust homes in partnership with West Hennepin Affordable Housing Land Trust Homes Within Reach.
20. Continually update the City's new website with additional information and tools for housing.

Staff is **continuing research in partnership with other suburban cities** on the following strategies:

21. Consider an ordinance prohibiting landlords from excluding Section 8 voucher holders from a building's rental application process. Continue monitoring lawsuit involving the City of Minneapolis policy that prohibits landlords from excluding Section 8 voucher holders from a building's rental application process (at least 4 cities are interested in adopting a policy if lawsuit decides in favor of City of Minneapolis)
22. Identify additional resources that are needed for cities to address unequal distribution of housing resources and recognize that cities are committed to including all perspectives in addressing challenges. Specific examples could include:
 - a. Policies, programs and resources for affordable rental housing eligibility based on income and social vulnerability indicators.
 - b. Policies, programs and resources for affordable homeownership eligibility based on income, social vulnerability indicators, and first generation homebuyers.
 - c. Inclusion of BIPOC.

Appendix T1. Support Full Funding For Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) And Multimodal Infrastructure Or Transportation

- **Resolution: Supporting Future Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Service On Highway 55 And Participation In Additional Study Of The Corridor (2 pages)**
- **Map: Highway 55 & Winnetka Avenue Concepts (1 page)**

RESOLUTION NO. 19-76

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FUTURE BUS RAPID TRANSIT (BRT) SERVICE ON HIGHWAY 55 AND PARTICIPATION IN ADDITIONAL STUDY OF THE CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council commissioned a study of Highway Transit Corridors in 2014 and included the Highway 55 corridor in an addendum to that study in 2015 identifying the segment of Medina to Minneapolis through Golden Valley as a possible BRT route; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Council, and Scott County funded, and the City of Golden Valley participated in, the *US Highway 169 Mobility Study*, which also considered BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, the Golden Valley City Council adopted Resolution 17-72 supporting the *US Highway 169 Mobility Study*, including the location of BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, the studies of BRT service on Highway 55 have identified a strong reverse commute market to Plymouth and Golden Valley, found a strong market for express bus service that connects corridor communities to jobs in Minneapolis, and provides a connection to the future METRO Blue Line light rail extension; and

WHEREAS, BRT Service on Highway 55 is projected to service 8300 riders per day by 2030, serves corridor employment centers with more than 7000 jobs and job density of ten or more jobs per acre, and scores "high" in meeting the five goals for transit investment identified in the 2014 Highway Transitway Corridor Study; and

WHEREAS, BRT service on Highway 55 is identified in the Metropolitan Council's 2040 Transportation Policy Plan as an unfunded potential BRT route, Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and Golden Valley's Legislative Priorities; and

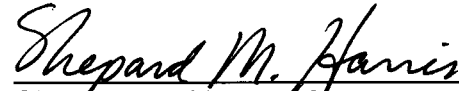
WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Plymouth adopted a resolution in May 2019 supporting efforts to complete a Highway 55 Mobility Study in conjunction with Hennepin County, the State of Minnesota, and the Metropolitan Council; and

WHEREAS, leadership from the corridor cities, Hennepin County, and Metropolitan Council met in October and November of 2019 to discuss how to advance the development of BRT Service on Highway 55 and concluded that support and investment by the corridor communities was necessary to advance BRT service on Highway 55; and

WHEREAS, legislative, regional and local leaders met on December 12, 2019 to discuss BRT service on Highway 55, including challenges, engagement, goals, and ways to advance the development of BRT on the corridor.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Golden Valley continues to support the development of BRT service on Highway 55 and, in collaboration with other cities and agencies, is willing to further study BRT on the Highway 55 corridor to identify corridor improvements, demonstrate ridership demand, conduct additional land use analysis and consider other factors that support BRT development along the corridor.

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 17th day of December, 2019.



Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kristine A. Luedke, City Clerk



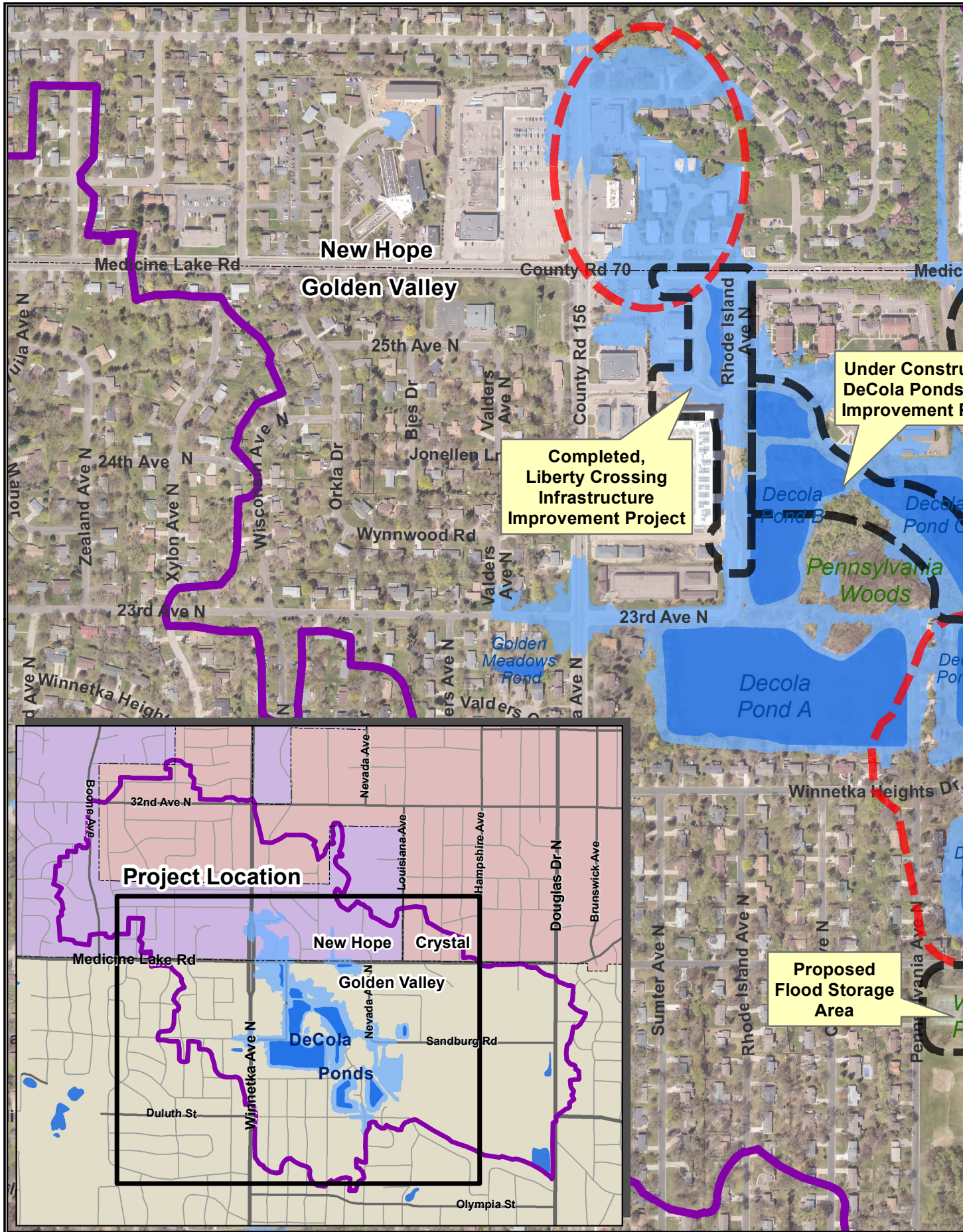
by the City of Golden Valley, 12/11/2018

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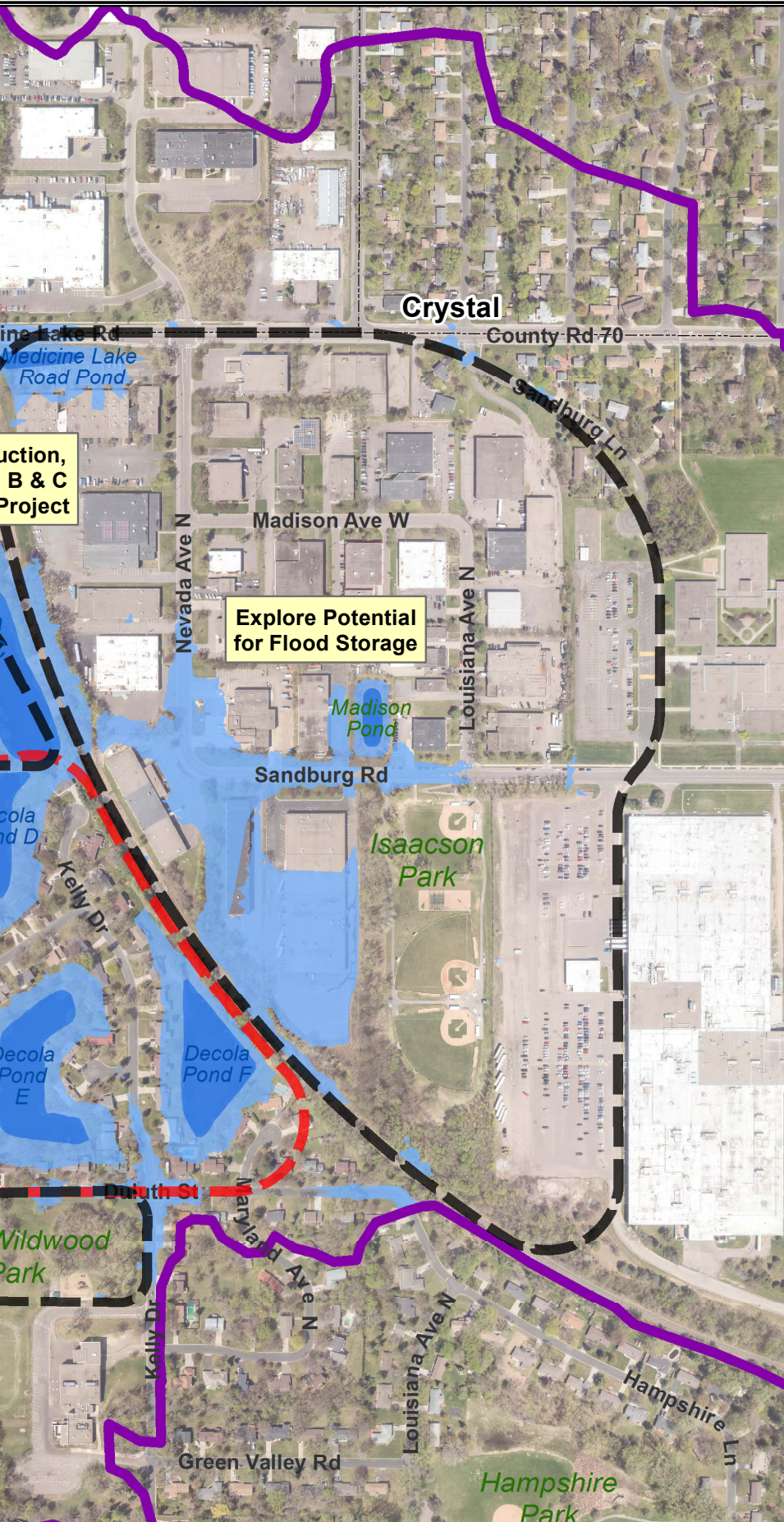
Appendix E1. Continue To Adequately Fund The DNR Flood Damage Reduction Program For Local Projects

- **Map: DeCola Ponds Flood Mitigation Area (2 pages)**



**DeCola Ponds,
Medicine Lake Road
and Winnetka Avenue
Long-Term Flood
Mitigation Plan**

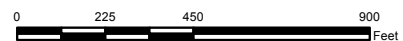
-  Floodplain
-  Flood Prone Properties
-  Flood Storage Area
-  Sub-Watershed Boundary



Print Date: 1/8/2020

Sources:

- Hennepin County Surveyors Office for aerial photography (2018).
- MnDNR for city boundary lines & road data (2014).
- Barr for 100-year inundation area & watershed boundary of project area (2017).
- City of Golden Valley for all other layers.



Appendix E2. Climate Emergency Declaration: Support Policies And Investments Mitigating The Impact Of Climate Change

- **City Council Resolution No. 21-100 Declaring a Climate Emergency in Golden Valley (5 pages)**
- **City Council Resolution No. 22-009 Joining with Cities and Counties Accross Minnesota/US/World Declaring a Climate Emergency**

RESOLUTION NO. 21-100

RESOLUTION DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY, AND HUMAN HEALTH

WHEREAS, in 2021 Golden Valley experienced numerous climate change-related impacts including a record June heat wave, drought conditions, water use restrictions, and poor air quality from drought-fueled forest fires prompting residents to restrict outdoor activity and remain indoors for periods, making it clear that the climate crisis is not only a future issue — it is affecting us here and now;

WHEREAS, hundreds of Golden Valley properties are at risk of flooding and flood damage during heavy or intense precipitation events which can cause significant hardship and economic loss;

WHEREAS, Golden Valley residents have increasingly reported experiencing drainage and flooding issues, high groundwater issues, and historically high surface water levels in water bodies throughout the community;

WHEREAS, the frequency of daily rainfalls greater than 3 inches has increased 66% in the past century and annual precipitation in the Twin Cities increased from an average of 26.18 inches between 1940-1979 to an average of 30.92 inches between 1980-2018, increasing the frequency of flooding, landslides, freeze/thaw cycles, ice storms, rain on frozen ground events, and heavy snowstorms which put increased strain on city operations, residents, businesses, and the natural environment;

WHEREAS, ice cover on Minnesota lakes has declined an average of 10-14 days over the past 50 years and winter temperatures are warming nearly ten times faster than summer temperatures, increasing by approximately 2.2 degrees Fahrenheit per decade since 1969 based on data collected at MSP airport;

WHEREAS, the urban heat island effect causes nighttime temperatures in the first ring suburbs of Hennepin County to be 2 degrees Fahrenheit higher on average compared to surrounding areas and spikes to as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit higher than surrounding areas during a heat wave, and is expected to increase due to climate change, affecting the health and well-being of residents;

WHEREAS, the high-risk climate hazards for Golden Valley include invasive species and pests, more freeze/thaw cycles, more frequent and intense heavy rainfalls, and extreme heat, and the moderate-risk climate hazards include extreme wind events and tornadoes, diminished air quality, and vector-borne diseases as outlined in the

Vulnerability Assessment in the Resilience and Sustainability chapter of Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan;

WHEREAS, extreme weather will create new challenges for Golden Valley's infrastructure and finances and will pose a threat to the health, safety, and economic vitality of our residents and businesses;

WHEREAS, historic and present policies and decisions created disparate impacts for Black, Indigenous, People of Color and people of lower socioeconomic status;

WHEREAS, the greatest burden from an inadequate response to the climate crisis will be felt by historically excluded, marginalized and underserved communities, the youngest generation including the children and grandchildren of Golden Valley community members, and future generations;

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are affecting all residents, but the impacts will not be felt equally, and like other environmental justice issues, Hennepin County data show that our communities of color, low-income families, and residents with disabilities contribute least to the problem of climate pollution but are the most at risk from negative climate impacts, especially during flooding events, heat waves, and poor air quality days, and we acknowledge that those who have the least capacity to respond to climate change will be most affected;

WHEREAS, in Minnesota, the ten warmest and wettest years ever recorded have all occurred since 1998, warming surface waters and leading to a significant loss of fish habitat for many prominent species as well as increasing the risk of harmful algae blooms, forests are changing as native northern species are strained by warming temperatures, crops are stressed by cycles of drought and floods, home insurance rates are rising faster than the national average and faster warming winters are leading to new pests as well as shorter winter recreation seasons;

WHEREAS, the bi-partisan Next Generation Energy Act, passed by the Minnesota State Legislature and signed by then Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2007, committed our State to achieving an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and with interim goals of 15% and 30% below 2005 greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2015 and 2025, respectively, with cities being key drivers of achieving these goals;

WHEREAS, our State did not meet its 2015 goal, and is not yet on track to reach our future targets;

WHEREAS, in April 2016 world leaders from 175 countries, including the United States, recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit)”;

WHEREAS, we have already reached a temperature increase of nearly 1.1 degrees Celsius (nearly 2 degrees Fahrenheit) as compared to pre-industrial times and the widespread impacts already realized by this level of global warming demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by increased and intensifying wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts, and extreme weather, threatening the food security, water supply, and well-being of billions of people;

WHEREAS, in August 2021 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations body responsible for assessing the science related to climate change, released a report that stated “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere and land,” and that “Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years,” and “with every additional increment of global warming, changes in extremes continue to become larger,” and “leaders at all levels must take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to prevent catastrophic impacts”;

WHEREAS, the Department of State, the Department of Defense, and the intelligence community have identified climate change as a threat to national security, and the Department of Homeland Security views climate change as a top homeland security risk;

WHEREAS, recent scientific research indicates that to achieve the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), carbon emissions must be halved by 2030 and reach net zero global emissions by 2050;

WHEREAS, a transition to a clean energy economy, if not carefully planned, would have a disruptive effect and impact on the livelihoods of many in our community while a well-planned transition may provide expanded job opportunities and affordable and reliable energy for local residents;

WHEREAS, the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address climate change;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Minnesota leaders Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

WHEREAS, acting together with these other communities now will magnify our impact, and increase our visibility and leverage for state and federal funding and support;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Golden Valley declares that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Golden Valley commits to working for a just transition to a clean energy economy and climate emergency mobilization effort and will:

- Continue to collaborate with residents, businesses, institutions, and non-profits to implement its Resilience and Sustainability Plan, Energy Action Plan, Natural Resources Management Plan, and Surface Water Management Plan, all of which contain goals, objectives, policies, and actions to help address climate impacts
- Continue to implement its Equity Plan including actions and practices that promote economic prosperity for all
- Continue to implement GreenStep Cities best practices related to energy, climate actions, climate adaptation and community resilience
- Work with the City's Environmental Commission to address climate impacts and improve the environment, economy, and human health through the development and implementation of its annual work plan
- Update and implement its 10-year capital improvement program with an increasing focus on sustainability, equity, and climate adaptation
- Position the City with shovel-ready projects to take advantage of state and federal infrastructure funding and climate action funding opportunities
- Consider the environment, energy, and climate in the development of its annual legislative priorities
- Strategically partner with Hennepin County to implement its Climate Action Plan and help the County achieve its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2050
- Consider advancing the development of a Citywide climate action plan sooner than 2030 as scheduled in the City's Resilience and Sustainability Plan
- Continue to explore and secure the resources needed to fulfill its environmental goals and commitments

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Golden Valley calls on the Minnesota legislature and executive branch to immediately and aggressively support cities of all sizes around Minnesota to both mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change including providing funding and resources for the development and implementation of climate action plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Golden Valley calls on the federal government to immediately commit resources to support the climate mitigation and adaptation efforts of cities large and small, to invest in the infrastructure needed for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable future, to ensure that investment is at the scale needed, and to provide the necessary global leadership to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 21st day of December 2021.

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Shepard M. Harris
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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:
Theresa Schyma
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Theresa J. Schyma, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 22-009

**RESOLUTION JOINING CITIES ACROSS MINNESOTA
DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPACTING THE ENVIRONMENT,
ECONOMY, AND HUMAN HEALTH**

WHEREAS, on December 21, 2021, the Golden Valley City Council adopted Resolution No. 21-100 Declaring a Climate Emergency Impacting the Environment, Economy, and Human Health;

WHEREAS, 2,012 jurisdictions in 34 countries including Duluth, Minneapolis, and Crystal Bay Township in Minnesota, have already declared climate emergencies in order to focus attention on the need for rapid action to address climate change;

WHEREAS, in 2021 and 2022 a non-partisan coalition of elected and appointed officials from cities of all sizes throughout Minnesota has been meeting to discuss how to influence policy and regulations to help cities meet their climate and energy goals and accelerate the learning and spread of best practices and policy ideas;

WHEREAS, in January 2022 at least fifteen cities from this emerging coalition are taking-action locally and calling on the state and federal government for immediate assistance to address climate change and the adverse impacts it has on cities' economic well-being and quality of life, with more cities expected to announce declarations in the months ahead;

WHEREAS, acting together with these communities now will magnify our impact and increase our visibility and leverage for state and federal funding and support;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Golden Valley joins this growing coalition of cities across Minnesota declaring that a climate emergency threatens our city, region, state, nation, humanity and the natural world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Golden Valley commits to carrying out the actions outlined in Resolution No. 21-100 and working with this coalition to leverage state and federal assistance for local communities.

Adopted by the City Council of Golden Valley, Minnesota this 18th day of January 2022.

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Shepard M. Harris
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Shepard M. Harris, Mayor

ATTEST:
DocuSigned by:
Theresa Schyma
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Theresa J. Schyma, City Clerk

Appendix E3. Support Funding For Metropolitan Council Inflow/Infiltration Grants—Public And Private Improvements

- **Memo: MCES I&I Grant Benefits - City of Golden Valley (1 page)**



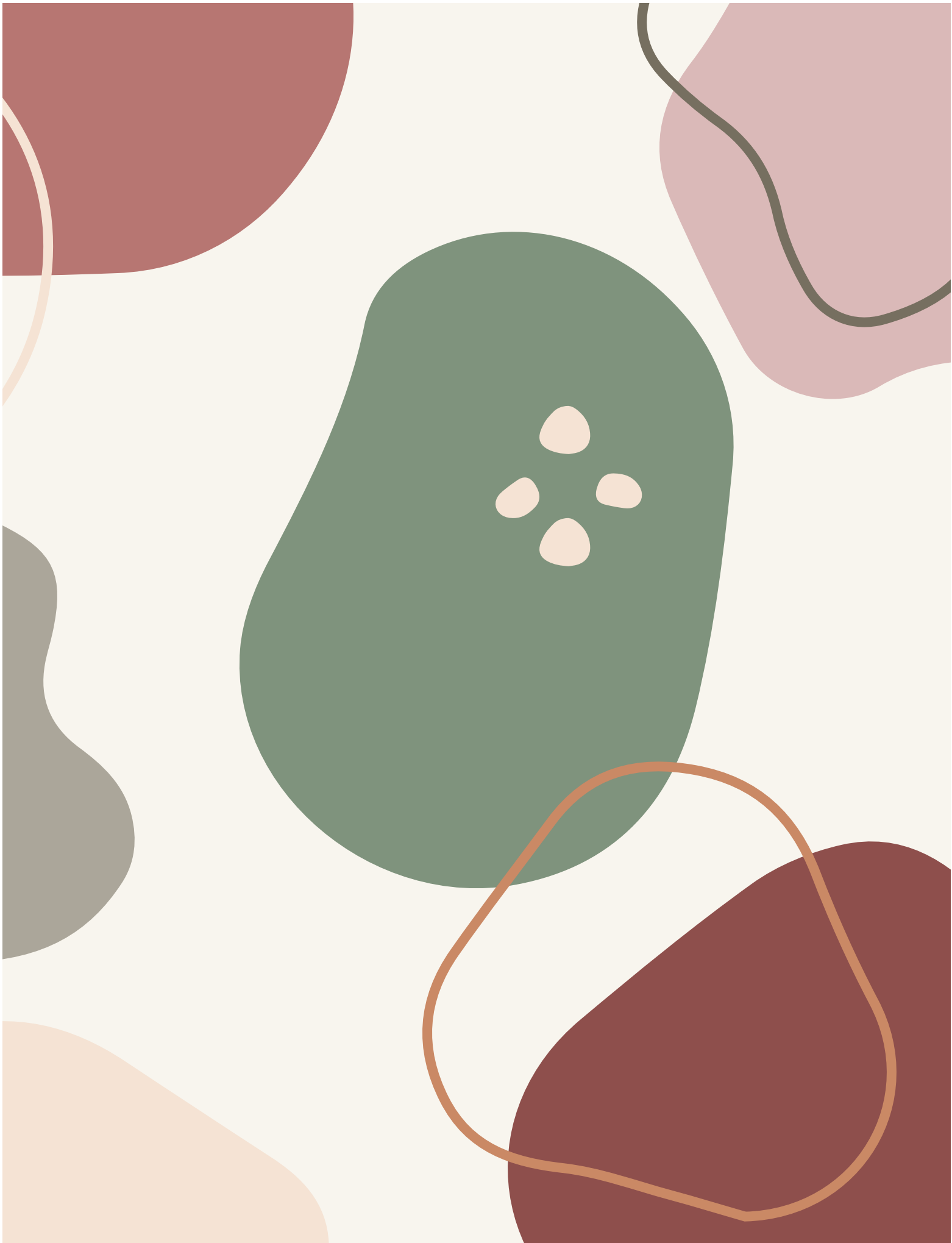
MEMORANDUM
Physical Development Department
763-593-8030 / 763-593-3988 (fax)

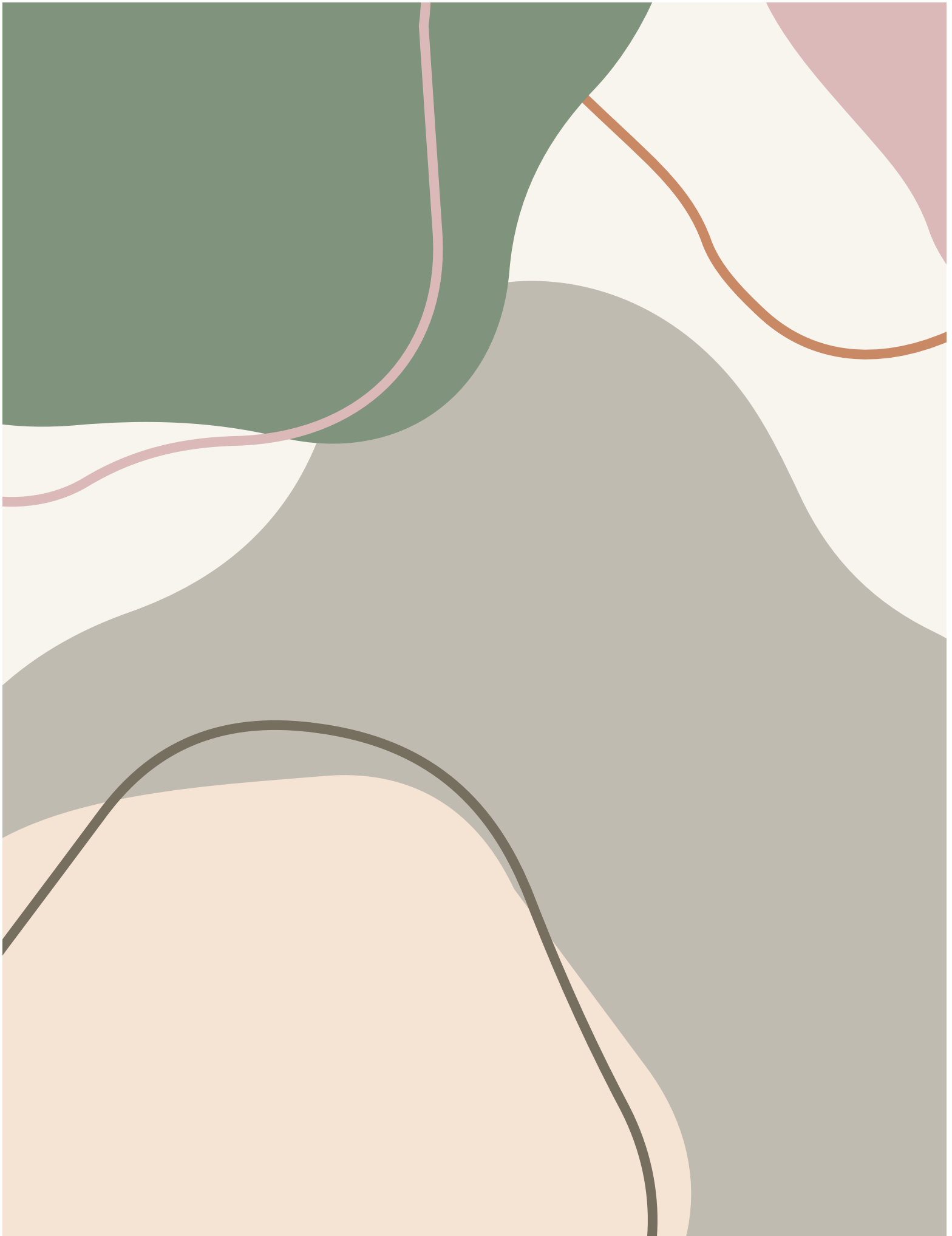
Date: January 28, 2016
To: Tim Cruikshank, City Manager
From: Jeff Oliver, PE, City Engineer
R.J. Kakach, EIT, Engineer
Subject: MCES I&I Grant Benefits – City of Golden Valley

The City of Golden Valley has utilized funding from the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) Grant Programs to reduce Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) in both the public and private sewer systems over the past several years. The public grants have provided additional funding to allow expanded scopes on projects and decreased timelines on I&I reduction programs. For example, as part of the annual street reconstruction projects, we have been able to increase sewer lining and manhole sealing quantities with the extra grant money that was available. Also, we were able to expedite a five to seven year sanitary sewer manhole cover replacement program into four years with additional funding from MCES.

The 2013-2014 MCES private sewer grant allowed residents to repair their sanitary sewer lateral and be reimbursed by MCES at 33% of the repair cost up to \$2,000. The available funding through this grant was so popular that City staff had to turn away applicants. Nearly 300 properties applied for the grant over the two year period. This reimbursement opportunity from MCES led to an increase in I&I compliance with the City Ordinance. The Ordinance requires all properties to become compliant prior to the sale of a property. This allows the City to gradually reduce I&I in the private system. The grant money attracted interest from properties all over the City, including people who were not selling their home. This extra interest in becoming I&I compliant from the available MCES grant funding helped propel the City forward in their I&I mitigation efforts.

The public and private grants provided by MCES have helped to lower Golden Valley's annual sanitary sewer flows over the past five years. The public grant has allowed for more thorough I&I reduction to be done with street reconstruction projects and I&I mitigation programs whereas the private grant increased interest in becoming compliant with the City's I&I Ordinance. The additional funding from MCES has pushed Golden Valley ahead in their goal to reduce I&I in the sanitary sewer system.





Hennepin County 2023 State Legislative Priorities and Platform



January 2023

hennepin.us



Here together. For the better.

Hennepin County is Minnesota's most populated county with 1.3 million residents. That only tells part of the story.

Hennepin County includes: 45 municipalities that span from urban cities to rural communities; global destinations like the Mall of America; major transit hubs like the Minneapolis — St. Paul International Airport; and important innovation and research centers like the University of Minnesota Twin Cities.

The county is also a center of commerce. Approximately one-third of the state's jobs come from businesses in Hennepin County, including 10 Fortune 500 Companies, such as Target, UnitedHealth Group, and Best Buy, and

agriculture giants such as Cargill. In addition, Minnesota's economy is driven by small business and entrepreneurs. More than 94% of businesses in Minnesota employ fewer than 50 employees, and the U.S. Census Bureau reports that Minnesota is home to more than 397,000 non-employer businesses — or the self-employed.

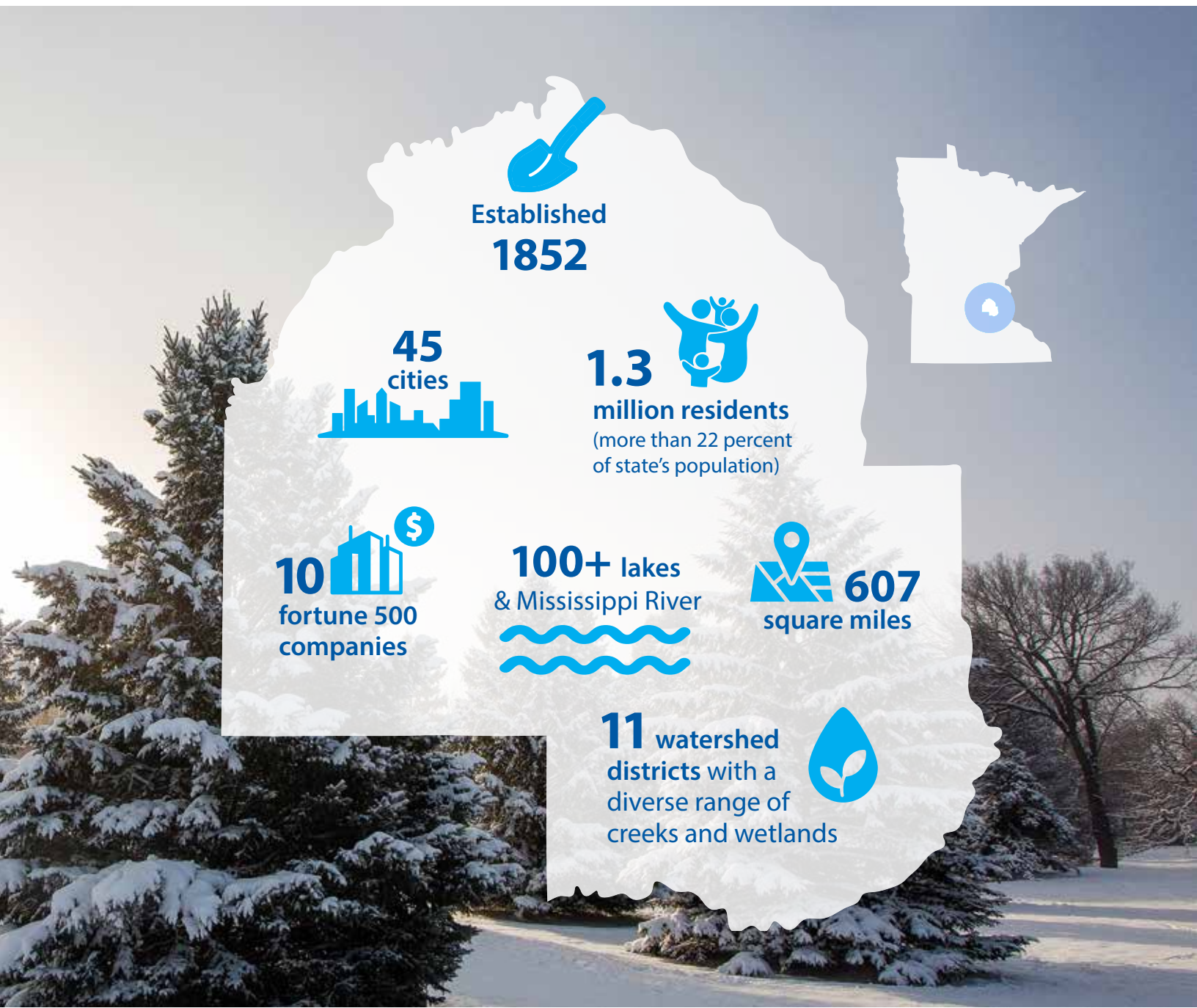
This wealth of small businesses has helped to uniquely enrich the Twin Cities metro area. Minneapolis – St. Paul ranks as the 7th most diverse economy among all 384 metropolitan areas in the United States.

Minnesota's robust and diverse economy is aligned with that of Hennepin County. Together, we all do better.

Hennepin County's 2023 State Legislative Priorities and Platform has numerous requests, with many that will benefit residents throughout the state. This includes requests that change systems to help build equity for all. Others are environmental asks that will affect the air quality for all Minnesotans. And there are others for improved transportation systems, which are critical for employment and moving goods and services.

This platform asks for the state to invest in vital infrastructure, such as affordable housing. It asks for investments in children and families, as well as in health and health care. It asks for continued investments in employment pathways, especially as we see such low unemployment rates and know that businesses are hungry for people who can do the work.

The requests included here are about investing in Hennepin County priorities for the benefit of our residents and all Minnesotans.



Established
1852

45
cities

1.3
million residents
(more than 22 percent
of state's population)

10
fortune 500
companies

100+ lakes
& Mississippi River

607
square miles

11 watershed
districts with a
diverse range of
creeks and wetlands

Priorities

Housing

Increase state resources to support safe and stable housing for all individuals and families.

Mental health

Support systems redesign to meet the needs of adults and children with mental illness, including expanded supportive housing options and services required for stabilizing individuals in the community.

Disparity reduction

Expand resources and strengthen partnerships to reverse persistent racial and economic disparities that drive poverty, poor health, involvement in the criminal justice system, transportation and internet and technology access, and low achievement.

Criminal justice reform

Promote adequate funding and incentives to address needs of an increasing and diverse offender population within the criminal justice system.

Child protection

Promote child well-being and achieve positive outcomes for county-involved youth by standardizing practice models, investing upstream in early interventions, and stabilizing the child protection system.

Platform

Bonding



Anaerobic Digester — Organics Processing Center — \$26 million

Hennepin County is seeking state bonding to build an anaerobic digestion (AD) facility adjacent to the county’s Brooklyn Park Transfer Station.

The facility would support growing organics recycling programs and turn food scraps into clean energy. This critical infrastructure will help the county and region advance zero-waste and climate action goals.



Hennepin Avenue bridges — \$23.4 million

Hennepin County is seeking state funding to recondition the iconic Hennepin Avenue suspension bridge and two approach bridges.

This important link across the Mississippi River supports multi-modal transportation, including for transit users and more than 2,500 people walking and rolling, 1,300 people biking and 22,000 people driving across the bridge daily.

Environment and energy

Protect the environment and conserve resources



Protect the environment and conserve resources through responsible management of waste and natural resources and promotion of environmental stewardship

Environment and energy

Climate sustainability

- Support legislation and policies consistent with the county's Climate Action Plan to mitigate the impacts of climate change, build resilient communities and reduce disparities, protect and enhance natural environments, and promote sustainability in county operations.

Natural resources

- Support legislation and state funding to local governments for planning and response to the loss of trees due to emerald ash borer and other invasive pests and pathogens. Support state investment in community forest tree canopies to mitigate the effects of climate change and air pollution.
- Support 2023 funding recommendations for Outdoor Heritage Fund (Lessard-Sams Council) allocation for conservation easements and wildlife habitat protection and restoration.

Waste management

- Support increased state funding for SCORE, expanding organics composting and anaerobic digestion initiatives, and promoting market development for recycled materials.
- Support legislation to establish extended producer responsibility for packaging, paper products, and single-use products to support the transition to reusable packaging and improve recycling.
- Support the Partnership on Waste and Energy 2023 legislative platform.

General government

Improve government



Partner with the State of Minnesota to improve government services delivery, reduce mandates on local government, re-prioritize government spending and promote effective management of county programs by allowing local control.

General government

Elections

- Support improved efficiency of election administration through the use of e-poll books with electronic signature, automatic voter registration and improvements to absentee voting procedures and timelines.
- Expand absentee voter outreach opportunities.
- Support state-level standards and equipment for ranked choice voting.
- Prohibit intimidation of voters and election officials, and interference with election administration.
- Support efficient election administration by removing the statutory requirement for a witness when casting absentee ballots.

Operations and administration

- Clarify and modernize marriage license application and reporting statute language, make authority to accept remote marriage license applications permanent, and increase marriage license, motor vehicle, and driver's license filing fees to make deputy registrars' offices more self-sufficient.
- Make permanent the ability for people to remotely apply for marriage licenses.
- Standardize and clarify the process by which marriage license applicants with a felony conviction can change their names.
- Authorize the expansion of services at the North Minneapolis Service Center to include motor vehicle and DNR services.
- Support revenue sharing with the state's Driver and Vehicle Services for online transactions.
- Support efforts of others to obtain state funding for Public Land Survey System (PLSS) remonumentation and perpetuation.

- Increase bid limits for small business enterprise (SBE) contracts.
- Support changes in state law to eliminate the Municipal Building Commission.

Data practices

- Support efforts of others to amend statutory requirements and allow the Commissioner of Public Safety discretion in determining the penalty for accessing driver's license data without ill intent.
- Oppose changes to the Minnesota Data Practices Act that require audit logs or audit trails that impose an undue financial or resource management burden on local units of government.

Hennepin Healthcare System

Ensure access to health-care services for all



Ensure access to the full continuum of health-care services for all by addressing racism as a public health crisis through policies that reduce health disparities, increase equity, support the capacity of the health-care workforce, and create financial stability for Hennepin Healthcare System as the state's safety-net provider.

Hennepin Healthcare System

Increase the financial stability of Hennepin Healthcare System.

- Maximize Medicaid reimbursement and supplemental funding sources, including maintaining Medicaid direct payments, to support the largest Medicaid provider system and safety-net trauma hospital to manage the challenges of caring for a disproportionate share of medically and socially complex patients.
- Strengthen value-based-payment arrangements in Medicaid, focused on improving outcomes while managing higher care costs, and recognizing the higher cost of care associated with serving a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients with unmet social needs.
- Preserve hospital capacity for patients who need inpatient care by ensuring patients are able to swiftly and safely discharge to an appropriate setting through streamlining processes and investing in the capacity of long-term care, other residential services and higher acuity mental health settings.

Increase health equity and improve population health through innovation and reform.

- Support state investments to reduce health disparities in mental health and maternal health care, including supporting birthing people experiencing substance use disorder during pregnancy, and expanding trauma-responsive health care.
- Support innovative health-care delivery models aimed at addressing social drivers of health, including medical recuperative care for people experiencing homelessness, expanding the definition of the state plan benefit for Community Health Worker care coordination under Medicaid, ensuring Hennepin Emergency Medical Services are available to residents, expanding

the dental benefit set and investing in children's mental health services in the community.

- Promote efforts to address the state's opioid crisis, including increasing access to medication-assisted therapy, alternative pain management therapies, peer recovery supports, and access to Medicaid while detained pre-trial.
- Support violence prevention measures like hospital-based violence intervention programs, gun-violence reduction efforts, and penalties to address workplace violence to increase the safety of our communities, including our employees and patients.

Support the capacity of the health care workforce to ensure the delivery of exceptional care.

- Promote policies that support increasing staff capacity in the health care workforce, including maintaining telehealth, improving licensing flexibilities and access to interpreters, and the licensure of Certified Midwives.
- Promote efforts to create a health-care workforce that is reflective of patients and addresses any existing workforce and provider shortages in Minnesota, especially in the mental health-care system, including removing barriers to employment for justice-involved individuals and enacting programs that create a pathway for youth of color to enter and stay in all health-care professions.
- Support efforts to increase equitable access to medical education, including maintaining current state investment in Graduate Medical Education and health-care workforce development, the Addiction Medicine Fellowship, tax incentives for educators, and supporting Project Echo for real-time learning for front-line providers.

Health and human services

Improve outcomes for all residents



Ensure that mental health, chemical health and public health systems work to improve outcomes for all residents, especially the most vulnerable. Reduce disparities by supporting preventative models of care and early intervention service to avoid overreliance on crisis response. Advance new policies and funding mechanisms that recognize racism as a public health crisis.

Health and human services

Administrative and technical improvements

- Improve technological systems, including METS, MAXIS/MEC², SSIS, PRISM, and MnCHOICES to streamline and provide efficiencies and simplification to Health and Human Services Program requirements.
- Support changes to align and simplify program access and program rules.
- Maintain state support for local public health capacity to address health crises such as COVID.
- Ensure payment parity in access and delivery of waiver-funded human services and health care programs when delivered virtually.
- Support legislation that aligns the Minnesota Health Records Act with HIPPA for efficient data sharing among educational systems, safety net programs, and state and local public health to connect residents to appropriate services and interventions for improved service delivery and outcomes.
- Expand health-care access and coverage that promote and improve health outcomes by granting continuous eligibility for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare for one year after eligibility is determined.
- Support comprehensive and equitable capitation rates under Minnesota Health Care Programs by adding social risk factors and revenue risk score adjustments into the rate calculation.
- Support the sustainability of Personal Care Assistant (PCA) services to eliminate service disruptions and ensure around-the-clock access for eligible families.
- Increase state financial, technological, and administrative support to address caseload demand across the disability services continuum.
- Support state investment in care options to better meet health care needs for people transitioning out of hospitals.
- Support legislation that bolsters supportive services for all veterans and their families.
- Support legislation to address the impacts of 2022 cannabis reforms on counties' public health role, including the logistics of taxation, monitoring, inspections, enforcement and regulation.

Invest in children and families

- Support legislation that permanently reorganizes the existing Basic Sliding Fee waitlist to improve access to Child Care Assistance and reduce disparities. Address the significant cost burden of child care for working families, a key factor in preventing communities from building wealth.
- Support state investment in and for community-driven solutions to improve maternal health, birth outcomes, and public health programming (e.g., Child and Teen Checkups, targeted home visiting, doula care), especially for communities of color.
- Invest in the health and well-being of children and families by simplifying the MFIP program to remove structural barriers like monthly reporting. Strengthen family supports by sunseting the Diversionary Work Program and serving all eligible families through MFIP.
- Advance legislation that reduces the disproportionate number of African American and American Indian children in the child protection system and increases frequency and timeliness of reunification.
- Support legislation to remove barriers created by current foster care licensing requirements that result in fewer African American and American Indian foster families.
- Support stabilizing transition to adulthood from the child protection system for county youth.
- Ensure educational stability for youth in foster care.
- Support all gender-affirming care, including comprehensive local implementation of the Governor's Executive Order banning public financial support for so-called conversion therapy. Support changes in state law to provide a permanent statutory basis for the ban including health care financed or otherwise regulated by state and local governments.
- Ensure reproductive health care services remain accessible and safe to any resident in need of this care, while protecting the safety of those providing these legally supported services.

Health and human services

Invest in health through mental health and substance use disorder services access and improvements

- Increase state support to meet the needs of county residents with mental health challenges, including culturally responsive services, early crisis interventions, and services required for stabilizing residents in the community.
- Support state-county partnership to create a financially sustainable operating framework and invest in the continuum of child and adult behavioral health services; support adequate state funding for community-based settings.
- Promote the integration of health care, housing, mental health and substance use disorder treatment to reduce recidivism and prevent criminal justice involvement. Invest in systems improvements that provide access to Medicaid to support reentry of eligible individuals transitioning from correctional facilities.
- Invest in preventive upstream social services to reduce the harmful impact of substance use disorder and the opioid epidemic, including readily available naloxone as an alternative to emergency crisis requests.
- Support efforts to integrate mental health, housing, chemical health, and criminal justice interventions, especially data, to improve residents' outcomes and reduce recidivism.
- Support integrated funding model to comprehensively address the needs of children and families with complex behavioral health issues.

Housing

Support safe and stable housing



Increase state resources to support safe and stable housing for all individuals and families.

Housing

- Increase accessible, affordable long-term housing for residents with no income up to 50% Area Median Income (AMI), prioritizing affordability up to 30% AMI.
- Support the development of a statewide rental assistance program that addresses the housing needs of county recipients of health and human services benefits with income up to 30% AMI.
- Increase housing and related services options for residents with disabilities exiting or diverting from institutional care needing on-site support to integrate into their communities successfully.
- Provide capital support and sustainable operational funding to make safe, dignified, and housing-focused emergency shelters available to residents experiencing homelessness.
- Reform the Housing Support Program to remove the financial disincentives that cause residents to choose unsheltered settings and ensure the program reflects real costs in the housing market.
- Support dedicated revenue to counties to meet affordable housing needs.

Law, safety and justice

Protect public safety



Preserve and protect public safety through state-county partnerships that address funding challenges and support reform.

Law, safety and justice

Increase funding

- Increase Community Corrections Act (CCA) funding to ensure adequate and ongoing state funding for supervision of justice-involved individuals in the community.
- Support investments in community providers necessary to support successful reintegration of justice-involved individuals into the community.

Remove barriers

- Support the unique needs of female and juvenile justice-involved individuals in the community by strengthening collaboration with and funding for trauma-informed and culturally specific community-based programming in support of corrections systems.
- Support statutory changes to remove barriers in housing and employment for the survivors of human trafficking and for formerly justice-involved persons.
- Support the restoration of voting rights to persons on probation or parole for a felony conviction.
- Expand expungement statute to support individuals with housing or employment barriers who have demonstrated a commitment to rehabilitation and community enhancement.
- Support state leadership to integrate human-centered design principles and to coordinate the efficient administration of public safety answering points (PSAPs) across jurisdictional lines.

Improve outcomes

- Support a regional cost-effective evidence-based solutions that delivers better outcomes and lowers recidivism for youth supervised by probation.
- Support legislation reforming use of reasonable force by police officers so that greater police accountability is achieved; support and/or increase the ability of local jurisdictions to remove police officers who violate law enforcement best practices and/or community standards.
- Support legislation that creates a safer working environment for staff.

Taxes

Assure flexibility to serve our residents



Protect state funding for mandated services and assure flexibility to serve our residents without undue reliance on property taxes.

Taxes

- Support County Program Aid (CPA) that funds county-mandated services and reduces reliance on property tax.
- Ensure veterans and their spouses/partners remain eligible for the veterans' property tax exclusion.
- Ensure residents qualify for homestead benefits by providing an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) and provide uniform homestead deadlines.
- Update state assessor duties to reflect modern guidance and standards provided by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO) and allow assessors to access data to ensure accurate and transparent assessments.
- Support efforts to make the property tax system less regressive by expanding homestead market value exclusion — including an index/market-based adjustment to keep the exclusion relevant into the future — property tax refunds, and modifying classifications.

Transportation

Strengthen the long-term value of neighborhoods and communities



Strengthen the long-term value of neighborhoods and communities through strategic public investments in infrastructure that improve mobility and safety, connect people to jobs, reduce disparities, and reduce transportation carbon emissions.

Transportation

- Support legislation that promotes the advancement of the Blue Line Light Rail Transit Project. This includes, but is not limited to, right-of-way acquisition, insurance, liability, interjurisdictional coordination, federal regulatory requirements, and funding.
- Support a comprehensive transportation funding that provides new and sustainable revenue for roads, bridges, and transit.
- Support elimination of the prohibition on state funding for operating and long-term capital maintenance for the Green Line Light Rail Transit (SWLRT) project.
- Support the Metropolitan Council's implementation of Arterial Bus Rapid Transit (ABRT) along various routes in Hennepin County to provide shorter transit times, increased ridership, and expanded mobility for communities along the proposed lines.
- Modify the special distribution of leased vehicle sales tax in the metro area to fairly include Hennepin and Ramsey counties.
- Oppose any increase in weight or size limits for commercial trucks and other motor vehicles.
- Support increased funding for the Local Bridge Replacement Program and the Local Road Improvement Program, including funding for the Hennepin Avenue Bridge reconditioning project.
- Support MnDOT's Corridor of Commerce program and funding to achieve the full corridor vision for projects in Hennepin County.
- Support state investments to reduce transportation carbon emissions, including, but not limited to, vehicle and transit electrification, electric vehicle charging stations, and infrastructure that connects people by all modes of travel.
- Support state investment in the Advanced Transportation Management System including traffic management cameras, fiber-optic communication, and advanced software.

Workforce development

Meet the future workforce needs



Meet the future workforce needs of Hennepin County and other employers and address persistent disparities by connecting well-trained and qualified individuals to high-demand jobs in our region.

Workforce development

- Support efforts to raise and protect wages for residents at the lowest income levels and industries most affected by the pandemic, including increasing the state minimum wage to \$15 per hour, indexed to inflation.
- Support strategies and programmatic changes that align workforce development resources with evolving service needs and priorities and oppose state-level changes that reduce funding for or access to CareerForce centers.

Emergency response and recovery

Support state and federal aid



Support legislation providing state and federal aid to communities, small businesses, nonprofits, and local governments to compensate for emergency protective measures undertaken and to rebuild properties and infrastructure damaged during the civil unrest.

Nonprofit requests

Support the following nonprofit organizations by serving as the fiscal agent for state bonding proceeds.

- Avivo—\$25 million
- Simpson Shelter—\$10 million

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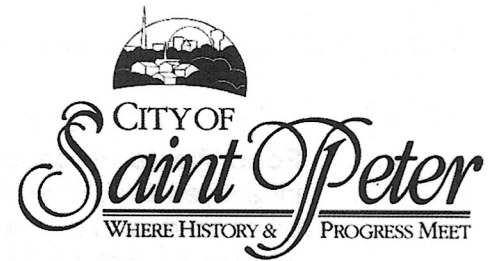
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City of Saint Peter Legislative Priorities

The non-prioritized list provided below outlines the areas of importance that the City Council has discussed and hopes to promote this Legislative year. If you have additional questions on any of these items, please feel free to contact us or City Administrator Prafke using the contact information below.

LOCAL ISSUES

- **Gorman Park and TREEmendous playground.** This playground, as you may recall, was built in the aftermath of the tornado over 20 years ago. The playground is at the end of its life cycle and a replacement playground with similar activities is estimated to cost over \$700,000. Full park redesign is estimated at \$2 million.
- **Fire Station.** Construction inflation has increased substantially and while we are within \$430,000 of the overall budget, we could use some financial assistance to close that gap. Many projects that received sales tax approval for a fixed amount that have come in over budget due to unprecedented inflation are now experiencing shortfalls from sales tax proceeds. Is there anything our legislators can do to aid in this issue?
- **Safe Routes to School.** This is another important grant funding program that the City has used very effectively here in Saint Peter. We have been awarded funds multiple times in the past, however, inflation in this recent cycle has impacted the scope of our latest project. It's our hope that additional funding can be provided to cover some of those inflationary costs and to continue to fund this grant program into the future.

STATEWIDE ISSUES

- **Local Government Aid.** Saint Peter continues to depend heavily on Local Government Aid (LGA) and the City Council hopes that with the current substantial surplus, the State could change the funding formula to provide additional dollars that would help cities catch up with the inflationary pressures we face.
- **Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP)** The Council believes in and has utilized this funding in the past. We believe that we have been excellent stewards of those State grant funds and think that additional funding in that grant category would not only help Saint Peter, but would also help our area and other local units of government.
- **Rank Choice Voting.** The Council believes that cities should have the ability to determine whether Rank Choice Voting works for their community. Allowing local autonomy in this area should be provided.
- **THC Regulation.** This is an issue that needs additional State regulation. While it is true the City can place its own rules in this area, the Council believes a mismatched patchwork of rules does not benefit the citizens of our state and more uniformity is needed. The City of Saint Peter currently does not regulate THC.

- **Food Waste Processing.** The Council believes that additional financial assistance and incentives should be given to promote Food Waste Processing. The expansion on these processors would have tremendous impact on the nature of solid waste in our community and bring substantial environmental advantages.
- **Day Care.** This is a great challenge now more than ever and additional financial assistance is needed for both State and County regulated day care businesses.
- **Lawns to Legumes Program through the BWSR.** This has been a value program in our community and has provided great education and opportunity for all residents to impact the environment in a positive way. More funding should be provided.

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A Resolution Supporting Local Control for Local Elections

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under statutory rules for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options provision in the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend authority to adopt RCV to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision allows the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and unranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options provision contains no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities have adopted RCV -- including Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Bloomington and Minnetonka -- and more cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler and more efficient for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
 - Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
 - Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority outcomes in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. In a single-seat election, if no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots; in a multi-seat election, this process continues until all seats are filled with the threshold for winning depending on the number of seats;
 - Empowering voters with more choice;

- Promoting more inclusive, diverse and representative elections;
- Ending spoiler and wasted vote dynamics;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time; ●
- Improving the civility of campaigning; and
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled voters in Minnesota cities that use RCV consistently say that it is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options provision is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state;and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions should have the opportunity to determine for themselves if RCV should be used for their local elections; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

Signed by:

Mayor Márquez Simula
Council Member Rachel James

Columbia Heights, Minnesota
September 12, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 6482

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS AND RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an opportunity to improve elections at the state and federal level where it would promote more civil elections, ensure majority winners in partisan primaries and general elections, eliminate the spoiler problem, reduce extremism and mitigate legislative gridlock by incentivising compromise and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, RCV is used in elections in Maine and Alaska and in countries around the world, including Ireland, Scotland, and Australia; and

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled Minnesota voters who use RCV consistently say that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning;
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns; and

WHEREAS, all Minnesota townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, The Bemidji Charter Commission voted unanimously during a special meeting of March 16, 2023 to support the legislation regarding RCV and also voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council adopted a Resolution supporting the legislation regarding RCV.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support Ranked Choice Voting for all state and federal elections. We also support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember Eaton, and upon due second by Councilmember Thayer, was passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Eaton, Thayer, Johnson, Rivera
Nays: Prince, Peterson
Absent: None


Passed: March 20, 2023

ATTEST:



Michelle R. Miller, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Jorge S. Prince, Mayor

**RESOLUTION NO. _____
IN SUPPORT OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING**

WHEREAS, the political divide in local communities, our state, and our country are significant and growing, and

WHEREAS, a greater political divide leads to lesser representation, greater animosity, instability in policy, and gridlock, and

WHEREAS, there are significant challenges facing our community and every community in the state and country, and

WHEREAS, the best and fairest way to face and overcome challenges is through as much consensus as possible, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting, by design, is a system that intentionally attempts to elect representatives through consensus, and

WHEREAS, the people of our democracy deserve better and more productive policies, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota State law currently, though perhaps not explicitly, prohibits the use of Ranked Choice Voting in local and state elections, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting is simple, easy, and efficient, and

WHEREAS, most opposition and misinformation about Ranked Choice Voting is driven by the political parties that are causing the political divide, and

WHEREAS, it is prudent to improve our election system to better represent the will of the people, and

WHEREAS, there are examples of Ranked Choice Voting and its success in the State of Minnesota as well as the country, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting provides a viable path for more options beyond the two major political parties, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting eliminates spoiler and wasted vote dynamics, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting practically eliminates negative campaigning, and thereby reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns, and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions should at least have the opportunity to determine for themselves if Ranked Choice Voting should be used for their local elections,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they



**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-26
SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under statutory rules for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, statutory cities like Edina do not have the authority under state law to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) even if they think it would be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options provision in the current RCV bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend authority to adopt RCV to local statutory jurisdictions like Edina; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision allows the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and unranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections and the City of Edina has included support for the local option of using RCV as part of its legislative priorities; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options provision contains no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities have adopted RCV -- including Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Bloomington and Minnetonka -- and more cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current local elections; and

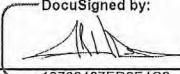
WHEREAS, local jurisdictions like Edina should have the opportunity to determine for themselves if RCV should be used for their local elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, The Edina City Council hereby declares its support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

Dated: April 6, 2021

Attest: _____
DocuSigned by:

200A28A8A80E466
Sharon Allison, City Clerk

_____ DocuSigned by:

19709467E0D9E4C2
James B. Hovland, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN) SS
CITY OF EDINA)

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, the undersigned duly appointed and acting City Clerk for the City of Edina do hereby certify that the attached and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Edina City Council at its Regular Meeting of April 6, 2021, and as recorded in the Minutes of said Regular Meeting.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said City this 6th day of April, 2021.



City Clerk

Local Options Bill Background Information

The Ranked Choice Voting Local Options bill sponsored by Representatives Steve Elkins (DFL-Bloomington) and Mike Freiberg (DFL-Golden Valley) had its first 2019 hearing on 2/20/2019 with the House Subcommittee on Elections. It was included and passed in the 2019 Government Operations omnibus bill. A Senate companion bill (SF 2424) was introduced during the 2019 session by Rep. Kent Eken, DFL-Twin Valley. The Minnesota Senate did not hear any election bills in 2019.

The local options bill would give any city, school district, etc., the right to use RCV if they wish, without having to ask the Legislature for permission. This bill would free statutory jurisdictions to use Ranked Choice Voting if they choose, and allow charter cities to approve RCV by ordinance. It also would establish guidelines to ensure that the next generation of voting equipment is RCV-capable. The bill would impose no mandates and has no effect whatsoever on communities uninterested in pursuing RCV.

In Minnesota, only 15% of our cities have the option to set their own rules for their local elections. The remaining 85% of cities, all townships, all school districts, all soil & water boards, and all counties except Ramsey, would have to ask the Minnesota Legislature for permission to use Ranked Choice Voting for their elections.

Community members have asked the Hopkins School Board to consider a resolution of support for this measure, as it aligns with our LAC platform plank on local control.

A Resolution Supporting Local Control for Local Elections

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill contains no mandates; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning; and
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled voters in the Twin Cities consistently say that RCV is simple to use;

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

[Approved by the Hopkins School Board on February 27, 2020](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-11

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' RIGHT TO EXPLORE AND USE RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under statutory rule for the conduct of local elections, and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) consolidates two elections into one, so that in local nonpartisan elections, we can eliminate primaries that a shrinking number of voters participate in; and

WHEREAS, in cities with odd-year local elections, we can save the cost of primaries altogether; and

WHEREAS, RCV ensures a majority winner, working like a runoff (or like a primary-general election) but with a single election; and voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on; and in a single-seat election, if no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots; and

WHEREAS, RCV is successfully used in Minneapolis and St. Paul (and St. Louis Park in 2019), with more than 87 percent of voters saying that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a local options measure would contain no mandates, but simply provides us with the permission and tools we need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of Minnesota jurisdictions have indicated an interest in RCV; and

WHEREAS, for charter cities that may adopt RCV without legislative permission, they need the guidelines such a measure would provide to ensure consistent implementation across Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, RCV has demonstrated that it improves voter turnout and participation; and

WHEREAS, RCV makes voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time; and

WHEREAS, voters appreciate the civil and positive campaigning that RCV encourages; and

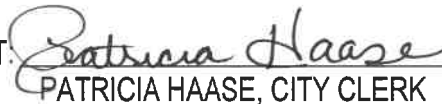
WHEREAS, having the local option is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing government barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option in state law to use Ranked Choice Voting if we decide it is right for our communities.

Adopted this 17th day of January 2019 by the City Council of the City of Melrose.



JOE FINKEN, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

PATRICIA HAASE, CITY CLERK



Murray County Board of Commissioners
2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57
Slayton, MN 56172

EXCERPT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
September 20, 2022

Commissioner Malone offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09-20-01

A Resolution Supporting

Local Control for Local Elections and Ranked Choice Voting for State and Federal Elections in
Minnesota

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an opportunity to improve elections at the state and federal level where it would promote more civil elections, ensure majority winners in partisan primaries and general elections, eliminate the spoiler problem, reduce extremism and mitigate legislative gridlock by incentivizing compromise and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, RCV is used in elections in Maine and Alaska and in countries around the world, including Ireland, Scotland, and Australia; and

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled Minnesota voters who use RCV consistently say that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning;
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns; and

WHEREAS, all Minnesota townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, Murray County supports Ranked Choice Voting for all state and federal elections. Murray County also supports removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

I, Carolyn McDonald County Administrator of the County of Murray, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing copy represents a true and correct copy of the original thereof on file in Murray County.

Dated: September 20, 2022



Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

**Ranked Choice Voting Resolution in
Support of Local Control for Non-Partisan Races
Otter Tail County Resolution No. 2019 – 31
April 9, 2019**

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Wayne Johnson, who moved for Otter Tail County to recognize, support and adopt Ranked Choice Voting as a Local Option in ballot design:

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bills currently under consideration in the Minnesota Legislature (HF983/SF2424) aim to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bills provide for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bills contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of local jurisdictions are exploring RCV because it potentially provides a range of benefits over our current elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated, and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Potentially improving the civility of campaigning; and

WHEREAS, the potential to produce more civil, inclusive, participatory and representative outcomes has considerable merit; and

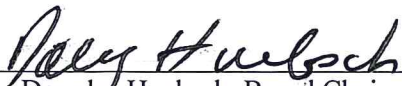
WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.


The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was introduced by Commissioner Wayne Johnson, duly seconded by Commissioner John Lindquist, and, after discussion and commendation thereof and upon vote being taken thereon, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Adopted at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, this 9th day of April 2019.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: 
Douglas Huebsch, Board Chair

Dated: 04/09/19

Attest: 
John Dinsmore, Board Clerk

Resolution No. 7351

A Resolution Supporting Local Control for Local Elections

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill contains no mandates; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;

- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning; and
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, more than 87 percent of polled voters in the Twin Cities say that RCV is simple to use;

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

Adopted this 28th day of January, 2019.

Dean Hove, Council President

ATTEST:

Teri L. Swanson, MCMC

City Clerk
(seal)

Presented to the Mayor at p.m. on this day of January, 2019.

Approved this day of January, 2019.

Sean M. Dowse, Mayor

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill contains no mandates; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

1. Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
2. Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
3. Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
4. Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;

5. Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
6. Improving the civility of campaigning; and
7. Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, more than 87 percent of polled voters in the Twin Cities say that RCV is simple to use;

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this legislation be added as a priority in the Rochester Legislative Agenda until passed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA, THIS 2nd DAY OF March, 2020.

ATTEST: 
CITY CLERK


PRESIDENT OF SAID COMMON COUNCIL

APPROVED THIS 4th DAY OF March, 2020.




MAYOR OF SAID CITY

Lynn C. Eaton, PE

March 12, 2024

RE: Testimony for the House Election Committees in favor of H.F. 3276.

Dear Committee Chairs & Committee Members

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I write in support of H.F. 3276 & S.F. 3868 that would enable, school district, cities, counties, and other offices the use of ranked choice voting

I have been a public servant my entire career. I have worked 30 years in service as a state employee, retired and worked as an engineering consultant since then (2014). I am a City Councilor. I represent Bemidji's Ward 5. My service life includes volunteering for professional organizations, leading civic organizations, as well as leadership roles with my faith community. Our state citizens deserve the service and respect that broadly supported elected representatives can provide.

The Bemidji City Council discussed and passed a resolution supporting ranked choice voting (RCV) on March 20, 2023. Personally, I have discussed the idea of RCV with my family and my family's friends. These conversations have noted the positive potential outcomes from the opportunity to vote by RCV.

RCV offers a low cost, expedient, and fair approach to electing those who represent communities throughout the state. I am happy to learn that existing voting equipment in use throughout the state can be used for RCV if the potential legislation is passed into law. Further, this approach to filling vacant seats would help lead our communities away from bitter political rhetoric to candidates supported by a broad base of the electorate.

Please give the voters of this great state the opportunity for a more positive future.

If I can be of further assistance or provide you with further information, I am very happy to do so.

Sincerely,



Lynn Eaton
Professional Civil Engineer

lce: 240311 Letter in Support of RCV



Rep. Mike Freiberg, Chair
Rep. Emma Greenman, Vice Chair
Elections Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

March 12, 2024

Testimony of Campaign Legal Center in Support of HF 3276

On behalf of Campaign Legal Center (“CLC”), we are pleased to offer this testimony in support of HF 3276, which would allow local governments across Minnesota to adopt ranked choice voting for use in local elections.

CLC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing democracy through law. Through its extensive work on redistricting and voting rights, CLC seeks to ensure that every United States resident receives fair representation at the federal, state, and local levels. As such, CLC has supported the adoption of reforms that promote equitable representation, including state-level voting rights acts and ranked choice voting.

CLC strongly supports HF 3276 and urges the Minnesota Legislature to adopt it. HF 3276 gives local governments across the state access to a widely used and sensible election reform—one that gives voters a greater voice in their communities, reduces negative campaigning, and helps ensure both majority rule and fair minority representation. HF 3276 also ensures consistent and responsible administration of ranked choice voting as interest in this meaningful reform continues to grow in local governments across the state.

I. The Civic Benefits of Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked choice voting (“RCV”) makes a simple yet powerful change to how voters vote. Instead of selecting just one candidate in each race, RCV gives voters the power to rank candidates in order of preference: first choice, second choice, and so on.

In an election to select a single winner, the candidate with the majority of first-choice votes wins. If no candidate wins a majority of first-choice votes, the candidate who received the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated, and votes for that candidate are redistributed to the voter's next choice candidate. This process repeats until one candidate receives a majority of the votes and is declared the winner.¹

Importantly, the steps required for RCV tabulation are carried out by election administrators, using voting systems and equipment specifically designed to run RCV elections—for voters, the process is as simple as ranking their preferred candidates.

Studies show that RCV has a number of beneficial effects.² For example, RCV's tabulation process ensures that no vote is wasted and every ballot counts: in any election requiring multiple rounds of tabulation, if a voter's first choice cannot win, then their vote still counts for their next choice among viable candidates. In this way, RCV frees voters to fully express their electoral preferences without the pressure to vote strategically or worry that their vote won't matter.

RCV also reduces negative campaigning and rewards candidates who run civil campaigns.³ Traditional plurality voting, in contrast, incentivizes candidates to use negative tactics to ensure that they are the voters' only choice and that other candidate(s) are not. RCV rewards candidates who take a more positive approach, who balance their efforts to get first-choice votes without alienating other candidates' supporters who might list them as second or third choice.⁴

¹ In races for multi-winner seats (e.g., city councils or county commissions) and multi-winner primaries, votes are tallied in a similar fashion, except that each of the winners must receive a threshold percentage of votes that varies based on the number of seats, rather than winning a simple majority (50%+1). See *Proportional Ranked Choice Voting*, FairVote (last visited Mar. 11, 2024), <https://fairvote.org/our-reforms/proportional-ranked-choice-voting>.

² See generally, e.g., Alexandra Copper & Ruth Greenwood, *The Civic Benefits of Ranked Choice Voting: Eight Ways Adopting Ranked Choice Voting Can Improve Voting and Elections*, Campaign Legal Center (Aug. 17, 2018), <https://campaignlegal.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/CLC%20Issue%20Brief%20RCV%20PDF.pdf>.

³ See *id.* at 1-3 (collecting sources).

⁴ *Id.* at 2.

RCV's ability to encourage more civil campaigns⁵ can, in turn, reduce political polarization.⁶

RCV likewise promotes majoritarian outcomes and ensures fair minority representation. In races for single-winner offices (like mayors and county auditors), RCV requires that the winning candidate get support from a majority of the electorate, ensuring the winner has broad community approval.⁷ In races for seats on a multi-member governing board (like city councils, school boards, and county commissions), multi-winner RCV gives minority communities a fair shot at electing representatives of their choice commensurate to their share of the electorate—unlike traditional plurality voting systems, which can shut out candidates preferred by minority voters.⁸

In any type of election, RCV encourages a greater number of candidates with more diverse views and backgrounds to run and have a chance to be elected.⁹ Because RCV mitigates the so-called “spoiler effect,” more candidates can run without fear of splitting votes with another likeminded candidate. Candidates from historically underrepresented communities with similar platforms, for example, need not worry about competing for voters and may, instead, all run for office and work together to ensure representation for the group. In this way, RCV's structure benefits minority candidates, including candidates of color and women, as numerous studies have confirmed.¹⁰

⁵ The capacity of RCV to foster civility is well documented. *See id.*; *see also, e.g.*, Sarah John & Andrew Douglas, *Candidate Civility and Voter Engagement in Seven Cities with Ranked Choice Voting*, NATIONAL CIVIL REVIEW 25, 26 (2017); Todd Donovan, Caroline Tolbert & Kellen Gracey, *Campaign Civility Under Preferential and Plurality Voting*, 42 ELECTORAL STUDIES 157, 159-60 (2016); Caroline Tolbert, *Experiments in Election Reform: Voter Perceptions of Campaigns Under Preferential and Plurality Voting*, Presented at Conference on Electoral Systems Reform, Stanford University, at 11-13 (Mar. 15-16, 2014); Todd Donovan, *Candidate Perceptions of Campaigns under Preferential and Plurality Voting*, Paper prepared for the workshop on Electoral Systems, Electoral Reform, and Implications for Democratic Performance, Stanford University, at 10 (Mar. 14-15, 2014); Robert Richie, *Instant Runoff Voting: What Mexico (and Others) Could Learn*, 3.3 ELECTION LAW JOURNAL 501, 504 (2004); Steven Hill & Robert Richie, *Success for Instant Runoff Voting in San Francisco*, NATIONAL CIVIC REVIEW 65, 66 (Spring 2005); Haley Smith, *Ranked Choice Voting and Participation: Impacts on Deliberative Engagement*, FairVote Civility Report #7, at 4 (Jun. 2016).

⁶ Copper & Greenwood, *supra* note 2 at 6-7.

⁷ This form of RCV is also known as instant-runoff voting. *See id.* at 4-5.

⁸ This form of RCV is known as single transferable vote. *See* Gerdus Benadè, et al., *Ranked Choice Voting and Minority Representation* (Feb. 2, 2021), <https://mggg.org/uploads/STV-POC.pdf>.

⁹ Copper & Greenwood, *supra* note 2 at 5-6 (citing studies).

¹⁰ *See, e.g.*, Cynthia R. Terrell, Courtney Lamendola & Maura Reilly, *Election Reform and Women's Representation: Ranked Choice Voting in the US*, 9 POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE 332-34, <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/politicsandgovernance/article/view/3924/2154> (2021); Deb Otis & Nora Dell, *Ranked Choice Voting Elections Benefit Candidates and Voters of Color*, FairVote (2021), https://fairvote.org/report/report_rcv_benefits_candidates_and_voters_of

Recognizing these many benefits, more than fifty jurisdictions across the country—including 2 states, 3 counties, and 45 cities—have adopted RCV for use in some or all elections.¹¹ In total, approximately 13 million Americans across 24 states¹²—including almost a million Minnesotans¹³—rely on RCV to cast their ballot and express their voice in American democracy. And the appetite for RCV continues to grow, as at least 5 states besides Minnesota introduced legislation this year alone to allow for use of RCV at the local level.¹⁴

Moreover, experience proves that voters who use RCV both understand it and have confidence in its results. Surveys conducted in jurisdictions that use RCV—including in Minnesota—consistently show that the vast majority of voters find RCV ballots easy to understand,¹⁵ and are satisfied with RCV and want to continue using it.¹⁶ Evidence even shows that use of RCV can increase voter participation,¹⁷ with increased turnout particularly pronounced among young voters.¹⁸

In short, the benefits of RCV to democracy are numerous.

II. HF 3276 Extends the Benefits of RCV to All Local Governments and Ensures Sound Administration of RCV Elections

HF 3276 would expand the availability of RCV to many more local governments beyond those already permitted to use RCV. Currently, Minnesota law gives only some local governments under certain circumstances such authority: only charter cities with odd-year elections—which account for

[color/](https://representwomen.app.box.com/s/9m839giwkro4wuhej2ponaytk98xqznz); Cynthia R. Terrell et al., *In Ranked Choice Elections, Women WIN: RCV in the United States: A Decade in Review*, RepresentWomen (July 2020), <https://representwomen.app.box.com/s/9m839giwkro4wuhej2ponaytk98xqznz>.

¹¹ See *Ranked Choice Voting Information: Where Is Ranked Choice Voting Used?*, FairVote, <https://fairvote.org/our-reforms/ranked-choice-voting-information/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2024).

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Five Minnesota cities—including three of the state’s five largest cities—already use RCV in local elections: Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park. *Where RCV is Used*, FairVote Minnesota, <https://fairvotemn.org/progress/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2024).

¹⁴ See *Ranked Choice Voting Legislation*, FairVote, <https://fairvote.org/ranked-choice-voting-legislation/> (last visited Mar. 11, 2024).

¹⁵ See, e.g., Copper & Greenwood, *supra* note 2, at 10-11 (collecting sources); see also, e.g., Deb Otis, *Exit Surveys: Voters Love Ranked Choice Voting*, FairVote (Nov. 16, 2023), <https://fairvote.org/report/exit-surveys-report-2023/>.

¹⁶ See, e.g., Copper & Greenwood, *supra* note 2, at 10-11 (collecting sources); Otis, *Exit Surveys*, *supra* note 15.

¹⁷ See, e.g., Copper & Greenwood, *supra* note 2, at 9-10 (collecting sources).

¹⁸ See, e.g., Courtney L. Juelich & Joseph A. Coll, *Ranked Choice Voting and Youth Voter Turnout: The Roles of Campaign Civility and Candidate Contact*, 9 POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE 319, 329 (2021).

less than 1% of localities—can adopt and use RCV.¹⁹ HF 3276 would expand access to all Minnesotans, authorizing all cities (regardless of charter status), counties, and school districts across the state to adopt RCV for use in local elections, if they so choose. HF 3276 thus would put power in the hands of Minnesotans to decide whether RCV is right for their community.

In addition to expanding the availability of RCV, HF 3276 also provides clear and consistent rules for implementing ranked choice elections, preventing haphazard implementation as more jurisdictions choose to adopt the reform. The bill establishes rules for ballot design in RCV elections, procedures for tabulating votes in both single-winner and multi-winner contests, and requirements for the reporting and, if necessary, recount of RCV election results.

HF 3276 also provides the Secretary of State authority to establish additional standards, as needed, for RCV elections, further ensuring uniform implementation of RCV in localities across Minnesota. Finally, the bill ensures that voting systems and vote tabulation software compatible with RCV will be certified for use by local election administrators, eliminating a perceived impediment to RCV election administration.

HF 3276 thus would not only extend the choice of RCV to more local governments, but also ensure that RCV is administered consistently as more local governments continue to adopt it. For these reasons and to benefit local democracy in Minnesota, we strongly support HF 3276 and urge you to enact it.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Alexandra Copper

Alexandra Copper, Legal Counsel
Kevin Hancock, Director of Strategic
Litigation
CAMPAIGN LEGAL CENTER
1101 14th St. NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20005

¹⁹ See, e.g., *Where RCV is Used*, FairVote Minnesota, *supra* note 13.

March 12, 2024

Common Cause MN is a nonpartisan grassroots organization working to create open, honest, and accountable government, more information about our work at www.commoncause.org.

We are grateful to Rep. Frazier, for moving HF3276 local RCV option. **Currently, we ask members of the committee, and Rep. Fraizer to allocate funding to HF3276, for education and outreach. Not including funding places an unfair burden on impacted communities to do outreach and education in non-metro areas that have not had RCV elections. These statewide grassroots partners are some of the most underfunded groups outside the metro area.**

Minnesota is home to over 18,000 statewide Common Cause MN multipartisan members and despite belonging to various MN party affiliations, or not being affiliated, the one thing they've come together to do is support our work ensuring our Republic's democracy is safeguarded, our elections continue to reflect the will of Minnesotans and everyone's vote counts.

We believe democracy is how a free society resolves its differences. And to do that well, we must all agree the process is fair, produces equitable outcomes, and reflects our communities, our values, and our priorities. Nobody wins all the time, but if the process is fair, at least we can trust it.

Ranked choice voting puts Minnesota voters in charge. Common Cause has supported RCV in New York, Oregon, and California.

Please consider allocate funding to HF3276, for education and outreach and the following:

- HF3276 currently has no education and outreach provisions. Although the Twin Cities and other local pockets in first ring suburbs may be used to RCV in local elections, the vast majority of Minnesotans are not.
- **The Center for Civic Design cautions that any major change in elections creates a need for voter education, esp. as the ballot layout changes. That is top line in the Center for Civic Design handout on RCV education: <https://civicdesign.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/CCD-RCV-Best-Practices-Education-Materials-2022.pdf>.**
- It isn't fair to place the burden on outreach and engagement on grassroots, BIPOC or other impacted communities.
- Mpsl/St.Paul and those larger surrounding suburbs have greater opportunity and access to resources and money won't be disparately impacted as those emerging populations in growing sectors of greater MN and other predominantly BIPOC areas.
- The bill in its current form doesn't address the outreach and education needs of the very population RCV advocates say help to "level the playing field".
- Not funding an educational and outreach component to HF3276 only hampers a successful rollout for all Minnesotans, not just some.

Key factors we consider when assessing proposed RCV reforms from the administrative process side are 1) Equipment, 2) Outreach, 3) Audits and 4) Budget. Other things we also look for is:

- whether there is equitable representation that is meaningful in the composition of who is making the decisions,

- whether there is parity in power among those decision makers, are members mentioned relevant to the process and/or matter they are leading; do they have special knowledge.
- whether the process maximizes opportunity for transparent, and
- does the public have access to information, voting and other relevant information.
- does the public get to interact with the task force or participate in a public and open process or is it a closed body.

Common Cause is grateful to everyone who've worked diligently to have RCV considered. RCV can be a valuable reform IF Minnesotans know about it, understand how to leverage it AND successfully cast a ballot under RCV. That requires investing in a budget that lines up all Minnesotans to have a positive experience voting under RCV. Creating a "multiracial democracy" means co-creating it in partnership with impacted Minnesotans not just some.

Thank you for your dedication to all Minnesotans as you work in committee.

Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera
Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera,
Executive Director





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WWW.FAIRVOTEACTION.ORG

March 11, 2024

Dear Chair Freiberg and House Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

I'm writing in support of HF 3276 that would give more Minnesota cities, counties, and school districts the power to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV) for local elections, if they choose. While allowing for the broader use of RCV in Minnesota would have a wide range of benefits, perhaps the greatest positive impact would be felt by voters and candidates of color in the North Star State.

As the Director of Policy and Research for FairVote, a non-profit organization that studies election reforms, part of my job is to analyze the impact of ranked choice voting in practice. Over the last three years, I've co-authored two reports on the impacts of ranked choice voting and communities of color that I'd like to share with the committee.

I've attached a copy of the full report, titled *Ranked Choice Voting Elections Benefit Candidates and Voters of Color: 2024 Update*, and you can also find a digital version at: www.fairvote.org/report/communities-of-color-2024/. The prior version, published in 2021, may also be of interest. The 2021 version can be found at: www.fairvote.org/report/report_rcv_benefits_candidates_and_voters_of_color/.

Below are some of the key findings from the 2024 and 2021 versions of the report.

- A. **Candidates of color benefit from the RCV counting process.** We found that candidates of color earn more votes in later rounds of RCV elections than White candidates. This is a measure of power-building for candidates who have strong appeal as a backup choice.
- B. **Candidates of color pay no penalty when they run against other candidates of the same race or ethnicity.** One of the key advertised benefits of ranked choice voting

is that it prevents vote-splitting between candidates who appeal to a similar base of voters. We found that when a candidate of color is eliminated, ballots are more likely to transfer to other candidates of the same race or ethnicity.

- C. **Voters of color tend to rank more candidates than White voters.** In a case study of the 2022 Oakland mayoral race that builds on earlier findings, Black and Hispanic or Latino voters ranked more candidates than White voters on average. This is now the third study to find this same result for voters of color.

I and my colleagues at FairVote will be happy to answer any questions you may have about this report or our other research on ranked choice voting. You can reach me at dotis@fairvote.org.

Thank you for your consideration, and again, I encourage you to support HF 3276.

Sincerely,

Deb Otis

dotis@fairvote.org
Director of Policy and Research
FairVote

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

March 12, 2024

Dear Chair Freiberg and members of the House Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing in support of H.F. 3276, a bill that would authorize local jurisdictions across Minnesota to adopt RCV if they wish.

As a nationally-recognized public health expert, I have had the opportunity to observe the successes and failures of our nation's response to numerous health crises, including the pandemic, and what I discovered is that many of our public health failures arose from deficiencies in governance and our polarized political environment. I witnessed the politicization of the pandemic first hand -- and the devastation that had on our response.

Unfortunately, our current plurality election system, where politicians can win solely by securing the support of their base, is fueling division, misinformation and extremism in our politics. In order to respond effectively to the pandemic and the next health crisis, we must address the division and dysfunction plaguing our democracy.

I am on the board of FairVote Minnesota, a nonprofit, nonpartisan group that advocates for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), one of the top reforms to strengthen and protect our democracy. RCV allows voters to rank their preferred candidates, and the rankings are used to conduct an instant runoff to ensure elected officials earn broad majority support. It is a simple but powerful change to the ballot that encourages candidates to reach beyond their base and build broad coalitions of support, incentivizes positive campaigns based on the issues and elects leaders who are responsive to the concerns of the majority and incentivized to solve problems and get things done.

Leaders can have a tremendous impact on policy and how we respond to a public health crisis. To respond effectively, we need leaders that focus on the issues, speak the truth and unify the public for a common purpose, and we elect those kinds of leaders through RCV.

While no single reform can solve all the dysfunction in our government, RCV is a proven, common sense step we can take right now. States and cities around the country have shown us the effective power of this reform to award positive campaigning and coalition building over extremism and polarization which is what our country needs now more than ever.

Five Minnesota cities – Bloomington, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, and St. Paul – already use RCV for their municipal elections, and Minnesota's experience with the electoral system demonstrates its many benefits. Voters consistently and overwhelmingly report that RCV is easy to use and fosters more civil campaigns. Not surprisingly, huge majorities also report that they like RCV and prefer it over the old system. Voter participation is higher under RCV by fostering more competitive elections with multiple candidates – a key driver of voter turnout. For more detail, see FairVote Minnesota's [RCV in Minnesota Cities Dashboard](#).

The Minnesota legislature can empower local jurisdictions statewide to adopt Ranked Choice Voting if they choose, allowing them to enjoy the benefits already experienced by cities within Minnesota and over 60 jurisdictions across the country that use RCV.

While I have been fortunate to experience significant success in my life, I view RCV as the legacy of my lifetime and a way to bring about a better world for my kids, my grandkids and their future. RCV is a simple change to the ballot but one that holds the promise of bringing about a more inclusive, representative and responsive democracy for all.

Sincerely,
Michael Osterholm



February 21, 2024

Testimony on behalf of H.F. 3276 and S.F. 3868

Members of the Minnesota House and Senate,

We are writing to urge you to support the Ranked Choice Voting Local Options bill and to block bills that seek to ban this promising reform. The Local Options bill ([HF 3276/SF 3868](#)), introduced by Rep. Cedrick Frazier and Sen. Kelly Morrison, would allow all Minnesota cities, counties and school districts to adopt ranked choice voting if they wish. Currently, only a small number of cities with home-rule authority and odd-year local elections have the ability to use RCV, and it has worked well in the communities that have adopted it. We value giving all local jurisdictions the right to decide for themselves what is best for their communities, and we would like to see this promising reform expand across the state.

Minnesota is home to a robust and diverse group of employers, large and small, including sixteen Fortune 500 companies. While we differ in size, we share the need for stability and predictability in our economic and political environment. Our planning horizons are long term and require certainty in order to make investments that will deliver the jobs and growth our stakeholders expect.

As business leaders, we view the increasing divisions and extremes in our politics with growing concern. It's bad for business and damaging to our democracy. Taking action to mitigate extremism and strengthen our democracy is urgent, and RCV is a key solution. See *Memorandum: Why Ranked Choice Voting is critical to business*, attached below. We urge you to support HF 3276/ SF 3868.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Carlson Nelson
Penny and Bill George
Marc Gorelick
Evan Doran
Kim Nelson
Karla Ekdahl and Peter Hutchinson
Hunter Saklad
Jay Cowles
Scott Berney
Joe Green

Memorandum: Why Ranked Choice Voting is critical to business

Ranked choice voting (RCV) is the only reform that disincentivizes negative campaigning and incentivizes candidates to build broad majority coalitions to win and govern once in office. Under RCV, office holders are rewarded for getting things done, especially on those issues that have overwhelming public support. RCV encourages the kind of consensus-driven, bipartisan legislation that drives business certainty and addresses the economic needs of Minnesotans.

Minnesota faces significant challenges that are of critical importance to attract and retain employees in our state that will drive decision-making related to expansion or relocation in Minnesota. We depend on our elected officials to work together in good faith to address these issues.

RCV—also known as Instant Runoff Voting—is a simple, common sense way to encourage political candidates to appeal to a broad swath of constituents if they are to achieve the support of a majority of voters. [See RCV overview here](#). Candidates behave very differently when they benefit from second or third choice votes. They are less likely to attack an opponent because they don't want to alienate their opponent's base voters and risk losing second choice votes. As a result, it changes the tone and tenor of their political campaigns, focusing them more on the issues and less on attacking their opponents. It also drives greater engagement and turnout from voters who have become disillusioned with the current political system.

RCV is a viable, proven electoral system that has been used for more than 100 years in democracies around the world, such as Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, and Scotland. In the United States, RCV is a bipartisan opportunity that is championed by Republicans in states like Utah and Alaska and by Democrats in Maine and cities like New York. States such as Arkansas, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina have used RCV for military and overseas voters for years.

Minnesota cities have over a dozen years of experience with RCV, and [poll after poll shows that RCV is easy to use and voters love it](#). Elections are more competitive, voter turnout is higher, campaigns are more civil, and winning candidates take office with a majority of voter support. In local nonpartisan elections, RCV eliminates the need for separate primary elections in August, saving cities, taxpayers and candidates time and money.

Ranked choice voting is a simple change but one that would have a positive impact on the political incentives in our elections. It is a promising tool to address increasing polarization, combative politics and gridlock, and [polling](#) shows that voters who use RCV like it, find it easy to use, and want to see it expanded to state and federal elections.

RCV delivers no partisan advantage and results in office holders who better reflect their communities, are more responsive to their interests and are more willing to reach consensus solutions to the challenges facing our state. As we plan for the future of our businesses, we must ensure our democratic institutions are trusted, resilient, stable, inclusive and effective. RCV can help make that happen, and frankly, the future of our state depends on it. We can expand this important reform and allow more Minnesota communities the opportunity to use it by passing the RCV Local Options bill.

March 11, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Dreamer and a DACA recipient. Although I cannot vote, I am highly involved in the political process because I understand the importance of electing leaders who will best serve the people they represent.

I believe in the power of people and the power of the vote.

Cities that have adopted ranked-choice voting have seen an increase in voter turnout and in the diversity of their candidates and elected officials. Ranked-choice voting has given a voice to people who normally don't feel part of the process. It has provided voters with more choices, led to greater participation in the political process, and resulted in outcomes that better reflect the community.

Yet, fewer than 1% of cities are currently able to consider using ranked-choice voting. It's time to give all local jurisdictions the power to decide if ranked-choice voting is right for them.

Many voters, especially young people, are disillusioned with a political system they feel does not offer them enough choices on the ballot and does not incentivize leaders to work together to solve the pressing problems of our time—problems that young people will have to deal with in the coming decades.

For our democracy to progress, we need to engage more people, and we need leaders who can meet the needs of the moment and work together to find solutions. Ranked-choice voting is a significant step in that direction.

Please support HF 3276 so that all cities, counties, and school districts can have the opportunity to adopt ranked-choice voting, which Bloomington, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, and St. Paul have used with great success.

Sincerely,

Edwin Torres
Minnetonka, MN

HF 3276 and HF 4728

To Chair Freiberg and the House Elections committee:

Let's bring our Political Contribution Refund program into the present century! Presently candidates and contributors have to resort to snail mail in order to request a refund. HF 4728 will allow requests to be filed electronically through the internet.

It's clear that this will result in a greater use of the PCR program and more support for candidates from small donors. This means more democratic elections.

Please vote for Rep. Bahner's HF4728 March 13!

You will also here Rep. Frasier's HF3276 on March 13. This important bill will allow local government to use RCV for their elections if its citizens decide to do so. RCV has been successful in St. Louis Park and results in election by a majority of voters making it a more democratic election. Why not allow local cities the option to choose how to run their elections? They know what's best for their communities.

George Beck

St. Louis Park



March 12, 2024

Chair & Representative Mike Freiberg
House Elections Finance and Policy Committee
c/o Simon Brown, Committee Administrator
Room 200, Minnesota State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Testimony in Support of HF 3276

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members of the House Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. We support creation of governmental systems that are representative, accountable, and responsive to voters, and where voters can see themselves reflected in their local governments.

LWV Minnesota supports HF 3276, Ranked Choice Voting for Local Offices:

The League of Women Voters supports policies that promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage the adoption of electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and are expressive of voter choices. Local government is frequently a place where electoral innovation takes place that can inform decisions at a broader level about the conduct of elections. We specifically support providing local governments the option to adopt ranked choice voting for use in local elections for single seat contests.

While current state law does not prohibit the use of ranked choice voting in local elections, ranked choice voting is not specifically supported in Minnesota statutes for conduct of elections. Providing definitions and requirements for the use of ranked choice voting within Minnesota Statute will provide a framework for the consistent performance of ranked choice voting by those local governments choosing to implement it. Including the conduct of ranked choice voting in statute will provide confidence to voters and candidates in the conduct and results of their elections involving ranked choice voting.

HF 3276 provides the framework for local governments to choose the electoral process that works best for them to assure proportional representation in their community, and provides requirements and

support to do this in a consistent, efficient manner. Experience both within Minnesota and nationally has shown that ranked choice voting can be implemented effectively and be valuable to assuring election results that reflect the preferences of voters.

LWV Minnesota urges you to vote YES on HF 3276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Huffman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Huffman, Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator, League of Women Voters of Minnesota;
phuffman@lwvmn.org - 546 Rice Street, #200, St. Paul, MN 55103



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICERS

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March 13, 2024

Chair, Rep. Mike Freiberg
House Elections Policy and Finance Committee
Minnesota State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: HF3276 (Fraizer) Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members of the House Elections Policy and Finance Committee:

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) is comprised of and represents County Auditors, Treasurers, Financial Officers, and county election administrators from all 87 Minnesota Counties. The integrity of Minnesota's elections process is MACO's main guiding principle in election administration, and we recognize local partnerships and collaboration are critical to success.

MACO is supportive of local authorization of ranked-choice voting (RCV) in stand-alone, nonconcurrent elections, so we appreciate the language in HF3276 that only allows for RCV to be used not in conjunction with a state general election; however the current language would allow for the possibility of races that do not use RCV to be on the same ballot and we believe there are still significant procedural and technical items that need to be addressed. For example, ballot layout when RCV contests are on the same ballot as non-ranked choice contests; the interaction of county election officials' administration of absentee voting for a jurisdiction that has selected RCV for their local contest; and equipment certification.

We strongly recommend that any legislation related to the implementation of RCV for elections conducted in conjunction with a non-ranked choice contest is not considered until the administrative complexity of concurrent elections is thoroughly reviewed and procedures determined by a group of stakeholders including local election administrators.

MACO appreciates the addition of language in the author's A4 amendment to HF3276 that requires cities and schools who use RCV who do not administer elections to enter into an agreement with the county responsible for administering elections before adopting RCV as we believe these local partnerships are critical to the success of any voting process and especially RCV.

Sincerely,

Deborah Erickson

Crow Wing County Administrative Services Director
President, Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO)

March 12, 2024

Dear Minnesota House Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HF 3276. The organization I direct, [RepresentWomen](#), tracks outcomes for women in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting as part of our mission to support solutions to address the barriers women face in politics.

Our research finds that women have better opportunities to run in and win RCV elections. More women can run for office in RCV elections because, without fear of splitting the vote, there is greater support for women candidates to run. Additionally, campaigns tend to be more civil and more issue-focused, which appeals to women candidates and provides greater incentive for them to run. We also find that when voters have the ability to express their true preferences rather than vote strategically, more women win as a result.

Women hold 53% of city council seats in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting and 12 out of the 32 mayoral seats elected with RCV. Janet Mills, governor of Maine, won the primary with RCV, Senator Lisa Murkowski and Representative Mary Peltola were elected using RCV in Alaska, and of course, St. Paul elected a historic all-women city council this year using RCV.

Here are a few of our resources that may be of interest:

- a [memo](#) on ranked choice voting & women's representation
- a [dashboard](#) on ranked choice voting stats
- a [toolkit](#) with additional RCV materials

We also released a report in February 2024, [Breaking Barriers for Black Women Candidates](#), that discusses how ranked choice voting creates more opportunities for Black women to run and win.

Please support HF 3276 to authorize jurisdictions to adopt ranked choice voting for local offices and establish procedures for the adoption, implementation, and use of ranked choice voting for local jurisdictions.

Many thanks,



Cynthia Richie Terrell
Executive Director, RepresentWomen



March 12, 2024

Representative
Mike Freiberg
Chair
Elections Finance and Policy Committee
381 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative
Paul Torkelson
Ranking Minority Leader
Elections Finance and Policy Committee
261 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Freiberg and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA) supports Ranked Choice Voting (HF3276-Rep. Frazier), a bill that offers more voting options in local elections where this method may be chosen.

There are many benefits of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) that align with our statutory principles of political equality for our constituents. It mainly offers voters more choice and more voice, limiting polarizing views and favoring solutions and ideas to ideate policy and promote civic discourse. It also has the potential to encourage more diverse and inclusive candidates and platforms, advancing the political representation of women and communities of color. At the same time, RCV is likely to produce higher turnout in local elections, as it has already been proven in every RCV city that has adopted this option. Ultimately, this bill seeks at expanding democracy, with a consistent set of standards and rules under the Secretary of State's authority, while promoting local control as it would be up to cities, counties, and school districts to decide if this method works best for their communities.

For these reasons, the Council respectfully advises the Chair and the Committee to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Rosa Tock
Executive Director



March 12th, 2024

Chair Mike Freiberg
381 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Freiberg and members of the House Elections Committee,

My name is Lilly Sasse and I am the Campaign Director for We Choose Us, a campaign coalition of grassroots organizations, unions, and advocacy groups working to build an inclusive, multiracial democracy in Minnesota: one that is representative, responsive, and accountable to Minnesotans who should always be at the center.

Ranked choice voting (RCV) can be a significant contributing factor to making our elections more inclusive, representative, and responsive. RCV can also eliminate a low-turnout, exclusionary local primary that is a deterrent for new voices, and for underrepresented communities in particular.

The five cities that currently use RCV for their local elections—Bloomington, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park and St. Paul—have demonstrated these benefits. We are seeing more competitive local races, increased turnout, and campaigns that focus on the issues that matter to voters. More candidates coming from diverse communities, backgrounds and political perspectives are running, and the city councils are becoming more diverse such that they reflect and represent the voices of all the city's citizens.

We believe local jurisdictions should be empowered to decide whether to implement RCV through a democratic process. I support the RCV Local Options bill [HF 3276](#) because it would lift current statutory restrictions on cities, school districts, and counties to use RCV if they choose without having to ask the legislature for permission.

The RCV local option is one of many next steps we can take in the broader democracy reform movement to ensure our democracy is representative and responsive to the people who call Minnesota home.

Lilly Sasse

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lilly Sasse', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Campaign Director
We Choose Us



March 12, 2024

Chair Freiberg and Members of the House Election Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties and League of Minnesota Cities, we write to support HF 3276 as amended with the A4 author's amendment. This bill would provide local governments the ability to consider and ultimately adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) after garnering community input/support and authorizing it under certain conditions.

AMC and LMC are grateful to Rep. Frazier and advocates for their willingness to listen to local concerns about moving forward on a proposal without proper considerations for robust procedures are put in place that include reviewal and input from local election administrators and the Secretary of State's Office. We are equally grateful for author and advocate considerations of local government conciliation language surrounding the authorization of RCV in jurisdictions that do not administer their own elections. The language included in the author's A4 amendment today is the result of city and county conversations on how best to honor local government control while also reflect the increased administrative burdens of RCV implementation, respect of local capacity, and good practice of intergovernmental communication and coordination. We are thankful for the Chair's willingness to adopt this into his bill.

In closing, we understand that RCV remains an issue that elicits strong feedback from different perspectives. As a core principle, however, AMC and LMC strongly support locally elected officials having the ability to decide what works best for their residents and voters. We believe HF 3276 (as amended) honors this principle and does so in a thoughtful way to ensure that state standards will be in place to ensure uniformity, equity of implementation, and ultimately, successful execution.

Sincerely,

Matt Hilgart, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)

Alex Hassel, League of Minnesota Cities (LMC)



Stan Lockhart

Former Chairman
Utah Republican Party



Testimony from Stan
Lockhart

Former Chairman of the Utah Republican Party

In SUPPORT of H.F. 3276

authorizing jurisdictions to adopt ranked choice voting for local offices;

Minnesota House and Senate Committees on Elections

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I write to you as a former member of the Republican National Committee and a former State Party Chairman with deep interest and a long-time commitment to the success and vitality of our Democracy.

I write in support of S.F. 3868/H.F. 3276, which would authorize jurisdictions to adopt ranked choice voting for local offices and implement additional rules and protocols to support ranked choice voting in local nonpartisan offices. This bill provides local control and the opportunity for local jurisdictions to adopt a simple reform to ensure majority outcomes, address vote splitting, and save significant taxpayer money.

One of the most powerful aspects of **ranked choice voting** is that it **identifies the candidate with the most support**. RCV addresses the problems of “vote-splitting” and “spoiler” candidates that sometimes result in election winners without broad support. In our current system, a majority of voters may support a particular ideology or party, but split their votes among candidates who support that ideology – resulting in a winner whose views reflect the minority of voters. For example, the presence of Libertarian and third-party candidates has decided recent U.S. Senate elections in Nevada, New Hampshire, and Montana.^{1,2,3} In ranked choice voting elections, voters could rank the Libertarian candidate 1st and then rank a second choice for the next candidate who best represents their values, rather than accidentally helping elect the candidate they want least.

¹United States Senate election in Nevada, 2022. Ballotpedia.

https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_Senate_election_in_Nevada,_2022 ²

United States Senate election in New Hampshire, 2016. Ballotpedia.

https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_Senate_election_in_New_Hampshire,_2016 ³

United States Senate election in Montana, 2012. Ballotpedia.

https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_Senate_elections_in_Montana,_2012

Ranked choice voting results in majority winners, and is a faster, cheaper, and better alternative to two-round runoffs. Both are multi-round systems that promote majority support of winning candidates. However, ranked choice voting gets the job done with one election; two-round runoffs require two separate elections, doubling election administration costs and requiring voters to visit the polls twice. In fact, turnout declined between the primary and runoff in 266 of the 276 scheduled federal primary runoff elections from 1994 to 2022, by an average of 40%.⁴

One salient example is the recent Georgia Senate runoffs in 2020 and 2022. Between training and paying poll workers, preparing voting equipment, and more, the 2020 runoff election cost Georgia taxpayers \$75 million,⁵ and cost the two runoff candidates a combined \$79 million for additional campaign advertising.⁶ Yet every single Georgia runoff in the last three decades has had lower turnout than the initial election.⁷

This bill will allow all Minnesota municipalities to consolidate their top-2 runoffs into a single, high-turnout election, thus increasing voter participation in choosing the winner while also saving money in those communities with standalone local primaries. In addition, ranked ballots will ensure that military and overseas voters are not disenfranchised from participating in runoff elections due to delays in receiving and returning ballots by mail.

Ranked choice voting is a well-tested voting method. Approximately 13 million voters in 63 jurisdictions across the U.S. vote using ranked choice. Since 2020, legislatures in nine states have passed RCV bills, including “local options” legislation that allows municipalities in Utah, Virginia, Maine, and Colorado to use it. In 2021, twenty Utah cities piloted RCV in municipal elections following the passage of local option legislation. The Virginia Republican Party used RCV in 2021 to nominate candidates for statewide offices.

Many observers credit the use of RCV for nominating highly electable candidates with great unity behind them. The Virginia GOP also used RCV in 2022 to nominate four congressional candidates. Those campaigns were observed to be far less negative, and those candidates emerged from the primary election with much higher positivity ratings than non-RCV candidates in adjacent districts.

Below is a sample ballot from the two-winner RCV election for Draper City Council in 2021.

DRAPER CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE (2 Seats)							
RANKED CHOICE VOTING: Rank up to Seven candidates.							
	1 First choice	2 Second choice	3 Third choice	4 Fourth choice	5 Fifth choice	6 Sixth choice	7 Seventh choice
WILL ASHBY	<input type="radio"/> ¹	<input type="radio"/> ²	<input type="radio"/> ³	<input type="radio"/> ⁴	<input type="radio"/> ⁵	<input type="radio"/> ⁶	<input type="radio"/> ⁷
DANITA ROUZER	<input type="radio"/> ¹	<input type="radio"/> ²	<input type="radio"/> ³	<input type="radio"/> ⁴	<input type="radio"/> ⁵	<input type="radio"/> ⁶	<input type="radio"/> ⁷
RUSS FUGAL	<input type="radio"/> ¹	<input type="radio"/> ²	<input type="radio"/> ³	<input type="radio"/> ⁴	<input type="radio"/> ⁵	<input type="radio"/> ⁶	<input type="radio"/> ⁷
RACHELLE FARLEY	<input type="radio"/> ¹	<input type="radio"/> ²	<input type="radio"/> ³	<input type="radio"/> ⁴	<input type="radio"/> ⁵	<input type="radio"/> ⁶	<input type="radio"/> ⁷
HUBERT HUH	<input type="radio"/> ¹	<input type="radio"/> ²	<input type="radio"/> ³	<input type="radio"/> ⁴	<input type="radio"/> ⁵	<input type="radio"/> ⁶	<input type="radio"/> ⁷
MIKE GREEN	<input type="radio"/> ¹	<input type="radio"/> ²	<input type="radio"/> ³	<input type="radio"/> ⁴	<input type="radio"/> ⁵	<input type="radio"/> ⁶	<input type="radio"/> ⁷
TASHA LOWERY	<input type="radio"/> ¹	<input type="radio"/> ²	<input type="radio"/> ³	<input type="radio"/> ⁴	<input type="radio"/> ⁵	<input type="radio"/> ⁶	<input type="radio"/> ⁷

⁴ Primary Runoff Elections and Decline in Voter Turnout, 1994-2022. Rose, J. (2022) <https://fairvote.org/report/primary-runoffs-report-2022/>

⁵ Georgia runoff elections: Are they worth the cost to taxpayers? ABC News. (2022) <https://newschannel9.com/news/election/georgia-runoff-elections-are-they-worth-the-cost-to-taxpayers>

⁶ Georgia Senate race again draws huge spending: ‘There’s never been anything like it.’ New York Times. (2022) <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/06/us/politics/georgia-runoff-election-cost-funding.html>

⁷ Primary Runoff Elections and Decline in Voter Turnout, 1994-2022. Rose, J. (2022) <https://fairvote.org/report/primary-runoffs-report-2022/>

Voters like and understand ranked choice voting. Exit polling results find that voters in RCV cities overwhelmingly report that they like it and prefer it to their previous voting method.⁸ Exit polling in Utah found that 81% of first-time RCV voters found IRV easy to use and 88% were satisfied with the method they used to cast their ballot.⁹

Understanding of RCV is comparable to plurality voting and better than the “top-two” voting used in some states.¹⁰ Researchers have found no evidence of racial or ethnic differences in understanding of RCV.¹¹ Jurisdictions studying voter reaction on RCV over time find support tends to keep increasing.¹²

Winners in RCV elections always have a majority of the vote when matched head-to-head against their final opponent, **and most RCV winners earn more than majority support.** Most RCV winners are ranked in the top 3 choices by two-thirds of voters or more, demonstrating a measure of broad consensus among voters. Winners of RCV races usually earn the most first choices as well. When the winner is someone other than the leader in first-choice preferences, RCV has prevented an unfair outcome due to the majority splitting the vote.

RCV’s simplicity, representative outcomes, and positive experience for voters have made it an increasingly popular election method. Evidence is strong that **voters like RCV and engage with the ranked ballot.** It is recommended by Robert’s Rules of Order and used in hundreds of private association elections.

Finally, **implementation of ranked choice voting is a smooth process.**¹³ In most cities using RCV, preliminary results are produced on election night or the day after – the same timeline as in single-choice elections. For example, 20 cities in Utah used IRV as part of a pilot program in 2021, 19 of them for the first time. This included large cities like Salt Lake City and smaller towns of only a few hundred voters. After a voter education campaign partially funded by the lieutenant governor’s office, county clerks efficiently administered the RCV elections. Administrators released RCV results on election night alongside results from non-IRV races, including visualizations of the round-by-round results.

With all the benefits of ranked choice voting, I urge you to take advantage of this upgrade for your statewide elections, and to allow municipalities to take advantage of it if they wish. I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely,

Stan Lockhart

Former Chairman of the Utah Republican Party

⁸ FairVote. 2020. Exit Surveys: Voters Evaluate Ranked Choice Voting.

<https://fairvote.app.box.com/s/hlzeu53uw0nrw9yzhbjk4flx2uf9x4fg>

⁹ Survey shows positive response to ranked choice voting. The Daily Herald. (2021).

<https://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/2021/nov/18/survey-shows-ranked-choice-voting-got-positive-response-in-pilot-test/>

¹⁰ 2014 Eagleton Poll California RCV Survey Results. FairVote. (2021). <https://www.fairvote.org/2014-survey-results>.

¹¹ Self-Reported Understanding of Ranked-Choice Voting. Donovan, T., Tolbert, C. and Gracey, K. (2019), Social Science Quarterly, 100: 1768-1776. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12651>.

¹² The 2017 Municipal Election: An Analysis & Recommendations. Minneapolis City Council. (2018).

<https://lirms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCAV2/4684/2017-Municipal-Election-Report.pdf>

¹³ Additional resources on RCV implementation are available from the Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center at

www.RCVResources.org.



TEAMSTERS

Joint Council 32

TOM ERICKSON
President

MINNESOTA · IOWA
NORTH DAKOTA · SOUTH DAKOTA

TREVOR LAWRENCE
Secretary-Treasurer

February 22, 2024

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House

Senator Erin Murphy
Senate Majority Leader

Dear Speaker Hortman and Majority Leader Murphy,

On behalf of the 75,000 active and retired Members of the Teamsters Joint Council 32, we write to encourage all members of the legislature to support SF3868/HF3276, a bill that would improve our democracy by allowing local units of government to opt in to ranked choice voting. We applaud Senator Morrison and Representative Frazier for carrying this bill and look forward to it becoming law.

The Teamsters believe allowing voters to rank their choices is good for democracy and allows candidates to lead with ideas rather than political party. We strongly believe that allowing local units of government to use ranked choice voting makes perfect sense, will allow for better discussions of local issues, benefit local candidates who are able to build bridges, and will continue to build proof of concept for statewide ranked choice adoption.

We encourage a "yes" vote on this bill to allow local units of government to choose ranked choice voting for their local elections.

Sincerely,

Hannah Alstead
Political Director

Paul Slattery
DRIVE President

cc: Representative Cedrick Frazier
Senator Kelly Morrison
House Elections Chair Mike Freiberg
Senate Elections Chair Jim Carlson

**Testimony relating to HF 3276
Hearing in House Elections Committees**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mark Ritchie and I served as Minnesota's Secretary of State from 2007 until retiring from elected public service in 2015. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this very important legislative proposal.

When first elected, I inherited the responsibility of chairing a task force created by the legislature to find ways to put new technologies to work in the field of business services and transactions related to mortgages and real estate transactions. My predecessor, Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, had done an excellent job of giving birth to this exploratory group and in surfacing the many complexities and challenges that the task force was created to solve.

In my second year as Secretary of State, I chaired a second task force, this one to sort out some of the opportunities and challenges related to the re-introduction of Instant Run-off Voting, a system of voting that flourished in the past but at that time only Hopkins had serious experience to share with their colleagues from Minneapolis who wanted to put test this approach, what we now call Ranked Choice Voting, under modern circumstances.

I was proud of the work we did 15 years ago, surfacing concerns and challenges, and pleased with the outcome and creative approaches that were the outcome of this taskforce. One of the top election administrators in the State of Minnesota had the historic responsibility of administering the first election using Instant Run-off Voting and it came off incredibly well.

Today you have in front of you proposed legislation to provide the same opportunity that Minneapolis, St. Paul, Bloomington, Minnetonka, and St. Louis Park have had to adopt RCV to all cities, counties, and school districts. This is groundbreaking local control legislation and as with anything that seems new, there are questions about whether there will be challenges and whether we, as Minnesota's best-in-the-nation election administrators, are creative enough or technologically savvy enough to meet whatever might arise.

When I am asked "Are we up to the challenge" I have the great pleasure of answering with full confidence based on the real-world experience of 8 years of working side-by-side with our amazing local and county officials who are the ones who make elections happen. When I am asked, why change anything -aren't our elections processes and procedures the best in the country I always agree that we are the best but I always say – but we have to keep getting better and better if we want to remain leaders.

I share Secretaries Kiffmeyer and Simon's pride in Minnesota being number one in elections. I strongly support this legislation because I want to be as proud of the future as our past.





March 11, 2024

Chair Rep. Mike Freiberg
Elections Finance & Policy Committee

Chair and Committee Members:

The work of the African American Leadership Forum ('The Forum') is rooted in shifting systems and the people that lead them towards a more just future. We partner with communities, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and governments to co-create solutions focused on many social and economic concerns. For over 15 years, The Forum has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

The African American Leadership Forum expresses its strong support for HF 3276, which would allow any municipality in Minnesota to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV) if they so choose. One of the most critical issues facing our democracy nationwide is voter participation. Poll after poll show us that people are dismayed by the polarization of politics and feel the rosters of candidates are too narrow.

Minnesota is known nationwide for its high voter turnout, but it would be even higher if more voters felt their preferred candidate had a real chance of making it through a primary or general election. Ranked choice voting can help reinvigorate people's belief that their vote matters. Research shows that RCV voting systems result in many benefits, including:

- A reduction in partisan polarization and extremism- candidates must appeal to broader electorate rather than only speak to "the base"
- More coalition-building and collaboration among candidates
- More diversity in the candidate pool because they—as well as voters—no longer see election outcomes as a foregone conclusion
- Voters can cast their ballot for their favorite candidate without fear of wasting their vote
- Elimination of costly run-off elections because run-offs take place instantly in the RCV system

Thank you for considering this bill, and we ask for your support of HF 3276.

Sincerely,
Amber Jones
Managing Director | Policy Impact
African American Leadership Forum

