



April 8, 2024

Chair Ginny Klevorn and Members of the State Government and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee Members

Re: HF3276 Local Options, Local Choices Bill

Dear Chair Klevorn and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Clean Elections Minnesota, I am writing in support of HF3276, a non-partisan non-profit that advocates and educates for a strong democracy in Minnesota. We believe that Ranked Choice Voting makes our democracy more equitable and gives voters more choice at the ballot box

Only 15% of our Minnesota cities are presently authorized to adopt RCV for their local elections. That means 85% are prohibited from conducting their elections as they think best. Cities and counties are asking for this change. Over 14 cities and counties have passed resolutions supporting RCV for local elections in Minnesota. We need to listen to them! Local control just makes sense.

RVC cities provide their citizens with the opportunity to support the candidates of their choice without fear of spoiling the election for major party candidates.

RVC offers a way to bridge divides. Three years ago I ran a city council campaign that had seven great multiracial candidates running for the same seat- they ranged from 23 to 72 years old. To court voters each candidate had to show what they had in common with other candidates to become voters' second and third choice on the ballot. What could have been divisive and combative became a healthy competition. It promoted more direct outreach to diverse voters and a more thorough vetting of issues that were important to the community.

At present only five Minnesota cities have the benefit of RCV. The bill allows local governments to choose the electoral process that best suits their jurisdictions and that its citizens support.

Let's strengthen our democracy. Let the people decide. Please vote to adopt HF3276.

Sincerely,

Mary Hartnett
Executive Director

cleanelectionsmn.org