

Lynn C. Eaton, PE

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April 8, 2024

RE: Testimony for the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee in favor of H.F. 3276.

Dear Committee Chair Klevorn & 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: 240408 Letter in Support of RCV