



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICERS

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March 17, 2023

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

RE: HF 2486 (Frazier) Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members of the House Elections Finance and Policy 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. The magnitude of process changes and the impact to Minnesota's voters contained in HF2486 will require a deliberate approach that identifies every issue and solution before implementation.

MACO is supportive of local authorization of ranked-choice voting (RCV) in **stand-alone, nonconcurrent elections**. However, we cannot support HF2486 until significant procedural and technical items are 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 state or federal elections – or even for local office elections when conducted in conjunction with a non-ranked choice contest – is not considered until after a task force, including adequate numbers of election administrators, is convened to study the administrative complexity, voter education needs, and security and integrity of such elections.

Sincerely,

Deborah Erickson

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