

Testimony to the Minnesota House Elections Policy and Finance Committee

Testimony

Re: HF 642 relating to an Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote enactment

From: Jeanne Massey

Date: February 1, 2023

Thank you, Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Jeanne Massey, and I am Executive Director of FairVote Minnesota, a statewide nonpartisan organization that promotes electoral systems that are fair, free, competitive, inclusive, representative of all voters, and responsive to their needs. Specifically, we advocate for the use of Ranked Choice Voting in our state and federal elections as well as its expansion at the local level and I hope to be addressing legislation on this topic in this committee in the near future.

The Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) bill we will introduce includes presidential elections and is compatible with the National Popular Vote.

I have read the opposing testimony related to RCV and National Popular Vote compatibility, and it is misleading and incorrect. The testimony comes from an organization opposed to both RCV and NPV and has a clear motive - to hurt both reforms. Like Maine, which uses RCV for presidential elections and has clarified its state laws to ensure compatibility with electing presidential electors under NPV, Minnesota will do the same.

I urge you to disregard the unproven, misleading argument that RCV and NPV are incompatible and support the NPV legislation before you. I look forward to Minnesota using both RCV and NPV for its presidential elections – reforms that will ensure a more representative, inclusive and responsive democracy for all Minnesota voters.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important issue.