

March 16, 2023

To: House Committee: Election Finance and Policy

From: Donelle Nelson, Constituent

RE: HF2486 – Ranked Choice Voting

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the topic of Ranked Choice Voting.

I have three comments regarding why Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) should not be passed into law.

1. **CREATES CONFUSION:** I have been an Election Judge in the City of Eagan for several election cycles. I have witnessed the current levels of confusion among some voters both in primary and regular elections regarding how they are to cast their vote. Ranked choice voting (RCV) would breed even MORE confusion amongst voters by adding columns to the ballots, more complexity, and more instructions. The result: voters will disengage in voting over time. We must continue with our current system to keep voting as straightforward as possible so as not to disenfranchise voters and/or discourage voting. We have impressive voter turn-out rates in MN and should strive to keep voter engagement high!
2. **TOO COSTLY:** Restructuring the election system to do Ranked Choice Voting would be COSTLY to implement and take resources away from other priorities such as education and infrastructure.
3. **DELAY IN RESULTS:** The longer the electorate waits for results, the more mistrust of the system takes hold. When the counting process takes days and weeks and isn't straightforward, voters will become highly skeptical of the process creating broad dissatisfaction across our state.

Polling shows that Minnesotans have no interest in Ranked Choice Voting. Maintain our "One Person, One Vote" system.

Sincerely,
Donelle Nelson