

MN House Elections Finance and Policy Committee Members,

My name is Raymond Hicks. I am a MN Citizen residing in Rochester, MN. I am here to testify regarding problems with Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and my disapproval of its use in the state of Minnesota.

Problems with Ranked Choice Voting include:

- RCV is overly complicated which some voters find confusing and some find overwhelming. It causes many to mistrust both process and results.
- RCV process is prone to great increases of spoiled ballots because of confusion and many more ways in which a ballot can be marked wrongly than with our traditional voting method. That causes frustration for both voters and poll workers.
- When an office has more than 2 or 3 candidates, RCV puts a burden on a voter to study and know much more detail about every candidate on the ballot than traditional voting for one candidate does. Today it is usually enough to rule out a few and then carefully assess and decide between our personal top two we favor. It is not necessary for us to study those we have ruled out in order to rank them in some preference order. Given the number of offices that can be on a ballot, this problem compounds and most people will not do that homework necessary to intelligently rank their least preferred candidates. They either will not rank those the ruled out or they'll rank them in haphazard non educated manner. This is bad since RCV potentially (and in actual experience) has allowed such candidates to rise to top in later rounds of counting and win.
- RCV disenfranchises voters whose ballots are exhausted in the tabulating elimination rounds when the only choices they ranked were eliminated. Their ballots effectively don't count, whereas traditional runoff election processes give them the opportunity to focus and pick wisely in a true run off election. RCV takes that chance away from them.

There are many more problems. Each I listed increases voter mistrust of both the process and results of elections. That is a severe price in a nation where our confidence in government requires trust in fair elections. RCV undermines that. Forcing this on voters will undermine our trust in our government including each one of your offices.

For these and other reasons you have not allowed adequate time for voters to express, contest, and explain, I urge you to oppose HF2486 and any efforts to implement mandated implementation of rank choice voting.

Sincerely,  
Raymond L. Hicks (Ray)  
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