

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill contains no mandates; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

1. Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
2. Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
3. Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
4. Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;

5. Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
6. Improving the civility of campaigning; and
7. Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, more than 87 percent of polled voters in the Twin Cities say that RCV is simple to use;

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this legislation be added as a priority in the Rochester Legislative Agenda until passed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA, THIS 2nd DAY OF March, 2020.

PRESIDENT OF SAID COMMON COUNCIL

ATTEST: _____
CITY CLERK

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2020.

MAYOR OF SAID CITY

(Seal of the City of
Rochester, Minnesota)

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



C3. Support Equitable And Inclusive Elections

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports expansive and accessible voting rights. Providing consistent statewide standards, allowing local decision-making control of certain aspects in city elections, and expanding voting rights are vital to improving access to voting and the efficiency of election administration.

Issue

Current law limits the ability for some residents of Golden Valley to use voting as their voice. Many Golden Valley residents are unable to vote due to:

- burdensome rules and inconsistent information about when voting rights are restored to those convicted of a felony
- restrictions prohibiting taxpaying, lawful, noncitizens from participating in selecting their local representatives
- state laws that do not allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections

Furthermore, local decision-making control to adopt **Ranked** Choice Voting (RCV) in city elections is currently only available to charter cities. RCV allows voters to rank candidates by preference, which leads to a more representative government because the winning candidate in an RCV election has the broadest support of all voters in the community.

Actions

The City of Golden Valley supports:

- restoring voting rights for those convicted of a felony who have served the entirety of their sentence and are not incarcerated
- giving cities the authority to consider and adopt regulations that would allow all lawful residents over age 18 to vote in city elections, regardless of US citizenship status
- creating consistency in absentee voter outreach opportunities, including legislation to allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections
- allowing statutory cities to consider and adopt RCV
- enacting state-level standards and equipment for RCV

General government

Elections

- Support improved efficiency of election administration through the use of e-poll books with electronic signature, automatic voter registration and improvements to absentee voting procedures and timelines.
- Expand absentee voter outreach opportunities.
- Support state-level standards and equipment for ranked choice voting.
- Prohibit intimidation of voters and election officials, and interference with election administration.
- Support efficient election administration by removing the statutory requirement for a witness when casting absentee ballots.

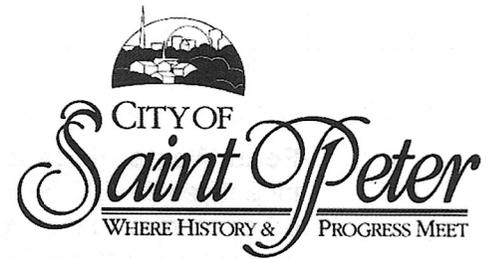
Operations and administration

- Clarify and modernize marriage license application and reporting statute language, make authority to accept remote marriage license applications permanent, and increase marriage license, motor vehicle, and driver's license filing fees to make deputy registrars' offices more self-sufficient.
- Make permanent the ability for people to remotely apply for marriage licenses.
- Standardize and clarify the process by which marriage license applicants with a felony conviction can change their names.
- Authorize the expansion of services at the North Minneapolis Service Center to include motor vehicle and DNR services.
- Support revenue sharing with the state's Driver and Vehicle Services for online transactions.
- Support efforts of others to obtain state funding for Public Land Survey System (PLSS) remonumentation and perpetuation.

- Increase bid limits for small business enterprise (SBE) contracts.
- Support changes in state law to eliminate the Municipal Building Commission.

Data practices

- Support efforts of others to amend statutory requirements and allow the Commissioner of Public Safety discretion in determining the penalty for accessing driver's license data without ill intent.
- Oppose changes to the Minnesota Data Practices Act that require audit logs or audit trails that impose an undue financial or resource management burden on local units of government.



City of Saint Peter Legislative Priorities

The non-prioritized list provided below outlines the areas of importance that the City Council has discussed and hopes to promote this Legislative year. If you have additional questions on any of these items, please feel free to contact us or City Administrator Prafke using the contact information below.

LOCAL ISSUES

- **Gorman Park and TREEmendous playground.** This playground, as you may recall, was built in the aftermath of the tornado over 20 years ago. The playground is at the end of its life cycle and a replacement playground with similar activities is estimated to cost over \$700,000. Full park redesign is estimated at \$2 million.
- **Fire Station.** Construction inflation has increased substantially and while we are within \$430,000 of the overall budget, we could use some financial assistance to close that gap. Many projects that received sales tax approval for a fixed amount that have come in over budget due to unprecedented inflation are now experiencing shortfalls from sales tax proceeds. Is there anything our legislators can do to aid in this issue?
- **Safe Routes to School.** This is another important grant funding program that the City has used very effectively here in Saint Peter. We have been awarded funds multiple times in the past, however, inflation in this recent cycle has impacted the scope of our latest project. It's our hope that additional funding can be provided to cover some of those inflationary costs and to continue to fund this grant program into the future.

STATEWIDE ISSUES

- **Local Government Aid.** Saint Peter continues to depend heavily on Local Government Aid (LGA) and the City Council hopes that with the current substantial surplus, the State could change the funding formula to provide additional dollars that would help cities catch up with the inflationary pressures we face.
- **Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP)** The Council believes in and has utilized this funding in the past. We believe that we have been excellent stewards of those State grant funds and think that additional funding in that grant category would not only help Saint Peter, but would also help our area and other local units of government.
- **Rank Choice Voting.** The Council believes that cities should have the ability to determine whether Rank Choice Voting works for their community. Allowing local autonomy in this area should be provided.
- **THC Regulation.** This is an issue that needs additional State regulation. While it is true the City can place its own rules in this area, the Council believes a mismatched patchwork of rules does not benefit the citizens of our state and more uniformity is needed. The City of Saint Peter currently does not regulate THC.

- **Food Waste Processing.** The Council believes that additional financial assistance and incentives should be given to promote Food Waste Processing. The expansion on these processors would have tremendous impact on the nature of solid waste in our community and bring substantial environmental advantages.
- **Day Care.** This is a great challenge now more than ever and additional financial assistance is needed for both State and County regulated day care businesses.
- **Lawns to Legumes Program through the BWSR.** This has been a value program in our community and has provided great education and opportunity for all residents to impact the environment in a positive way. More funding should be provided.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Councilmember Keri Johnson
 Email: Keri Johnson
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Councilmember Dustin J. Sharstrom
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Councilmember Bradley DeVos
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City Administrator Todd Prafke
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toddp@saintpetermn.gov

A Resolution Supporting Local Control for Local Elections

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under statutory rules for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options provision in the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend authority to adopt RCV to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision allows the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and unranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options provision contains no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities have adopted RCV -- including Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Bloomington and Minnetonka -- and more cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler and more efficient for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
 - Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
 - Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority outcomes in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. In a single-seat election, if no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots; in a multi-seat election, this process continues until all seats are filled with the threshold for winning depending on the number of seats;
 - Empowering voters with more choice;

- Promoting more inclusive, diverse and representative elections;
- Ending spoiler and wasted vote dynamics;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time; ●
- Improving the civility of campaigning; and
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled voters in Minnesota cities that use RCV consistently say that it is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options provision is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state;and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions should have the opportunity to determine for themselves if RCV should be used for their local elections; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

Signed by:

Mayor Márquez Simula
Council Member Rachel James

Columbia Heights, Minnesota
September 12, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 6482

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS AND RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ELECTIONS IN MINNESOTA

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an opportunity to improve elections at the state and federal level where it would promote more civil elections, ensure majority winners in partisan primaries and general elections, eliminate the spoiler problem, reduce extremism and mitigate legislative gridlock by incentivising compromise and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, RCV is used in elections in Maine and Alaska and in countries around the world, including Ireland, Scotland, and Australia; and

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled Minnesota voters who use RCV consistently say that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning;
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns; and

WHEREAS, all Minnesota townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, The Bemidji Charter Commission voted unanimously during a special meeting of March 16, 2023 to support the legislation regarding RCV and also voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council adopted a Resolution supporting the legislation regarding RCV.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support Ranked Choice Voting for all state and federal elections. We also support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Councilmember Eaton, and upon due second by Councilmember Thayer, was passed by the following vote:

Yeas: Eaton, Thayer, Johnson, Rivera
Nays: Prince, Peterson
Absent: None

Passed: March 20, 2023

ATTEST:



Michelle R. Miller, City Clerk

APPROVED:



Jorge S. Prince, Mayor

RESOLUTION NO. _____
IN SUPPORT OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

WHEREAS, the political divide in local communities, our state, and our country are significant and growing, and

WHEREAS, a greater political divide leads to lesser representation, greater animosity, instability in policy, and gridlock, and

WHEREAS, there are significant challenges facing our community and every community in the state and country, and

WHEREAS, the best and fairest way to face and overcome challenges is through as much consensus as possible, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting, by design, is a system that intentionally attempts to elect representatives through consensus, and

WHEREAS, the people of our democracy deserve better and more productive policies, and

WHEREAS, Minnesota State law currently, though perhaps not explicitly, prohibits the use of Ranked Choice Voting in local and state elections, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting is simple, easy, and efficient, and

WHEREAS, most opposition and misinformation about Ranked Choice Voting is driven by the political parties that are causing the political divide, and

WHEREAS, it is prudent to improve our election system to better represent the will of the people, and

WHEREAS, there are examples of Ranked Choice Voting and its success in the State of Minnesota as well as the country, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting provides a viable path for more options beyond the two major political parties, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting eliminates spoiler and wasted vote dynamics, and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting practically eliminates negative campaigning, and thereby reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns, and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions should at least have the opportunity to determine for themselves if Ranked Choice Voting should be used for their local elections,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they



**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-26
SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS**

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under statutory rules for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, statutory cities like Edina do not have the authority under state law to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) even if they think it would be appropriate; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options provision in the current RCV bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend authority to adopt RCV to local statutory jurisdictions like Edina; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision allows the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and unranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options provision provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections and the City of Edina has included support for the local option of using RCV as part of its legislative priorities; and

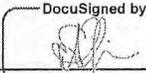
WHEREAS, the RCV local options provision contains no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

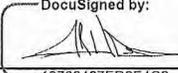
WHEREAS, a growing number of cities have adopted RCV -- including Minneapolis, St. Paul, St. Louis Park, Bloomington and Minnetonka -- and more cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current local elections; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions like Edina should have the opportunity to determine for themselves if RCV should be used for their local elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, The Edina City Council hereby declares its support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

Dated: April 6, 2021

Attest: _____
DocuSigned by:

200A28A8A80E466
Sharon Allison, City Clerk

_____ DocuSigned by:

19709467E0D9E4C2
James B. Hovland, Mayor

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN) SS
CITY OF EDINA)

CERTIFICATE OF CITY CLERK

I, the undersigned duly appointed and acting City Clerk for the City of Edina do hereby certify that the attached and foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Edina City Council at its Regular Meeting of April 6, 2021, and as recorded in the Minutes of said Regular Meeting.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said City this 6th day of April, 2021.



City Clerk

Local Options Bill Background Information

The Ranked Choice Voting Local Options bill sponsored by Representatives Steve Elkins (DFL-Bloomington) and Mike Freiberg (DFL-Golden Valley) had its first 2019 hearing on 2/20/2019 with the House Subcommittee on Elections. It was included and passed in the 2019 Government Operations omnibus bill. A Senate companion bill (SF 2424) was introduced during the 2019 session by Rep. Kent Eken, DFL-Twin Valley. The Minnesota Senate did not hear any election bills in 2019.

The local options bill would give any city, school district, etc., the right to use RCV if they wish, without having to ask the Legislature for permission. This bill would free statutory jurisdictions to use Ranked Choice Voting if they choose, and allow charter cities to approve RCV by ordinance. It also would establish guidelines to ensure that the next generation of voting equipment is RCV-capable. The bill would impose no mandates and has no effect whatsoever on communities uninterested in pursuing RCV.

In Minnesota, only 15% of our cities have the option to set their own rules for their local elections. The remaining 85% of cities, all townships, all school districts, all soil & water boards, and all counties except Ramsey, would have to ask the Minnesota Legislature for permission to use Ranked Choice Voting for their elections.

Community members have asked the Hopkins School Board to consider a resolution of support for this measure, as it aligns with our LAC platform plank on local control.

A Resolution Supporting Local Control for Local Elections

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill contains no mandates; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning; and
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled voters in the Twin Cities consistently say that RCV is simple to use;

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

[Approved by the Hopkins School Board on February 27, 2020](#)

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-11

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' RIGHT TO EXPLORE AND USE RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under statutory rule for the conduct of local elections, and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) consolidates two elections into one, so that in local nonpartisan elections, we can eliminate primaries that a shrinking number of voters participate in; and

WHEREAS, in cities with odd-year local elections, we can save the cost of primaries altogether; and

WHEREAS, RCV ensures a majority winner, working like a runoff (or like a primary-general election) but with a single election; and voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on; and in a single-seat election, if no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots; and

WHEREAS, RCV is successfully used in Minneapolis and St. Paul (and St. Louis Park in 2019), with more than 87 percent of voters saying that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a local options measure would contain no mandates, but simply provides us with the permission and tools we need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of Minnesota jurisdictions have indicated an interest in RCV; and

WHEREAS, for charter cities that may adopt RCV without legislative permission, they need the guidelines such a measure would provide to ensure consistent implementation across Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, RCV has demonstrated that it improves voter turnout and participation; and

WHEREAS, RCV makes voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time; and

WHEREAS, voters appreciate the civil and positive campaigning that RCV encourages; and

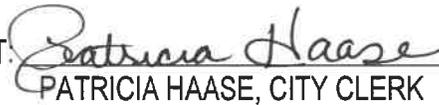
WHEREAS, having the local option is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing government barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option in state law to use Ranked Choice Voting if we decide it is right for our communities.

Adopted this 17th day of January 2019 by the City Council of the City of Melrose.



JOE FINKEN, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

PATRICIA HAASE, CITY CLERK



Murray County Board of Commissioners
2848 Broadway Ave. PO Box 57
Slayton, MN 56172

EXCERPT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MURRAY COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS
MURRAY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER – SLAYTON, MINNESOTA
September 20, 2022

Commissioner Malone offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-09-20-01

A Resolution Supporting

Local Control for Local Elections and Ranked Choice Voting for State and Federal Elections in
Minnesota

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is an opportunity to improve elections at the state and federal level where it would promote more civil elections, ensure majority winners in partisan primaries and general elections, eliminate the spoiler problem, reduce extremism and mitigate legislative gridlock by incentivizing compromise and problem solving; and

WHEREAS, RCV is used in elections in Maine and Alaska and in countries around the world, including Ireland, Scotland, and Australia; and

WHEREAS, 85 to 95 percent of polled Minnesota voters who use RCV consistently say that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
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- Improving the civility of campaigning;
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WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities for both even and odd-year local elections; and

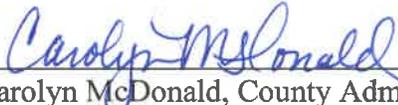
WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if they wish; and

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, Murray County supports Ranked Choice Voting for all state and federal elections. Murray County also supports removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

I, Carolyn McDonald County Administrator of the County of Murray, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing copy represents a true and correct copy of the original thereof on file in Murray County.

Dated: September 20, 2022



Carolyn McDonald, County Administrator

**Ranked Choice Voting Resolution in
Support of Local Control for Non-Partisan Races
Otter Tail County Resolution No. 2019 – 31
April 9, 2019**

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Wayne Johnson, who moved for Otter Tail County to recognize, support and adopt Ranked Choice Voting as a Local Option in ballot design:

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bills currently under consideration in the Minnesota Legislature (HF983/SF2424) aim to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bills provide for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bills contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of local jurisdictions are exploring RCV because it potentially provides a range of benefits over our current elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated, and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;
- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Potentially improving the civility of campaigning; and

WHEREAS, the potential to produce more civil, inclusive, participatory and representative outcomes has considerable merit; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was introduced by Commissioner Wayne Johnson, duly seconded by Commissioner John Lindquist, and, after discussion and commendation thereof and upon vote being taken thereon, the resolution was adopted unanimously.

Adopted at Fergus Falls, Minnesota, this 9th day of April 2019.

OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: 
Douglas Huebsch, Board Chair

Dated: 04/09/19

Attest: 
John Dinsmore, Board Clerk

Resolution No. 7351

A Resolution Supporting Local Control for Local Elections

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill contains no mandates; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

- Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
- Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
- Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
- Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;

- Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
- Improving the civility of campaigning; and
- Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

WHEREAS, more than 87 percent of polled voters in the Twin Cities say that RCV is simple to use;

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting if they decide it is right for their communities.

Adopted this 28th day of January, 2019.

Dean Hove, Council President

ATTEST:

Teri L. Swanson, MCMC

City Clerk
(seal)

Presented to the Mayor at p.m. on this day of January, 2019.

Approved this day of January, 2019.

Sean M. Dowse, Mayor

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under the statutory rule for the conduct of local elections and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, local charter (or home rule) cities that hold elections in even years along with state and federal elections must comply with restrictive state partisan ballot design requirements; and

WHEREAS, there are no consistent rules for the administration of Ranked Choice Voting in local jurisdictions in Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Local Options bill aims to remove regulatory barriers and extend the authority to adopt Ranked Choice Voting to local statutory jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill contains no mandates; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides for the flexibility to efficiently include ranked and non-ranked elections on a single ballot; and

WHEREAS, the RCV Local Options bill provides consistent standards for the administration of RCV in cities that choose to use it; and

WHEREAS, the League of Minnesota Cities supports the need for consistent RCV rules for use in Minnesota cities; and

WHEREAS, the RCV local options bill contain no mandates, but simply provides local jurisdictions with the permission and tools they need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of cities are exploring RCV because it provides a number of benefits over current expensive and low-participation local elections, including:

1. Making voting simpler for voters by eliminating the need for local nonpartisan primaries and consolidating two elections into one;
2. Saving the cost of primaries altogether in cities with odd-year local elections;
3. Demonstrably increasing voter participation;
4. Ensuring majority winners in a single election. Voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots;

5. Making voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time;
6. Improving the civility of campaigning; and
7. Reducing the influence of outside money in campaigns.

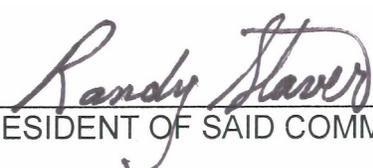
WHEREAS, more than 87 percent of polled voters in the Twin Cities say that RCV is simple to use;

WHEREAS, the Local Options measure is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

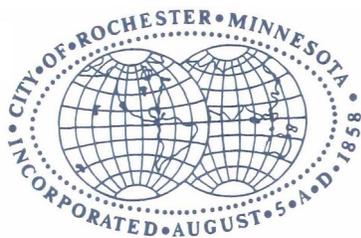
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL, we support removing regulatory barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option to use Ranked Choice Voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this legislation be added as a priority in the Rochester Legislative Agenda until passed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA, THIS 2nd DAY OF March, 2020.

ATTEST:  CITY CLERK

PRESIDENT OF SAID COMMON COUNCIL

APPROVED THIS 4th DAY OF March, 2020.




MAYOR OF SAID CITY