

**Good Morning, Chair Klevorn and Members** of the State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee. My name is Karin Miller. I am an involved citizen and election judge from Dakota County. Thank you for your time to consider some questions regarding Rank Choice Voting.

**Why are we considering changing our “One Person, One Vote” system to one that is more confusing, diminishes voter confidence, and decreases turnout?** The instructions for filling out a rank choice ballot are difficult to understand, which leads to a higher level of error rates. The process depends on machines programmed with algorithms to reallocate votes, which leads to a higher degree of irregularities and voter mistrust.

All of these factors leads to lower voter turnout, which has been the case in Minneapolis and St. Paul, both of which have used rank choice voting in their local elections for more than a decade. *BOTH* lag behind other major metropolitan cities in voter turnout.<sup>1</sup>

**Why are we considering changing our “One Person, One Vote” system to one that actually excludes votes?** With rank choice voting, rather than counting every vote, some voters’ ballots are exhausted and their voice is not expressed in the final result.

For example, in a San Francisco 2010 Board of Supervisors general election, after 20 rounds of tabulations, more votes were thrown out than were counted toward the final result!

**Why are we considering a system which often takes the victory from the candidate who initially earns the greatest plurality of votes, and then awards it to a candidate who was actually less favored by the people?**

One example is the 2018 2nd Congressional District election in Maine. The Republican outperformed the Democrat in the first round; yet 8,000 votes were thrown out and Democrat declared the winner.<sup>2</sup>

Another example of this is the Alaska 2022 special election in which the Democrat won, despite the fact that over 60% of the voters voted Republican in the first round, and more than 11,000 votes were eliminated.<sup>2</sup>

**How can this process possibly be considered equitable or fair?**

With all of the controversy and mistrust surrounding election integrity, the last thing we need is to move from a tried and true “One Person, One Vote” system to one that will be more confusing, less efficient, disenfranchise voters and create manipulated, false majorities.

**RCV is NOT a change Minnesota cannot afford to make. I urge you to vote NO to HF 3276.**