



April 8, 2024

Re: local government support for A4 amendment and local option bill

Chair Klevorn and Members of the House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties and League of Minnesota Cities, we write to support HF 3276 as amended with the A4 author's amendment. This bill would provide local governments the ability to consider and ultimately adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) after garnering community input/support and authorizing it under certain conditions.

AMC and LMC are grateful to Rep. Frazier and advocates for their willingness to listen to local concerns about moving forward on a proposal without proper considerations for robust procedures are put in place that include reviewal and input from local election administrators and the Secretary of State's Office. We are equally grateful for author and advocate considerations of local government conciliation language surrounding the authorization of RCV in jurisdictions that do not administer their own elections. The language included in the author's A4 amendment today is the result of city and county conversations on how best to honor local government control while also reflect the increased administrative burdens of RCV implementation, respect of local capacity, and good practice of intergovernmental communication and coordination. We are thankful for the Chair's willingness to adopt this into his bill.

In closing, we understand that RCV remains an issue that elicits strong feedback from different perspectives. As a core principle, however, AMC and LMC strongly support locally elected officials having the ability to decide what works best for their residents and voters. We believe HF 3276 (as amended) honors this principle and does so in a thoughtful way to ensure that state standards will be in place to ensure uniformity, equity of implementation, and ultimately, successful execution.

Sincerely,

Matt Hilgart, Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)
Brooke Brodson, League of Minnesota Cities (LMC)