

Sara Bertschinger  
Pine Island writing in Opposition to HF3276

To the Chair and Committee,

I am deeply concerned over the purposed system of Ranked Choice Voting. This has been trialed a few places around the country. Many of those same cities and states have since reversed their promotion of the RCV system. I keep hearing multiple complaints of dissatisfaction with this system. A recent poll concluded that while Democrats slightly favored RCV; Republicans and Independents both opposed this voting method.

The following are a few of concerns I have with RCV:

- 1- a complicated and confusing system that reduce voter turnout and participation.
- 2- RCV is prone to ballot errors and other technical issues that will undermine the integrity of our electoral system.
- 3- This method is costly and time-consuming process for both our local and state government. This will take resources away from key areas of need such as infrastructure, health, and education.
- 4- RCV is an instant run off voting system; meaning multiple elections all at one time! this eliminates the One person One vote method!
- 5- Disfranchises minor parties and solidifies a 2-party system
- 6- redistribution of votes creates mistrust in the system
- 7- Ballot exhaustion! As the rounds continue some people will have their votes discarded and will Not get a voice or a vote! This is NOT OK!!! This disfranchises voters and is NOT inclusive. Ballot exhaustion also makes a recount and audit of the election almost impossible!
- 8- RCV system requires more transferring, handling, adjudication and chain-of-custody issues with ballots. RCV does not induce confidence and opens up for more potential to fraud, manipulation and error.
- 9- This system is very time consuming; (sometimes 3 weeks or more!) This will delay election results and create voter anxiety, frustration, and mistrust.

All of this results in further mistrust of the system and results. We have seen a growing rise in mistrust, dissatisfaction and apathy in our election process. Is this really the time to promote such a system? Minnesotans deserve Free, Fair, and transparent Elections. Minnesotans deserve a system that makes it easy to vote and hard to cheat and so safe that all sides trust the results!

RCV does not deliver! For these reasons, I urge you to oppose any proposals for Ranked Choice Voting in Minnesota. I appreciate the desire to improve our electoral system; RCV, however, is not the right solution for our state. Don't Rank MN!

Thank you for your time,  
Sara Bertschinger