



April 8, 2024

Chair & Representative Ginny Klevorn
House State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee
c/o Amanda Rudolph, Committee Administrator
Room 10, Minnesota State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Testimony in Support of HF 3276

Dear Chair Klevorn and Members of the State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. We support creation of governmental systems that are representative, accountable, and responsive to voters, and where voters can see themselves reflected in their local governments.

LWV Minnesota supports HF 3276, Ranked Choice Voting for Local Offices:

The League of Women Voters supports policies that promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage the adoption of electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and are expressive of voter choices. Local government is frequently a place where electoral innovation takes place that can inform decisions at a broader level about the conduct of elections. We specifically support providing local governments the option to adopt ranked choice voting for use in local elections for single seat contests.

While current state law does not prohibit the use of ranked choice voting in local elections, ranked choice voting is not specifically supported in Minnesota statutes for conduct of elections. This significantly limits the number of local governments that could adopt ranked choice voting, and results in a lack of consistent standards for the conduct of elections. Providing definitions and requirements for the use of ranked choice voting within Minnesota Statute will provide a framework for the consistent performance of ranked choice voting by those local governments choosing to implement it. Including the conduct of ranked choice voting in statute will allow most local governments to implement ranked choice voting if they choose, and will provide confidence to both voters and candidates in the conduct and results of their elections involving ranked choice voting.

HF 3276 provides the framework for local governments to choose the electoral process that works best for them to assure proportional representation in their community, and provides requirements and support to do this in a consistent, efficient manner. Experience both within Minnesota and nationally has shown that ranked choice voting can be implemented effectively and be valuable to assuring election results that reflect the preferences of voters.

LWV Minnesota urges you to vote YES on HF 3276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Huffman", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul Huffman, Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator
phuffman@lwvmn.org - 546 Rice Street, #200, St. Paul, MN 55103