



**Agenda  
Minnetonka City Council  
Study Session  
Monday, Aug. 15, 2022  
6:30 p.m.  
Minnehaha Room**

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- |    |                                    |                |
|----|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. | Call to Order                      | 6:30 p.m.      |
| 2. | Introductions/Roll Call            | 6:30-6:35 p.m. |
| 3. | Recap of Ranked Choice Voting      | 6:35-7:05 p.m. |
| 4. | Campaign Signs                     | 7:05-7:20 p.m. |
|    |                                    | Break          |
| 5. | 2023 Preliminary Budget Review     | 7:30-9:00 p.m. |
| 6. | Sep. 19, 2022 Study Session Topics | 9:00-9:10 p.m. |
| 7. | Adjournment                        | 9:10 p.m.      |

The purpose of a study session is to allow the city council to discuss matters informally and in greater detail than permitted at formal council meetings. While all meetings of the council are open to the public, study session discussions are generally limited to the council, staff and consultants.



**Study Session Agenda Item #3  
Meeting of Aug. 15, 2022**

**Title:** **Recap of Ranked Choice Voting**

**Report From:** Becky Koosman, City Clerk  
Moranda Dammann, Acting Assistant City Manager

**Submitted through:** Mike Funk, City Manager

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**Action Requested:** Informational

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**Summary Statement**

The City of Minnetonka adopted ranked-choice voting following the 2020 election when a majority of Minnetonka residents voted to adopt the use of ranked-choice voting for city elections (mayor and city council). The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a recap of the November 2021 election using ranked-choice voting.

**Strategic Profile Relatability**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Strength & Operational Excellence | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe & Healthy Community           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability & Natural Resources                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Livable & Well-Planned Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure & Asset Management                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Inclusiveness            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> N/A  |   |

Statement: Ensuring the voting process goes smoothly, honestly and lawfully is in alignment with Financial Strength & Operational excellence.

**Background**

On Nov. 3, 2020, the city held a special municipal election in order to submit to the voters a ballot question on whether to amend the city charter to provide for ranked choice voting. The election was the culmination of a study and review process that began in September 2019. The voters approved the amendment by a total of 54.71 percent (18,475 votes) in favor and 45.29 percent (15,293 votes) opposed.

With the approval of the charter amendment, city staff began planning for the implementation of using ranked-choice voting. The implementation consisted of three components: (1) adoption of the ordinance, which was introduced on [Feb. 22, 2021](#), and adopted on [March 8, 2021](#). (2) development of voter education plan, reviewed by the council on [Jan. 25, 2021](#). (3) staffing and duty assignment change as approved and reflected in the 2021 budget.

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide a recap of the Nov. 2021 election using ranked-choice voting including preparation, costs, Election Day, post-election work and lessons learned all of which are addressed in this report. The next election using ranked choice voting will be held on Nov. 7, 2023.

**Preparation and costs**

The city's elections and communications team collaborated to develop a robust voter education campaign focused on reaching all residents and preferred methods of communication. The campaign details can be found attached to this document, however, any item within the campaign specifically in relation to RCV with associated costs are listed below.

<b>2021 Communications/Education Campaign Timeline with costs</b>		
<b>Month</b>	<b>Task completed</b>	<b>Cost</b>
April		
	Swag for information booths	\$416.57
May		
	Held internal Mock election with Hennepin County on May 20, 2022	Ballot cost of \$39
June		
	Created two educational videos	\$7,200
	Mock election ballots	\$97.50
	Signage for booths	\$233.12
	Beverages for mock elections	\$123.55
	Ice and freeze pops for booths	\$43.92
Sept.		
	Brochure mailed directly to each resident in Minnetonka	\$12,301.51
Oct.		
	"How to vote" mailer mailed directly to each resident in Minnetonka	\$3,554.77
	<b>Total RCV supply-specific expenses</b>	<b>\$24,009.94</b>

Staff required all election judges to attend a ranked-choice choice voting training. Additionally in 2021, Hennepin County launched the use of a new Assistive Voting Device called the Omni Ballot. Staff also required a separate training for this new device, that training class is also included in the below training costs. These were both paid trainings.

An all-encompassing total of 2021 election costs are listed below. A comparison to two previous odd-year municipal elections is listed for reference. A cost difference from 2019 to 2021 was a total of \$18,996.27. As a reminder, staff anticipated and was approved a first-year additional cost of \$25,000 for RCV-specific expenses.

<b>Additional Costs:</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>
Training costs	\$3,340	\$5,700	\$13,740
Election Day judge pay	\$24,404.25	\$31,369.13	\$32,640
Election supply costs	\$10,537.05	\$33,950.29	\$43,633.69
Total	<b>\$ 40,298.30</b>	<b>\$ 73,038.42</b>	<b>\$ 92,034.69</b>

In preparation for 2023, staff is asking for \$40,000 in election supplies and \$48,000 in election judge salaries. Staff anticipates a reduced need in election supplies due reusing the educational videos created in 2021 and plans to only send one brochure. However, ballot costs have increased to \$0.25 a ballot, therefore increasing the overall cost.

Additionally, a full-time employee was approved and hired in 2021.

### **Election Day and tabulation**

A municipal general election was held on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021, for the offices of Mayor, Council Member At Large Seat A and Council Member At Large Seat B. The election had a voter turnout of 28.5% with 11,350 total persons voting. Below is a statics comparison that was shared during the [Nov. 8, 2021](#), regular city council meeting.

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2017</b>
Voter turnout	28.5%	15.12%	20.5%
Absentee Ballots Accepted	2,795	712	1,004
Election Day	8,555	4,986	6,537
Total number of persons voting	11,350	5,698	7,541
Number of Registered voters at 7 a.m.	39,613	37,552	36,599
Total number of Election Day registrations	262	114	186

In non-RCV elections, results are available on the Office of Secretary of State's website on the night of the election. Although results are posted the night of the election, the OSS Election night results do not include the total ballots cast as it excludes overvotes and undervotes. To obtain the maximum possible threshold, the formula requires  $((\text{Total ballots cast that include votes, undervotes, skipped rankings, and overvotes for the office}) / (\text{Seats to be elected} + 1)) + 1$ . Election night and canvassed results were different as those ballots were added into the equation.

Staff received the data needed from Hennepin County the day after the election mid-morning and began round-by-round tabulation. Only one candidate race required this so, staff was able to have results by 2 p.m. that day. It was posted on the website, throughout social media and through email delivery.

The Minnetonka City Council canvassed these results on Nov. 8, 2021. At this same meeting, council scheduled the post-election review to be held on Nov. 10, 2021, at 9 a.m. in the Minnetonka Council Chambers with the selected office and precincts. The post-election review consisted of using the actual ballots cast in the two precincts selected. Judges counted and recorded the ballots cast. The review showed the ballot counts were 100% accurate on Election Day.

### **Post-Election**

Following the election and canvassing, a variety of surveys were conducted to hear from our residents and voters, as well as our election judges.

A survey was sent directly to all lead judges, assistant lead judges and ward captains. These results can be found attached to this document.

In partnership with the communications division, a survey was conducted on Minnetonka matters. This survey was open from Jan. 24, 2022 to Feb. 4, 2022 and received 688 responses. Attached are the survey results. Staff has and will continue to review these results as preparation begins for 2023.

Lastly, a question was asked during the 2022 community survey. The question and results were:

Question 186.

What is your opinion of the ranked-choice voting system?

- A) I prefer ranked choice voting to traditional voting in a primary or general election;
- B) I prefer the traditional voting system;
- C) It doesn't matter to me which system is used

Results:

Statement A: 22%  
Statement B: 48%  
Statement C: 28%  
Don't Know: 0%  
Refused: 2%

### **Lessons learned**

As 2021 was the first time the city of Minnetonka used ranked-choice voting, staff documented along the way opportunities for improvement for the 2023 election. A few notable items include providing a better understanding of the results threshold (50+1) vs. majority, a script for ballot judges and the estimated time for tabulating results to set a more accurate day and time in which results will be produced.

Staff also learned that residents prefer to see the election results in a variety of ways. Graphs, step-by-step written explanations and interactive round-by-round charts. Staff was not prepared for this wide variety of displays, however were quickly able to provide the data in the requested platforms. This is something staff will have ready to deploy following tabulation moving forward.

Additionally, it was requested by candidates in 2021 to provide more ranked choice voting training for candidates so they feel equipped to answer questions and explain the process while campaigning and additionally provide candidates with a fact sheet to share with voters.

Ranked-choice voting is a shift in the voting process and the way staff administrators the election. Staff learned quickly that this was high-level work and the two senior members would be taking the lead. However, in order for them to take on this additional workload the third and added employee would handle the non-RCV election work and provide the support for the outreach opportunities.

The city of Minnetonka conducts its elections with the highest integrity and is committed to running smooth and honest elections.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Does the city council have any feedback for staff?



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**SUBJECT:** 2021 Communications/Education Campaign Timeline and Election Dates

### 2021 Communications/Education Campaign Timeline

- **February/March**
  - Revamped ranked choice voting page on website to focus on voter education, included a timeline, and was updated throughout the year.
  - Began working on print materials (brochure, postcard), video, etc.
- **April 25** – May Memo delivered
  - Included article about candidate filing moving later due to RCV, include basic RCV voter education
  - Ordered swag
  - Created frequently asked questions
- **May 25** – June Memo delivered
  - Included an article encouraging people to visit the RCV booth at Farmers Market and Summerfest
  - Held internal Mock election with Hennepin County on May 20, 2021
- **Early June** – Developed materials for community engagement (Farmers Market, Summerfest, etc.) including:
  - Informational brochure
  - Created two educational video(s)
  - Mock election ballots
  - Signage for booths
  - Beverages for rankings
- **July/August – Candidate filing**
  - Included articles in July and August Memo about candidate filing and RCV education
  - Digital communications about filing with RCV education reminders
  - Held Mock elections (July 13, Aug. 17)
  - Held an RCV education for senior services
  - Launched RCV videos
  - Held candidate Information Session w/ City Manager Geralyn Barone (Aug. 11)
- **Aug. 25** – September Memo delivered
  - Included article about absentee voting and RCV education

- **Early September**
  - Direct mail to each resident with RCV voter education and sample ballot
  - Digital billboards were displayed throughout Minnetonka
  - Posters/flyers were delivered apartments, businesses and city facilities
- **Mid-September**
  - Absentee voting began
  - Digital communications about absentee voting and RCV voter education
- **Sept. 25** – October Memo delivered
  - Included an article with absentee voting and RCV reminders
  - Mailed out polling place changes
- **October** – Digital communications and reminders
  - Additional “how to vote” mailer sent to each resident
- **October 25** – November Memo delivered
  - Included an article with Election Day details and RCV education
  - Open house RCV booth
- **Nov. 2** – Election Day
  - Digital Communications – Where/how to vote on Election Day and RCV education
- **Post-Election Day**
  - Survey on Minnetonka matters
  - Survey to Minnetonka election judges

#### 2021 Election Dates

- **July 27** Candidate filing opened
- **Aug. 10** Candidate filing closed at 5 p.m.
- **Aug. 11** Candidate information session at 3 p.m.
- **Aug. 12** Candidate withdrawal deadline at 5 p.m.
- **Sept. 17** Absentee voting began
- **Oct. 26** Direct balloting period began
- **Oct. 30** Open Saturday for absentee voting from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- **Nov. 2** General Election Day
- **Nov. 8** Canvass Election results at regular City Council Meeting
- **Nov. 10** Post-election review

**Number of Responses : 38**

**1. The depth and scope of the content covered in the Ranked Choice Voting Training was sufficient for introducing election judges to RCV and preparing them to assist/instruct voters on Election Day.**

Strongly Agree	17
Agree	18
Neutral	1
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	0

**2. The RCV Talking Points document was helpful on Election Day.**

Strongly Agree	14
Agree	16
Neutral	7
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0

**3. Was using the laminated Demonstration Ballot better or worse than using the conventional Demonstration Pads to instruct voters on how to mark the ballot?**

Better	24
About the Same	10
Worse	0
Unsure	4

**4. Based on my own observation and accounts from election judges working at my polling place, voters had questions about RCV:**

Never	0
Rarely	5
Occasionally	21
Frequently	7
Unsure	0
Other	5

**5. Based on my own observation and accounts from the election judges working at my polling place, voters had questions regarding:**

Why we are using RCV	14
How votes are counted	20
How to mark the ballot	25
Ranking 3 candidates	35
Ranking the same candidate	33
When are we using RCV	6
Other	3



**6. The election judges at my polling place refrained from making subjective comments (either positive or negative) about RCV.**

True	37
False	1

**7. There were voters at my polling place who made subjective comments (either positive or negative) about RCV.**

True	28
False	10

**8. I think more information should be included in Ranked Choice Voting Training regarding:**

How to mark the ballot	7
Ballot marking errors	9
How votes are counted	19
Other	8

**9. Do you think it would be helpful to provide a script to the Demonstration Judge to follow/refer to when instructing voters?**

Yes	25
No	13

**10. Overall, I think Minnetonka's first time using Ranked Choice Voting in the 2021 Municipal General Election went well.**

Strongly Agree	17
Agree	14
Neutral	6
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0

# Voter Experience Survey

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

24 January 2022 - 04 February 2022

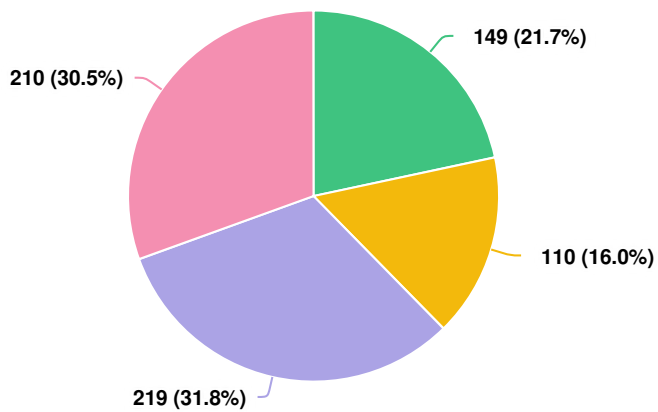
### **PROJECT NAME:**

Minnetonka Voter Survey



SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** Which Minnetonka Ward do you reside in? Use the Secretary of State's pollfinder to identify your ward.

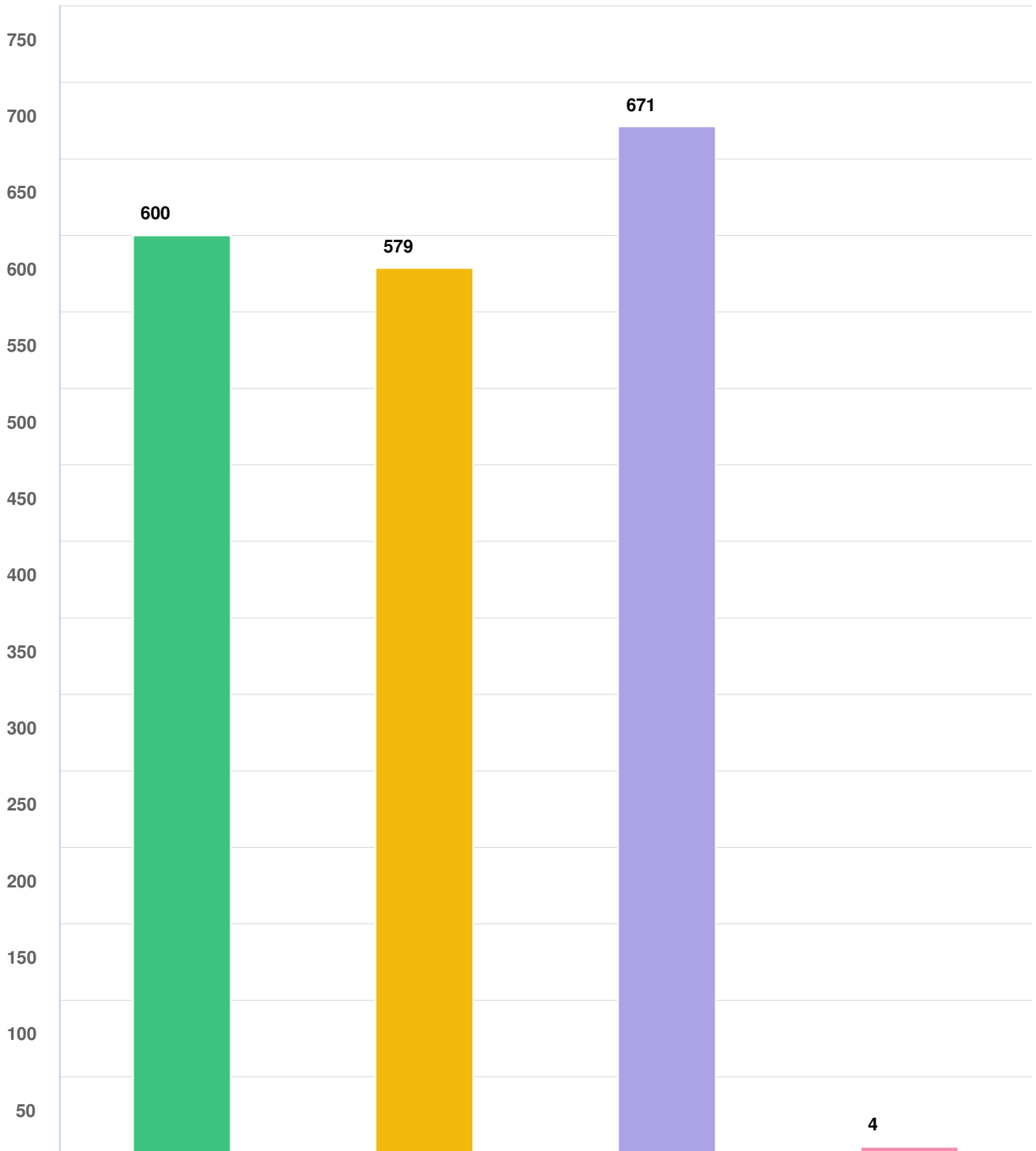


**Question options**

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4

Mandatory Question (688 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q2** Which elections do you typically vote in?Select all that apply.

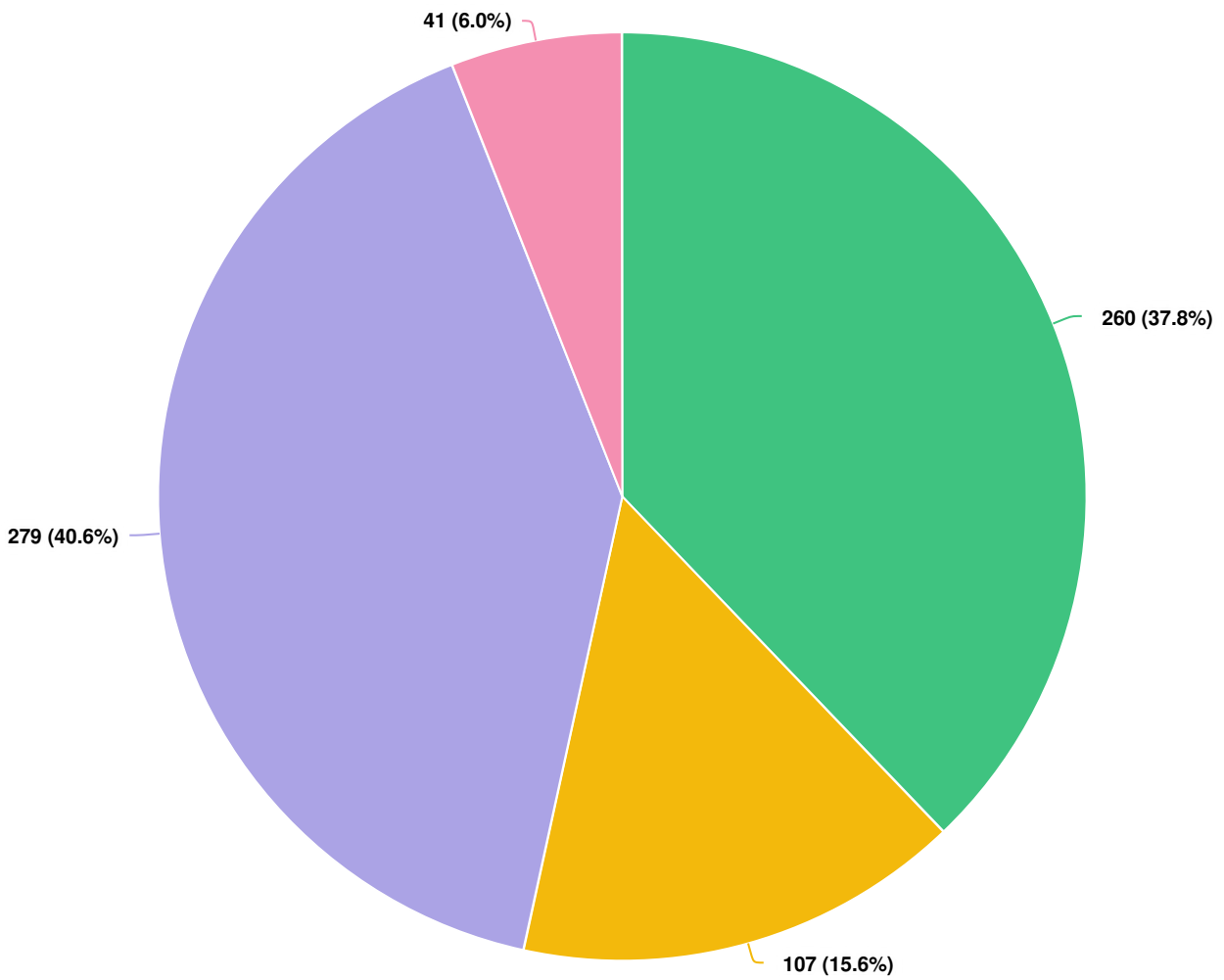


**Question options**

- Municipal/School District Elections
- State Primary Elections
- State General Elections
- I do not typically vote

Optional question (686 response(s), 2 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q3** What is your preferred method of voting?

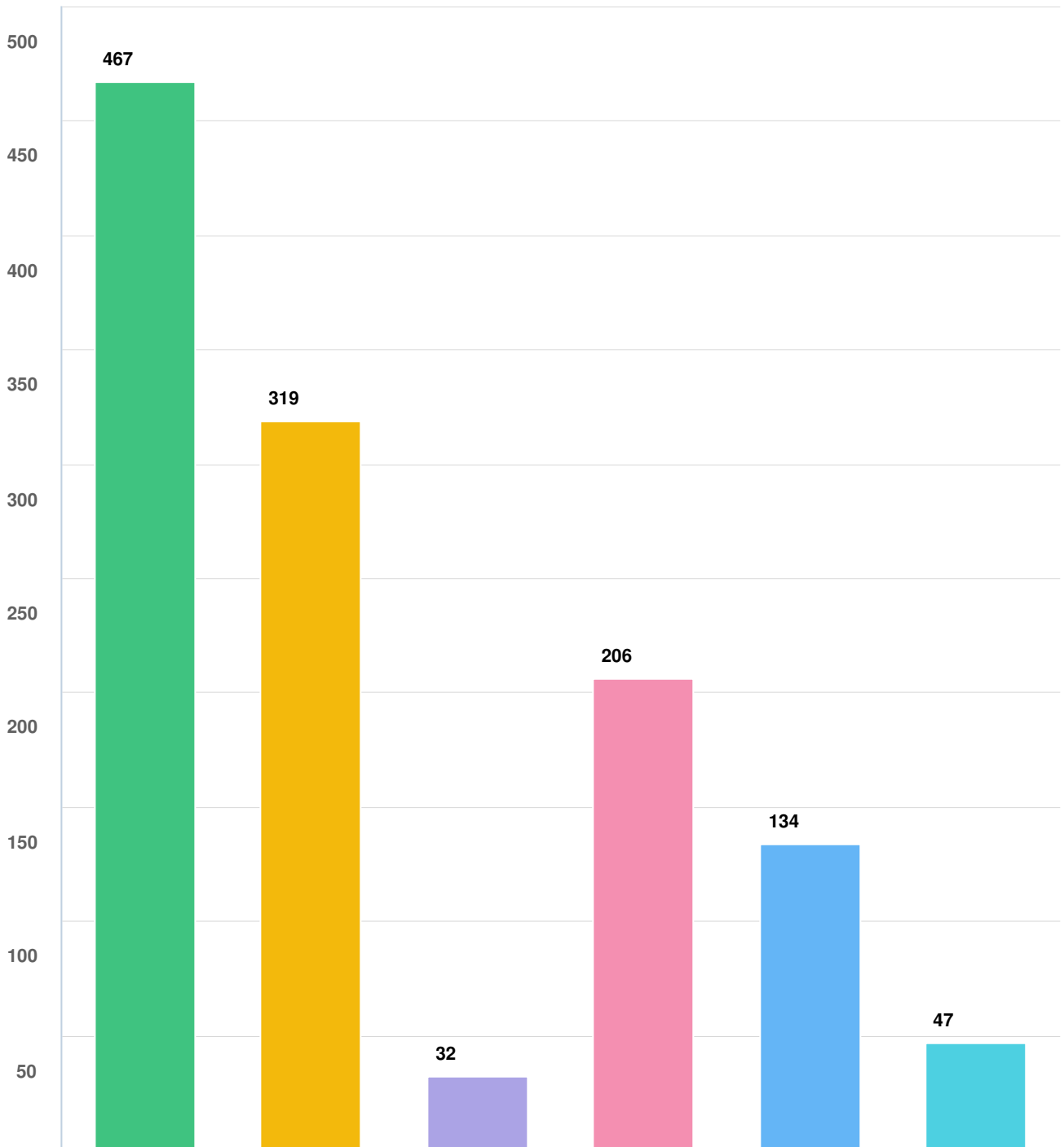


**Question options**

- In-person before Election Day (early voting)
- By mail
- On Election Day at my polling place
- No preference

*Optional question (687 response(s), 1 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q4** Which of the following factors affect what method of voting you use in an election? Select all that apply.

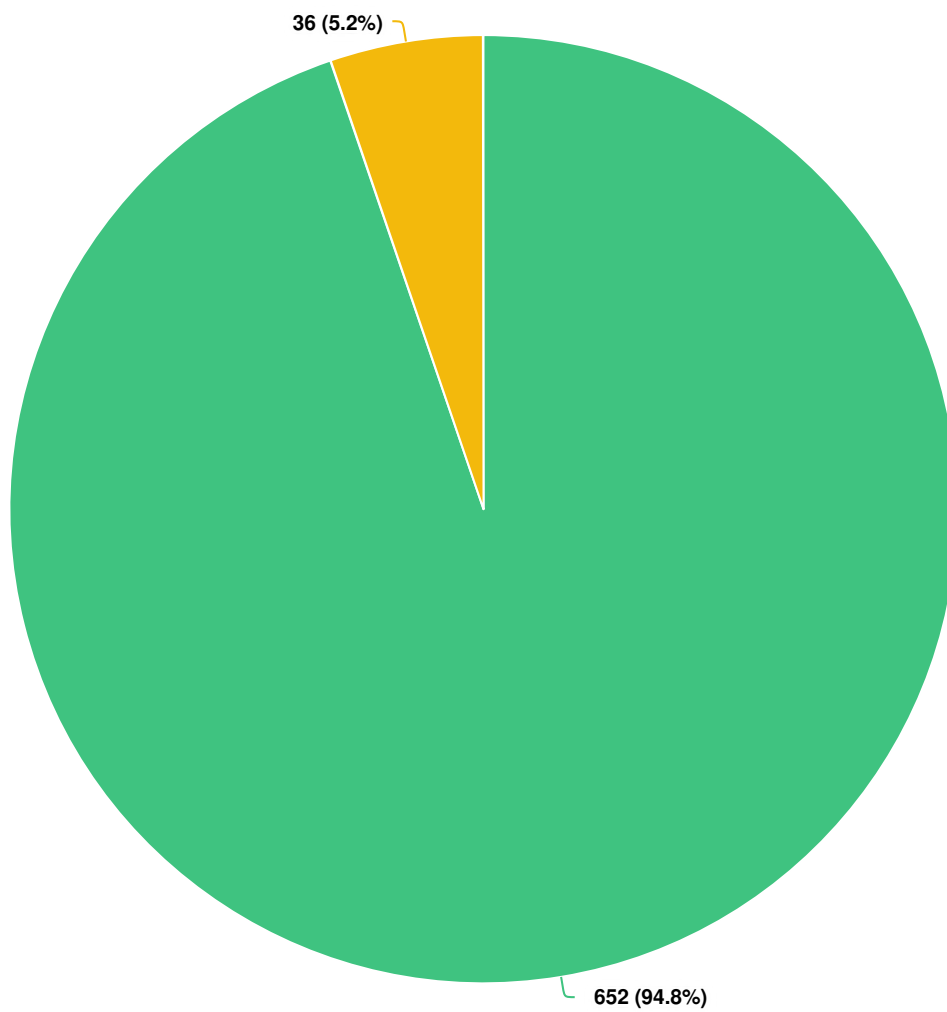


**Question options**

- Convenience
- Health and safety
- Transportation
- Familiarity with particular voting process
- Distrust of a particular voting process
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (682 response(s), 6 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q5** Did you vote in the Nov. 2, 2021, General Election?



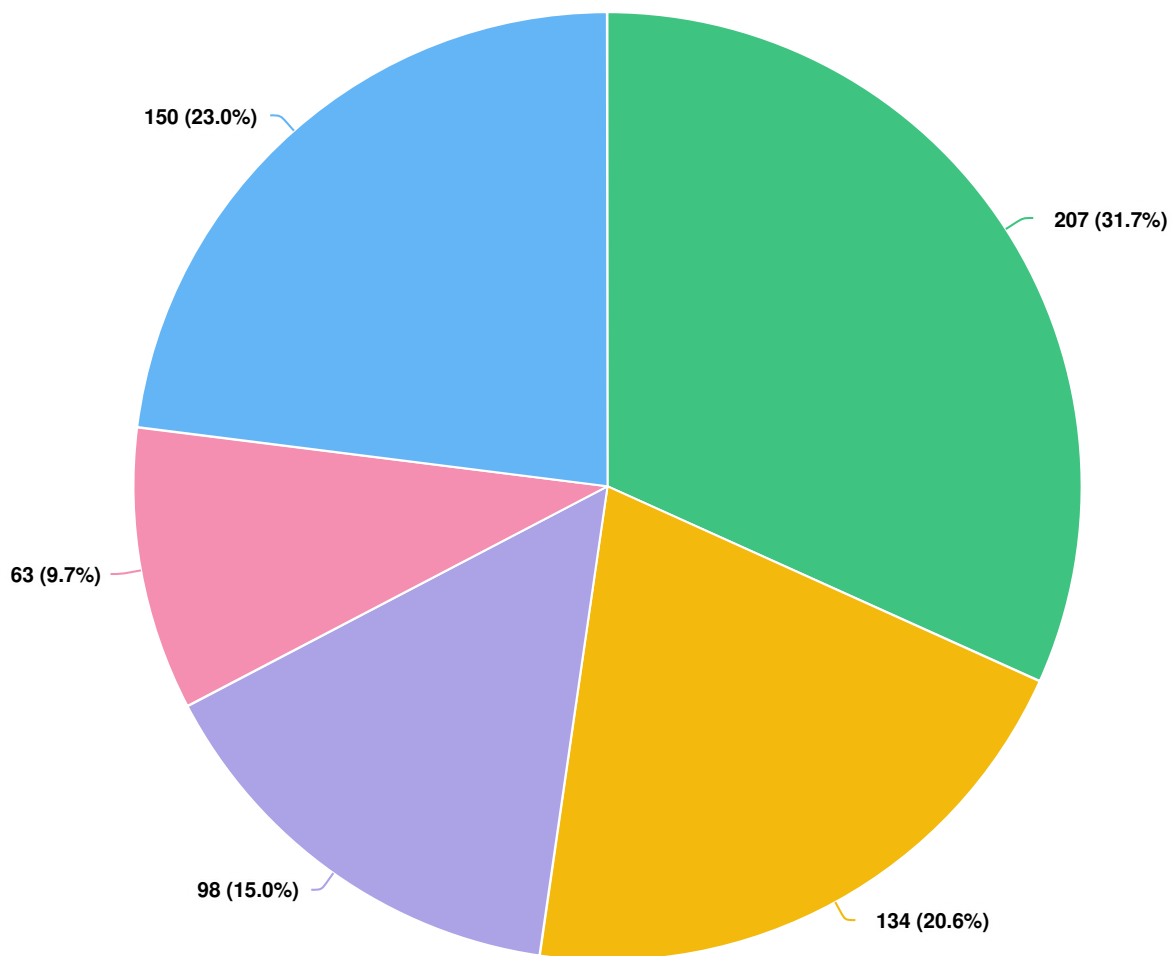
**Question options**

- Yes
- No

Mandatory Question (688 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question



**Q6** The 2021 municipal election was the first time the City of Minnetonka used the ranked choice voting process. How would you rate your overall experience using ranked choice voting to elect the Mayor and the At-Large Councilmembers in the Nov. 2 elect...

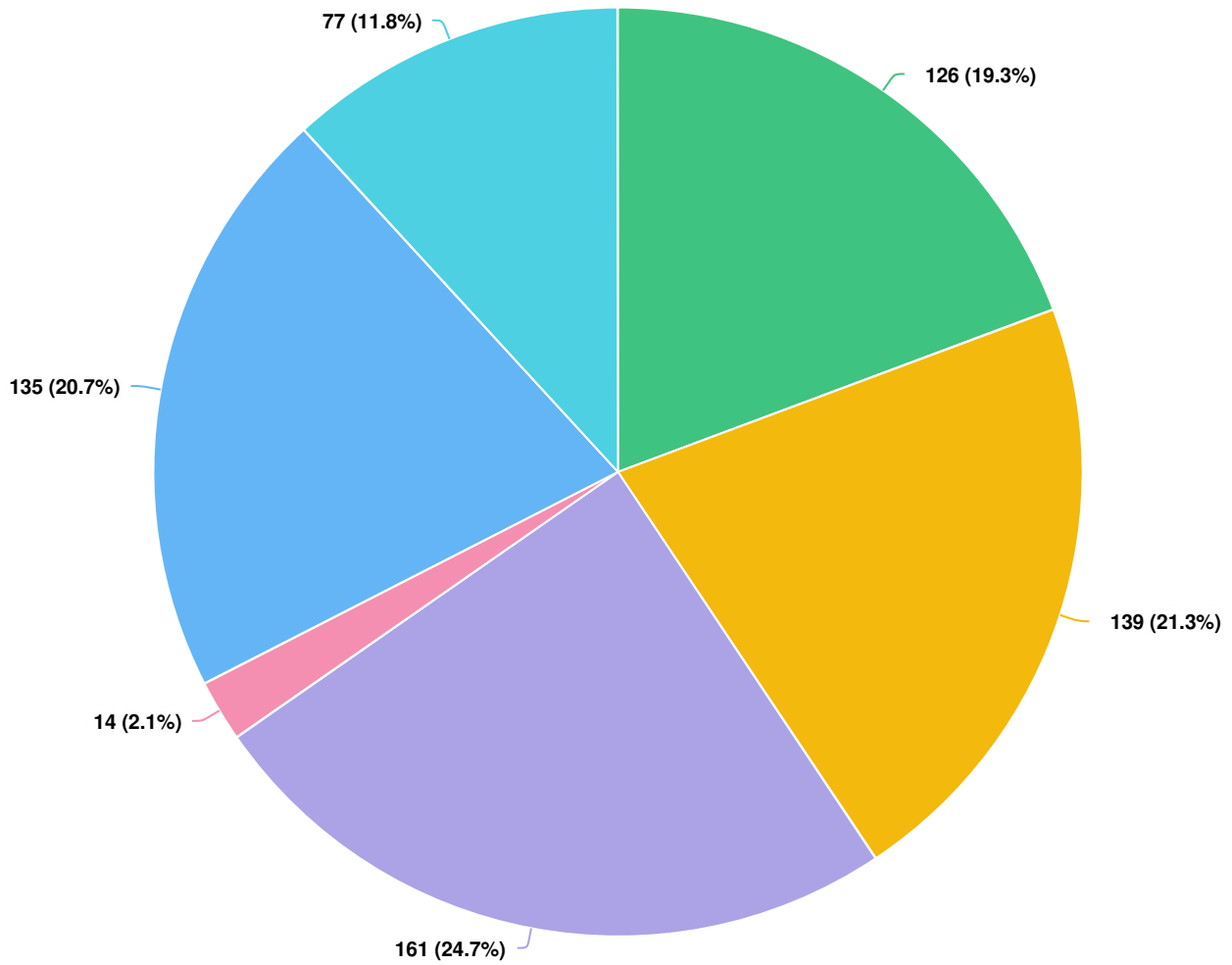


**Question options**

- Excellent
- Good
- Neutral
- Poor
- Very Poor

Mandatory Question (652 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q7** When preparing to vote in the Nov. 2 election, what was your primary source of information about ranked choice voting?

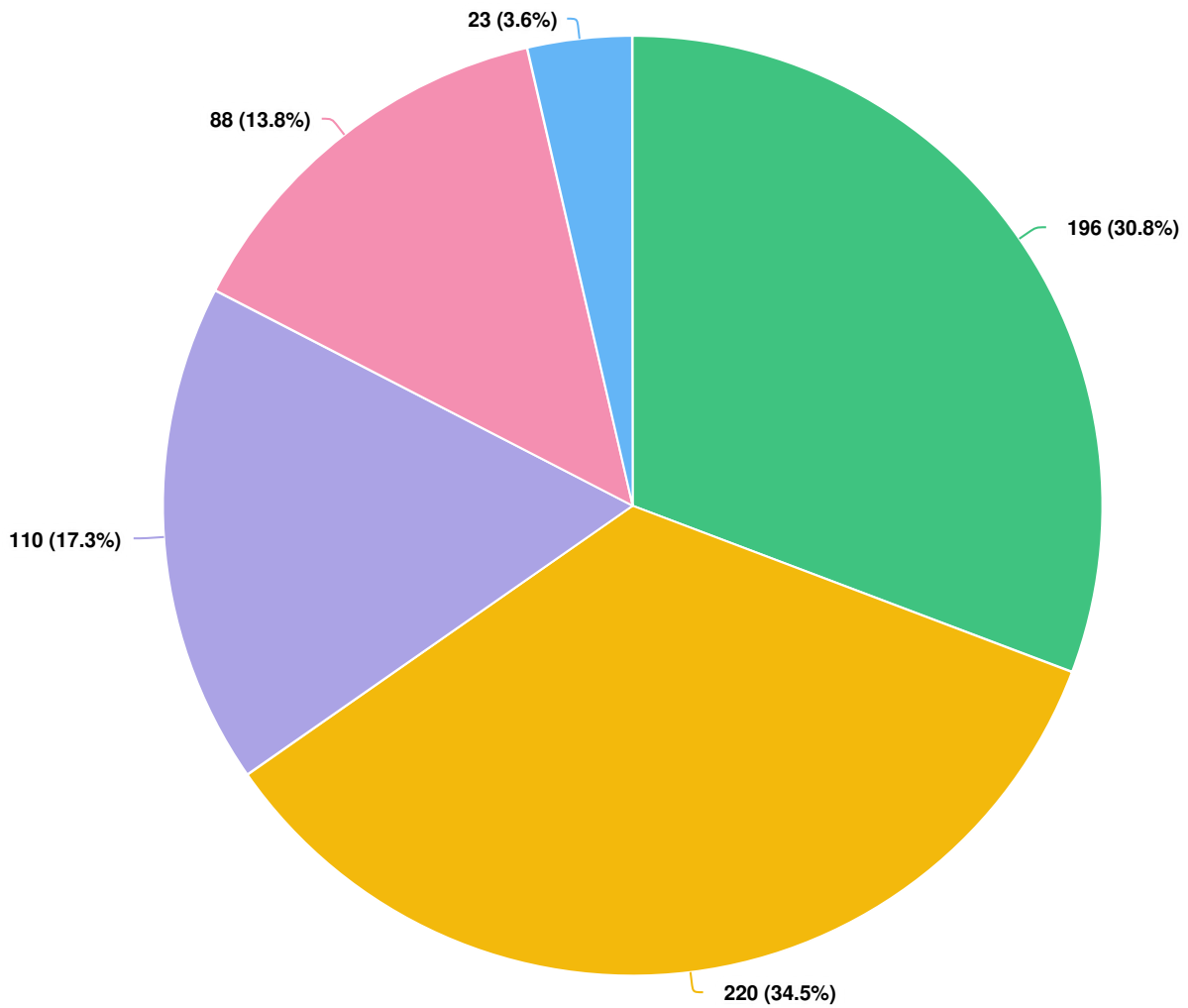


**Question options**

- City of Minnetonka website
- Minnetonka Memo
- Mailings sent by the City of Minnetonka
- City elections staff
- Other news sources
- Other (please specify)

Mandatory Question (652 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q8** The resources and information provided by the City of Minnetonka were effective in informing me about ranked choice voting.

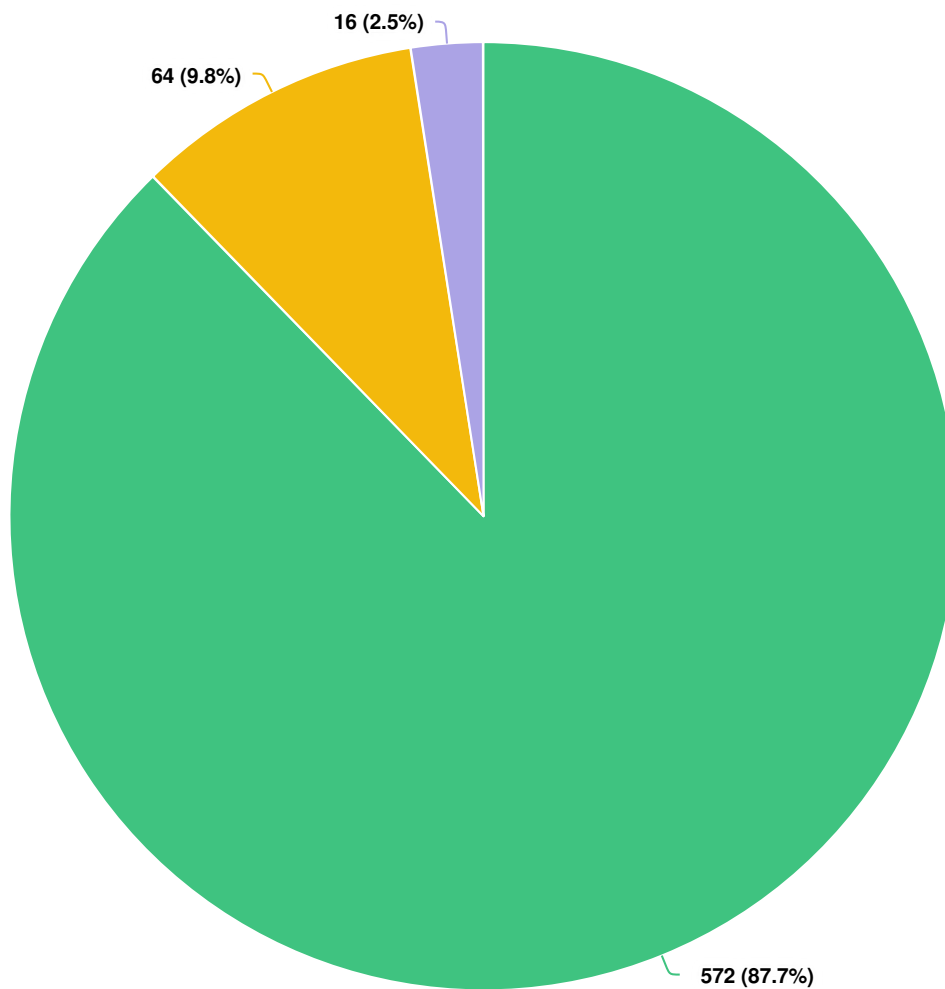


**Question options**

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Optional question (637 response(s), 51 skipped)  
Question type: Dropdown Question

**Q9** Did you feel prepared to mark and cast your ballot when you voted – whether that was early in-person, by mail or at your polling place on Election Day?

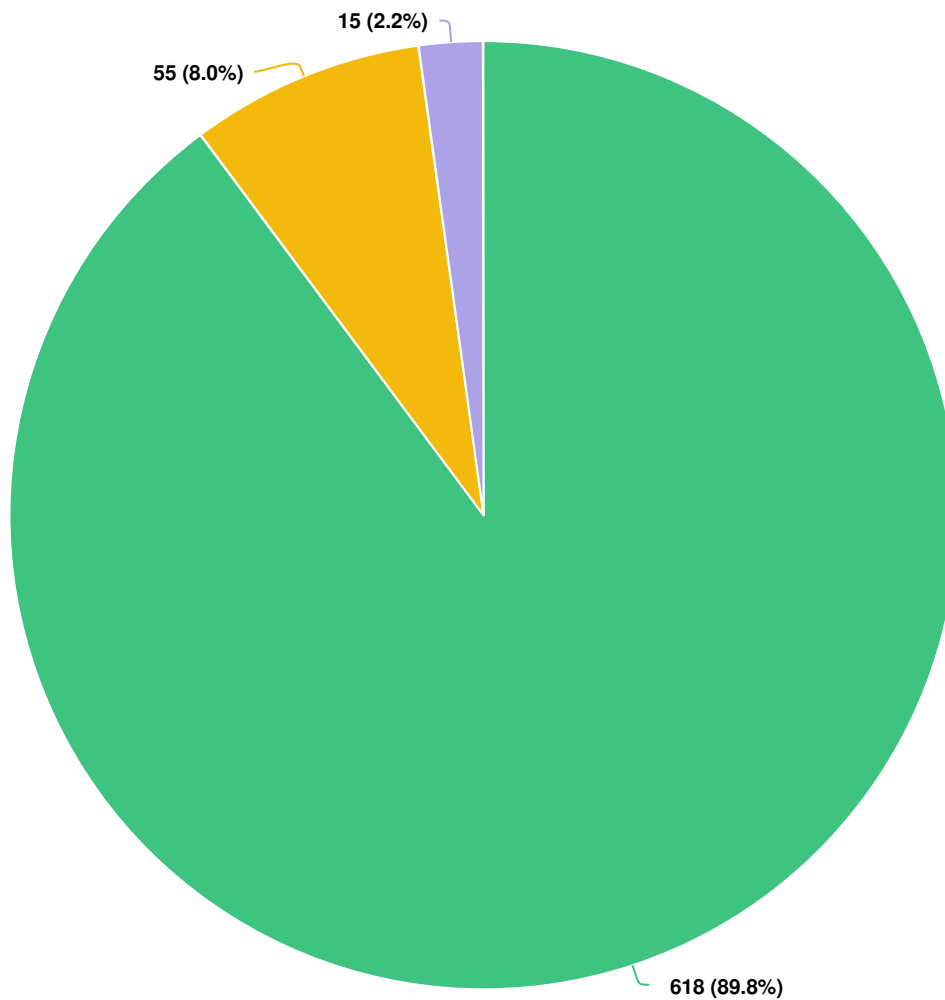


**Question options**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Mandatory Question (652 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q10** Have you previously voted in a city council/school board election?

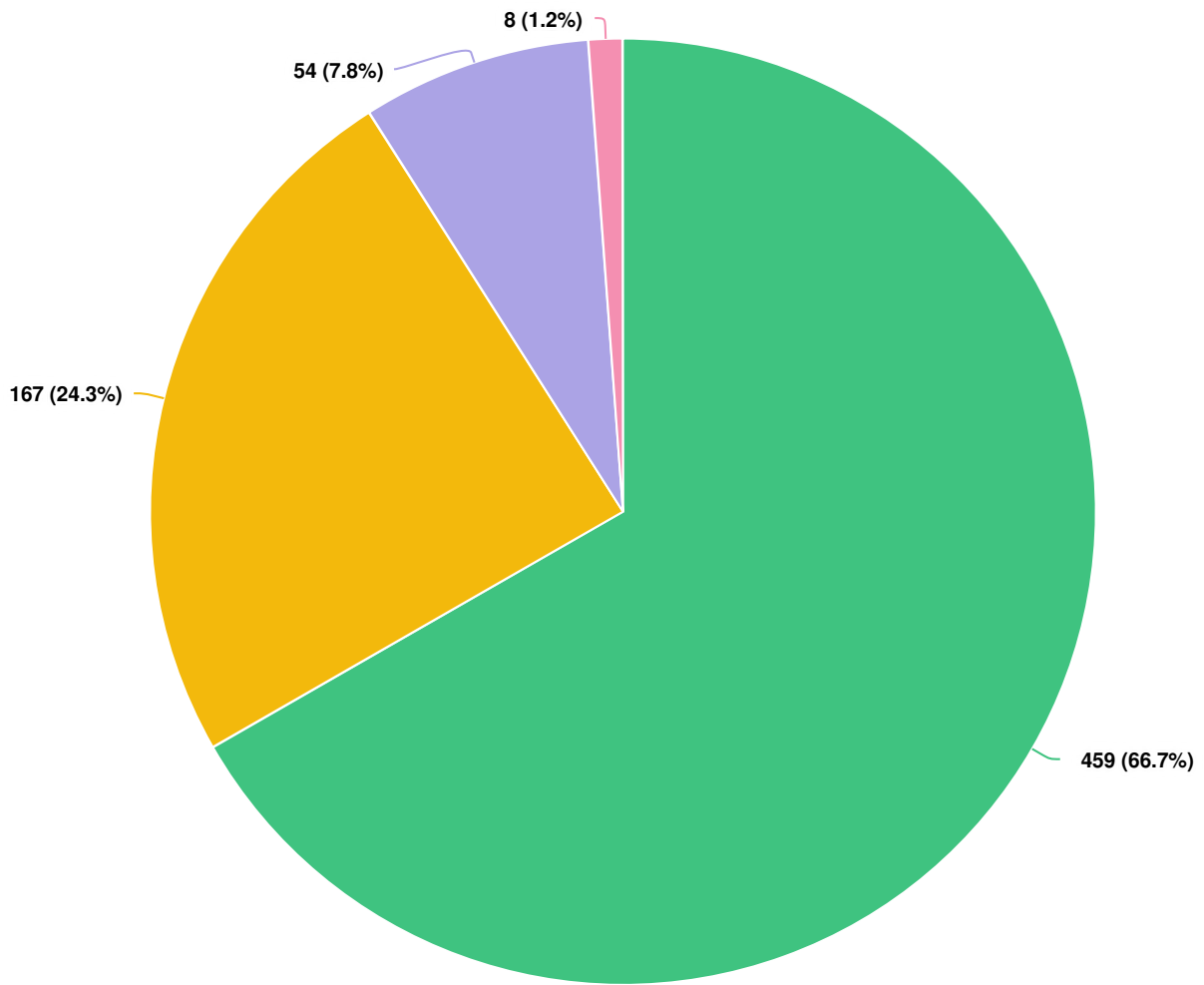


**Question options**

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Mandatory Question (688 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q11** | The 2021 municipal election was the first time the City of Minnetonka used the ranked choice voting process. How would you rate your understanding of ranked choice voting?

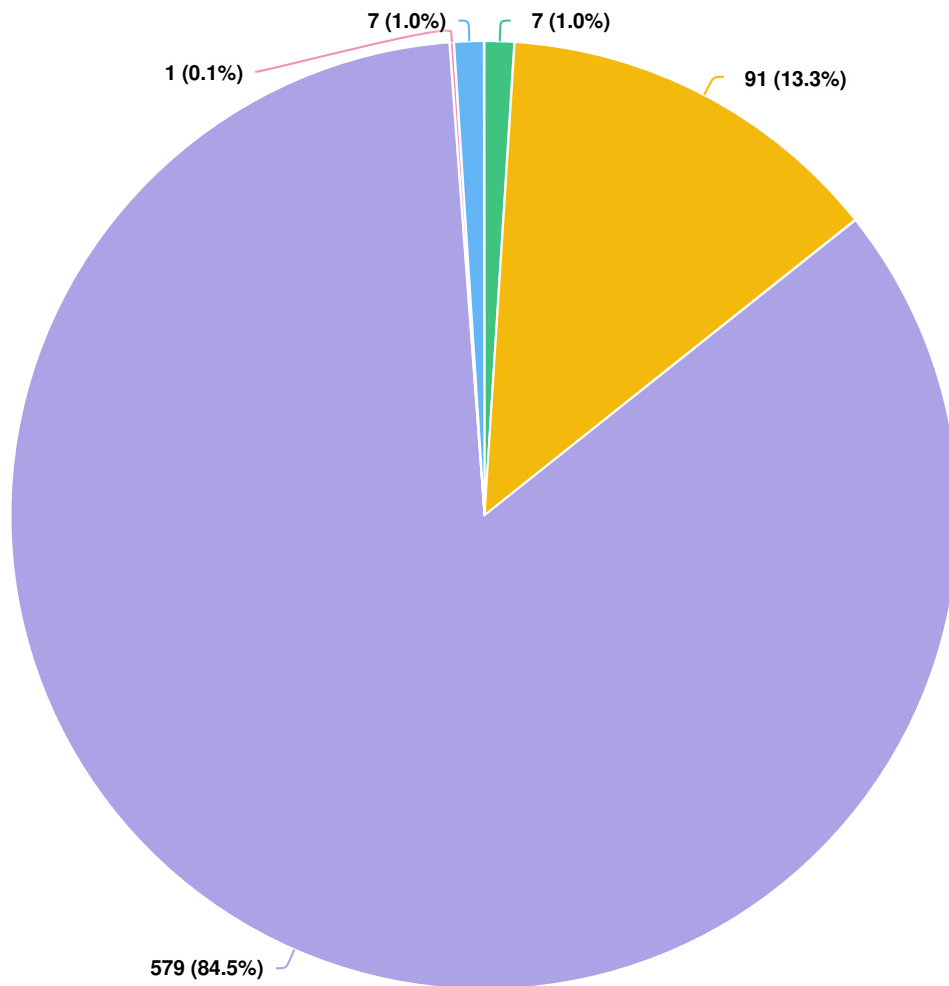


**Question options**

- I understand ranked choice voting
- I somewhat understand ranked choice voting
- I do not understand ranked choice voting
- Unsure

Mandatory Question (688 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q12 | Do you plan to vote in any of the state elections to be held in 2022?**

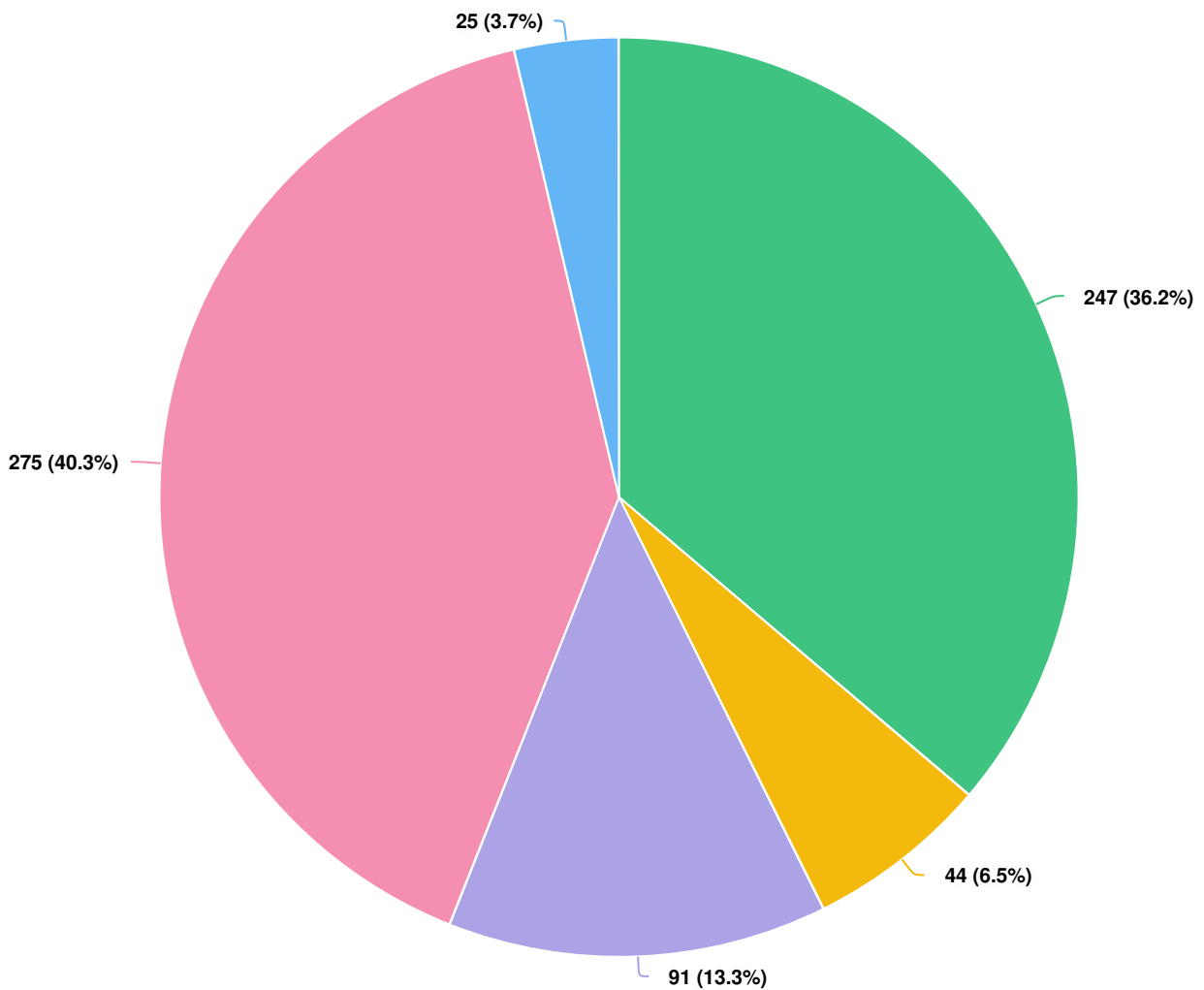


**Question options**

- Primary (Aug. 9, 2022)
- General (Nov. 8, 2022)
- Both Primary and General
- Neither
- Undecided

Optional question (685 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q13** If you plan to vote in at least one election next year, what method of voting are you most likely to use?



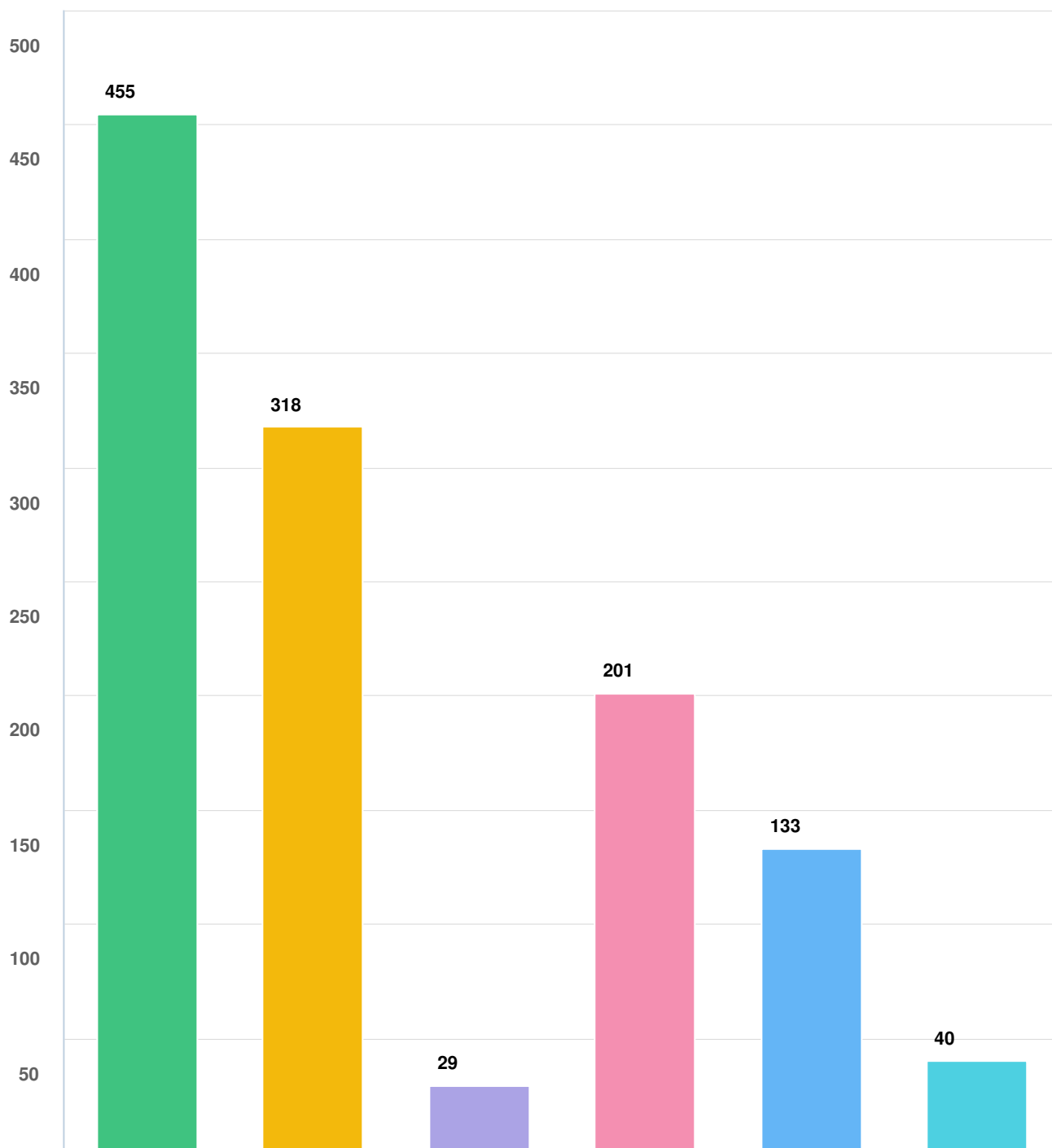
**Question options**

- In-person before Election Day (early voting)
- Receive a ballot by mail and return it/drop it off in person
- Receive a ballot by mail and return it by mail
- On Election Day at my polling place
- Unsure

Optional question (682 response(s), 6 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question



**Q14** Which of the following factors affect what method of voting you use in the 2022 election(s)?Select all that apply.



**Question options**

- Convenience
- Health and safety
- Transportation
- Familiarity with particular voting process
- Distrust of a particular voting process
- Other (please specify)

Optional question (676 response(s), 12 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q15 | Please share any additional comments about your voting experience or ranked choice voting.**

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:39 AM

The city did a great job of educating residents! I did have a few questions, but the resources were there to answer them.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:41 AM

No to rank choice voting. Require id/proof of residency. Same day voting in person unless absentee voting rules followed.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:42 AM

Thank you for all your hard work to make our elections run smoothly; and being a trustworthy organization, leaving no doubt my vote is always counted!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:42 AM

The volunteer election staff at city hall did a terrific job of helping voters with the process - they were very patient and explained things well!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:42 AM

The election staff were not prepared to use the OmniBallot machine. They had a hard time figuring it out, which suggested to me they did not run a text ballot through the machine. They weren't sure where to insert the ballot or the proper orientation for the second side.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:43 AM

I was only confused when two options were available, is ranking still required. (2021 mayoral election for example)

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:44 AM

Keep ranked-choice voting please! If people can't figure out something so simple, they shouldn't be allowed to vote.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:45 AM

I was clear on who I wanted to vote for before I got to the poll. I was not familiar enough with the other candidates to effectively make the 2nd and 3rd choice. Will research more before the next election.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:45 AM

Citizens should be responsible enough to take the time to understand the process and whenever possible to vote in person on day of

election, or at least to understand how to votes early.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:46 AM

Do not believe in ballot by mail voting. Believe in voter i.d.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:46 AM

Mail in had to much delay when you have issues on a ballot to get it corrected in time. Ranked choice unfairly selects candidates with low votes instead of allowing for a runoff with voters hearing from candidates to make a best informed choice. A candidate should win with more than 50% on the final ballot instead of getting the most second, third or fourth choice votes as happens in most ranked choice elections

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:46 AM

Love rank choice voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:47 AM

I don't really see the point of ranked choice voting personally and found in this last election there weren't enough candidates I felt strongly enough about to want to fill all the options I was allotted.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:47 AM

I've voted early voting last few years. Easy. Convenient. Professional. Ups guys are definitely doing it right to maximize voting and ensure voting integrity. Minnetonka should feel confident those elected were elected fairly. Transportation may be an issue for some. I am curious if there are any efforts to address this challenge.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:48 AM

Ranked voting is more expensive for a more complicated way of voting. We should go back to voting for our top candidate in each category...end of story!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:49 AM

Dislike it

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:50 AM

I feel we should not do the rank choice, Initially I thought it would be a money saver- ie: no primary, but after going through one season I think it is not a logical way to do the election.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:50 AM

Ranked choice voting is confusing and just doesn't seem like a good way to run elections.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:51 AM

One question that I heard asked over and over again is whether it made sense to vote for the same person in all three ranking spots if you really wanted that candidate over all others.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:51 AM

I'm interested in the experience over time.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:51 AM

Having a sample ballot helped.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:51 AM

You can elect a candidate without a majority.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:52 AM

The process of rank choice voting is to enable fringe candidates into office with out majority vote. Please go back to majority voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:52 AM

Rank Choice Voting is nothing more than an attempt to steal our elections and make sure the Democrat party remains in power in this city and our once great state. We used to have a functioning city that was safe for its residents. That's no longer the case and will not be the case again until the party that values law and order is elected to lead this city and our state. Ranked Choice Voting will ensure that never happens.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:53 AM

Elections in the US, whether at the local (Mkta) or national level, are safe and secure. Anyone who believes otherwise is an idiot. (Hops off soapbox).

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:53 AM

Well communicated, well executed! Keep up the good work.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:53 AM

RCV is intended to confuse the average voter and disenfranchise their vote

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:54 AM

Rank choice voting is a horrible way to select candidates. Go back to straight ticket voting!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:55 AM

It would be nice to have a centralized place that identifies all upcoming candidate forums, debates, etc so that citizens can make informed decisions. Different organizations organize events but we do

not always have that information available. Thank you

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:56 AM

I am definitely concerned about voter-restriction efforts around the country (much more concerned than I am about voter fraud), and I support a wide range of voting options.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:57 AM

Eliminate ranked choice voting

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:58 AM

My neighbors and friends liked RCV. Easy ballot to understand. More candidates to choose from without fear of electing someone with less than majority of the vote.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:59 AM

I thought the recorded forums were good, but the candidates didn't provide a lot of info that distinguished themselves from each other.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 11:59 AM

It seems that ranked choice voting did nothing different versus regular voting except to sort of confuse what the candidates stood for. I also learned later that a political organization influenced the decision to go with ranked choice voting, which feels unseemly. If that is the case, many should be ashamed of themselves.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:00 PM

This is the dumbest and most confusing method of voting ever. It feels like a high school popularity contest. I thought we were grown-ups? I guess not. Then again, this seems ideally suited to confuse people intentionally in order to get the results desired by those running, rather than those voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:00 PM

I'm a huge fan of Becky Koosman. Very professional and exceptionally helpful.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:00 PM

I hate rank choice. I don't have a second choice 99 percent of the time. I don't like it at all

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:01 PM

Ranked Choice Confusing. Too much to process

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:01 PM

Overall great experience. Would be beneficial to have a list on the Minnetonka Website of all of the people running and a link to their

website. It was a lot to research the ballot and then individually research each person. Would be nice to have it centralized (if possible) for local elections.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:02 PM

First of all, when you ask most folks to look up their 'ward', they have no idea what you are talking about. And, even though I knew, I went to the Sec of State and yes, it references congressional district, not ward. I will guarantee that most people know their polling place, but nothing else.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:02 PM

Thank you for these options

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:03 PM

From the comments I've heard in the community it appears some people took out their frustration on the fact voters chose ranked choice voting on you and your staff. I am sorry you had to experience this. It was not your decision, it was the voters'. I appreciate the variety of ways you used to teach voters about ranked choice voting and the work you put into making this a straightforward process. I also appreciate the planning and implementation that assured we have lots of options for casting our ballots, along with the ballot security and documentation that goes along with it. Thank you.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:05 PM

We witnessed confusion at the polls about RCV in two ways: 1) because there were only two people running for mayor, folks were confused that RCV didn't have a role in that scenario so need to emphasize that the benefit/usefulness is in races with more than 2 candidates; and 2) people were thrown by the fact that school board was not RCV and wondered why one side of the ballot was RCV and one was not.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:05 PM

I do not vote with ranked choice voting. I vote for one candidate and that candidate only. I understand ranked voting but do not agree.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:06 PM

I hope this is not rehashing if we should have ranked choice voting, I hope it is to find out if more education is needed. Also, the link to the Sec of State website to find your Ward does not tell you what Ward you are in very clearly, it is coded into a long Precinct code that does not make it easy to tell. Why not just link the city Ward map?

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:06 PM

I don't like ranked choice voting. Most often the winner isn't the majority

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:09 PM

No one or any article in the newspaper explained rank choice voting so ai could understand it. I am a college graduate with a teaching certificate. If I had trouble, and I spent ti,e trying to understand it, I am sure many people did not understand it the way it has been explained!!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:09 PM

Not yet a proponent of ranked choice

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:10 PM

We don't like it,

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:11 PM

The process of adopting RCV was not fair to Minnetonka's voters and this system should be rescinded. Going to even year elections would have solved the proponents' main issue of low turnouts for primaries but the city ignored it as an option. If we are going to carry on with RCV, put quantified requirements in place (without the help of FairVote) that the system has to meet. If it does not meet the requirements (ex: 10% or less ballot exhaustion for any race), then remove this flawed system. Why adopt a system that puts the voter in a position of their ballot possibly going to someone that they do not support when the voter ranks all candidates or, if the voter does not rank all candidates, having their ballot removed from the process?

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:11 PM

Ranked choice voting was a mistake. There WILL be people elected on a single issue, leaving the council weak and self interested.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:12 PM

it's a convoluted process and in theory sounds good but the actual experience makes the voting process more complicated

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:13 PM

I don't like rank choice voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:13 PM

I understand the reasoning behind ranked choice voting, but I believe it is too confusing to be an effective way to elect an official

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:15 PM

Ranked choice voting felt like a crap shoot - not because of the way the city explained or handled it - but because there was very little opportunity to evaluate the candidates. Part of this was due to the pandemic, however most of the candidates seemed to do very little

other than file for election. Campaign literature and candidates websites were not very helpful for decision making. The League of Women Voters forum was the most helpful even though many candidates chose not to participate. Ranked choice voting in the 2021 municipal election seemed more like a gamble than an expansion of democracy. While a primary election may be more work to administer, it gives serious candidates an incentive to put themselves out there to be seen and heard if they really are committed to run for election and perform the duties of elected office. I do not believe that ranked choice voting is a good thing for this city's future. I am satisfied with the outcome of the last election. However I fear that picking between many ranked choice stealth candidates is not an improvement over the previous primary and general election process.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:15 PM

Ranked choice voting is very bad

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:16 PM

Hate ranked choice voting. No one can even explain it - not even the volunteers when I voted. Totally stupid method of voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:18 PM

So very grateful for all the election judges. Thank you for training and supporting them.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:19 PM

Always appreciate the work of neighbors who assist with voting and helping people get to polling places. Have had wonderful experiences never missing an election in 55 years!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:19 PM

I am an election judge which is why I voted early in person. Otherwise I prefer in person on Election Day. No more cheat-by-mail! We just got a fraudulent president doing it that way...

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:20 PM

Voting needs to take place in person on voting day in order to protect voting integrity.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:21 PM

Ranked choice voting makes much more sense, when there are more than two candidates for a given office. My preferences as to how I vote have more to do with three factors: I have multiple disabilities, which prevent me from driving, and require that I use paratransit to get to vote; I live in a senior living community, and I am a 24/7 caregiver for my two 93-yr-old parents, who have mobility and cognitive issues to accommodate. Ranked choice voting is not the



determining factor in whether and how I and my parents vote.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:22 PM

Ranked choice voting allows fringe candidates that few people actually support to win. I hope we can get it back on the ballot to remove it.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:24 PM

We appreciate the voting alternatives, the pre-vote information, and the staffing provided at all sites. Voting should be easy for all. And all should be informed. We had some difficulty this year obtaining clear information about school district candidates (BUT THAT IS NOT AN ISSUE WITH THE VOTING PROCESS.). THANKS FOR YOUR WORK.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:26 PM

How I vote will depend on the corona virus activity

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:27 PM

I thought it was confusing that they had the ranking for mayor when there were only two candidates. I understand that there could be write-in's but it still seems to over complicate things. Also, if you don't really care who is elected if your first choice is not, do you just leave the rest blank?

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:28 PM

Ranked Choice Voting is NOT a good system. I would like to go back to the way it was previously.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:30 PM

Ranked Choice Voting is a great option and should continue!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:30 PM

I regret voting for ranked choice. It seems way too complicated.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:31 PM

Mail-in voting is inherently and horribly flawed.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:37 PM

I really liked the ranked choice voting, it was easy to understand. When there are a lot of candidate choices or a lot of nonpartisan races I prefer to fill out my ballot at home when I can go slowly, but I like to come in with my ballot to put it in the counting machine myself.

Anonymous

I absolutely do not trust ranked choice voting. It's not so important in

1/24/2022 12:38 PM

the voting experience we just had but I don't see the need since we don't have multiple parties similar to Australia or the UK. There is too much chance for coalitions to be made by the lesser known party candidates in order to get more of a voice.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:41 PM

My wife and I have successfully submitted early ballots at City Hall, but we live a half a block from our polling place so that works well.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:41 PM

Love it all!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:43 PM

With ranked choice, there are too many candidates to research and minimal places to get that information. I spent a great deal of time trying to get this info--I doubt many voters will. Few mailings were sent out and the "debates" were not publicized anywhere I could find. Most voters probably went with name recognition from mailings. Several candidates sites all said the exact same thing--how could anyone make an informed choice?

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:44 PM

RCV was poorly explained by the city, it was confusing.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:44 PM

Minnetonka is great! Voting has always been easy and convenient and especially during covid - safe. Hats off to all who enable us to vote via different options!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:44 PM

I am not convinced ranked choice voting is needed or better than the traditional voting methodology. Perhaps the 2021 Minnetonka election slate and/or the number of candidates was not situationally significant to demonstrate the efficacy of the change. I am all for building a better mousetrap, just not building a better mousetrap without a more powerful need for one. Again, maybe it just wasn't the right time/place.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:48 PM

Not a fan of ranked choice voting. Not sure of the best "strategy" in selecting 2nd and 3rd candidates. Plus, in municipal and school elections, it's harder to find detailed, truthful info about all the candidates, which makes it harder to select 2nd and 3rd choices. And it takes a lot more time and effort to research all the candidates -- which I did do for this last election, but I fear many voters won't and some crazy candidates will get elected. That said, I thought the city staff did a great job informing me about the election process with this

new type of voting. Just don't like ranked choice.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:48 PM

Struggled a bit with how to vote if I only liked one of the choices.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:49 PM

I don't understand why the City went to ranked voting because the City tried to fix a problem that did not exist. We have lived here for 32 yrs and never had any issues, so don't know why ranked choice voting was needed.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:50 PM

Make an id required to vote!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:50 PM

Info on local candidates very inadequate

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:50 PM

Ranked choice voting for city elections was the biggest mistake the city council made (by putting the choice to the voters especially with a simple majority). Now we are stuck with stupid. Nice job ...

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:50 PM

I believe the city of minnetonka did a good job preparing the public for RCV but like with all new systems, it will take time for the public to feel 100% comfortable.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:52 PM

Ranked choice is a complete joke of a voting process. The full process of this was never disclosed to the public of determining a winner in any race, especially if the magical 50% is not met. There is way too much HUMAN interaction with the ballots after they are cast to effectively determine the next steps, if needed. I feel it's very deceitful and lends to decisions being made that are not the voters wishes in how there vote is cast to "ensure a winner" Go back to the original style of voting! This is wrong, wrong, WRONG!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:57 PM

I was a bit confused by a mailing that I received several times with 6 names running for the 2 positions, I wondered why anyone interested in the city of Minnetonka would run for 2nd or 3rd place for council. Seemed like folks trying to mess with the system

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:58 PM

I am still not sure what I think of ranked-choice voting. Unclear on the benefits. I am still confused about the process and why it is better than the alternative. I kind of wish I hadn't voted for it.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:58 PM

I have studied ranked choice voting, I understand it. I was jaw dropped listening to the election judges trying to explain it on voting day. They got it wrong! Bad voting process!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 12:58 PM

I think ranked choice voting is fabulous. It selects a candidate that represents a choice of more voters. It also has the potential to reduce costs associated with a run off election. I urge leaders to create a process for appointing someone to fill a vacancy and eliminate the need for special elections which are very costly, attract a small percentage of voters and mostly elect the choice of a select few.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:00 PM

Ranked choice voting is confusing.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:01 PM

I do not agree with ranked choice voting

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:02 PM

Ranked choice makes good sense.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:03 PM

The voting experience at my polling place is always efficient. Now that the community has experienced rank choice voting, i would like to have the opportunity to vote on it again in the near future.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:04 PM

Not a fan, do not enjoy it.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:05 PM

Do not lose control of mail in ballots!!!!!!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:05 PM

I don't think ranked choice is progress

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:09 PM

I heard from many neighbors that they did not understand how ranked choice voting works. Some were told conflicting things at polling places. I am disappointed that we have implemented ranked choice voting for Minnetonka.

Anonymous

DON'T LIKE IT

1/24/2022 01:11 PM

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:15 PM

Ranked voting is ridiculous. Everyone gets a participation star. I found some of these people were running just to run

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:16 PM

My polling place isn't crowded, otherwise I would vote by mail due to COVID. I had some apprehension about how ranked choice voting would work, but was able to resolve my concerns before casting my ballot. I did NOT like the candidates who seemed to have a "ticket" for ranking your ballots. That created some confusion initially. I also wasn't pleased with how many candidates didn't seem to participate in the usual forums, etc. Not your issue, but wanted to mention it.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:16 PM

I live close to Minnetonka City Hall so it is easy for me to just stop by, vote, and give my ballot.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:18 PM

I am very happy that Minnetonka adopted RCV! It eliminated the need for a costly primary and gave more people a chance to run for office. Sadly several candidates refused to participate in Candidate Forums or Surveys, making it more difficult to find out what they stood for so I could make an educated vote for 2nd & 3rd choices, which was unfortunate. I ultimately decided not to vote for anyone who would not openly share their views ~ that narrowed the field significantly. This situation of course, is not the fault of RCV or the City.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:21 PM

Against not showing ID to vote. Against illegal aliens voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:22 PM

I believe the people who run our elections have historically done an excellent job. The system is not broken and any effort to make it more difficult for certain groups to vote should be vigorously resisted

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:22 PM

I personally witnessed poll workers doing a great job handling questions about RCV as well as uninformed comments and complaints by clearly un/misinformed RCV opponents

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:25 PM

I feel voting in person is the safes way to vote and have my vote counted

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:27 PM

Have had a few conversation with rank voting volunteers for help in understanding

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:29 PM

Quit changing what works

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:31 PM

If it helps to seat the positions without runoff elections then it's worth it. Runoffs cost tax payers additional money.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:34 PM

I dislike ranked choice voting. I feel that poll workers and city election staff did an excellent job of running the election. The neutral ratings regarding the overall experience were lower because I dislike RCV. They are no reflection on the excellent job done by the city. I was disappointed with the city's communication about RCV. To me it seemed to promote RCV rather than just tell people about it.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:37 PM

I am in huge support of Rank Choice Voting and am so grateful that the City of Minnetonka now has RCV; I have increased trust in the process and outcomes being the most accurate and representational of what/who our (wholistic) community-majority is voting for.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:40 PM

Go back to regular voting method.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:40 PM

I personally prefer in-person voting because I like the physical act of going to the polling place to act out my civic duty. However, I believe that voting is a right that should be accessible for all, and agree with all methods (early voting, mail-in, etc.) that allow that to happen.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:43 PM

I voted in the school board elections last year and wish there was one place that gave information on each candidate. I had to google search each candidate to learn more. Otherwise, voting was super fast and easy!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:47 PM

It works. I had the chance to meet each candidate at meet and greets. Some, however, chose to not show up.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:53 PM

I do not trust Ranked Choice Voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:53 PM

I think ranked voting is dumb. I'm only going to vote for one candidate, not someone I don't want.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:53 PM

Ranked choice is a poor choice. Election should go to the person who wins the most votes, not the least disliked common denominator. Fringe candidates on the same team flood the candidate process to game the system.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 01:56 PM

Ranked Choice Voting Sux

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:08 PM

I extremely dislike ranked choice. I still don't understand it at all. It is very confusing and no one can explain it in a way I can understand.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:10 PM

While I understand ranked choice voting was voted in by the community, I am completely against it. I also worry about the city's ability to maintain the integrity of voting with the surge in mail in voting. in

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:10 PM

For the next General election, who ever sent them out, I don't need 4 mail in voting sheets mailed to me, especially since I'm a one person household

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:12 PM

I moved to Minnetonka from Minneapolis recently enough to have had experience with rank-choice voting in Minneapolis. But even then it was not totally new; we used rank-choice voting in college as well.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:20 PM

Rank choice voting was an absolute waste of our tax dollars. They should have listened to the Charter Commission and got rid of it

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:20 PM

Rank choice voting has no place in our electoral system

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:38 PM

I do not like ranked choice voting and can not believe it passed

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:38 PM

Ranked choice voting is the dumbest things Democrats have ever came up with. It allows non competent people to win

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:41 PM

I just don't like it. It adds a level of complexity for some voters which either results in them not voting, or making voting mistakes that were not intended by them.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:44 PM

Very disappointed to see people at the voting place in Minnetonka this fall carrying those misleading cards about "you have three choices" for candidates this year. I had to ask the voting judges twice to ask people to take their cards off the tables. We need to be sure that kind of misleading promotional material is NOT repeated ever again, and that the rules at voting places are enforced. Also, I think the education about ranked choice voting could be better. Also, it was confusing trying to figure out who won one of the seats, because just looking at the county numbers didn't show the winner of the Kimberly Wilburn seat -- I think the city should use the results of the latest election to very clearly explain to residents more about ranked choice voting. Thank you!

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:45 PM

none

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:47 PM

The advantages of RCV cited by the promoters of RCV were not evident. The campaigns were More rancorous than in the past. There were more candidates, but they were mostly unqualified in my opinion, having No previous interest or involvement in any city activities or functions. In the past, such candidates were eliminated in the primary election. There was illegal activity in the campaign, as determined by the courts. There was inadequate information about how votes would be counted, and the impact of "wasted" ballots. While the promoters proclaimed that all winners would have a "majority of the votes," it was never made clear that if the count went beyond the first ballot, that would not be true; it would be the majority of what was left after discarding the "wasted" ballots. The lack of any public forums about RCV made it difficult to provide correct information or have a decent debate about the issue. I believe the city did the best it could under difficult restrictions.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:48 PM

If I am at City Hall for anything during early voting, I will vote in-person. If not, I will vote by mail. I would not make a special trip to City Hall to vote in-person.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:48 PM

What a great way to ensure the election of the best representative of the community



Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:50 PM

Voting early and/or absentee ballot is essential! Please keep both available. It is so much easier than standing in a long line.

CMS

1/24/2022 02:51 PM

It is clear that very few understood / and / understand the impact of RCV. It is very hurtful to those who only have one focus on the ballot. People do not realize how much their voice is lost if they only have one person that they want to choose.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 02:56 PM

Do not like ranked choice voting

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:03 PM

I would not vote for ranked choice voting were it to come up for a vote. This is a change.

CMS

1/24/2022 03:05 PM

I disagree with the concept of RCV. It has compromised the integrity of a persons vote, especially if they only like one person on the ballot.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:07 PM

I think ranked choice voting helped more people file for the available positions and stimulated voters to find out more about the candidates.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:20 PM

Believe that the rank choice voting should not have been pushed through the system during a short time and during a pandemic. The advise from the charter committee was against the rank and choice. What was one more year to vote before everyone found out how much more money it takes and what voting freedom our voters lost. Name popularity. Is what it is. Sad loss .

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:22 PM

I don't like ranked choice voting

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:24 PM

Ranked choice was a mistake.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:35 PM

Strategizing for ranked choice voting is very, very confusing. I also think that candidates need to more overtly identify their political party.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:38 PM

Ranked choice voting is a terrible method. It is full of mischief. There are multiple ways to rig a candidates rake by plating off of different areas districts. It is very dishonest.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:40 PM

Ranked choice is too confusing

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:45 PM

I would like examples of how ranked choice voting precludes the least popular person from winning when preferences are split fairly evenly among the other candidates. For example, what happens when people vote for their preferred candidate but do not vote for a second or third choice. How likely is it that failure to vote for secondary choices results in a winner the voter does not want, someone who may have initially gotten a low percentage of votes.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:48 PM

Include me among those who question the need for a new, cumbersome voting method that, I believe, can result in a winner who would have lost using traditional voting

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:48 PM

Ranked choice voting is confusing, the flier helped and the person explained it - it sounds like if you vote for the same person more than once your vote isn't counted? I don't think people realize this - they think they need to fill in all of the choices even if not enough candidates so they double up.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 03:56 PM

Voter ID is necessary

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:02 PM

Do away with RCV.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:05 PM

I don't like ranked choice voting. I want to vote for one individual and rarely have a 2nd choice. I think this method is a little confusing.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:06 PM

While the City and Staff did an excellent job of informing the public about ranked choice voting, and while I was initially ambivalent about it, I now think it opened the door to fringe candidates and additional political division and am strongly opposed to it now.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:22 PM

I greatly appreciate the options for voting, especially given the crazy times we're living through. In the past two years I have taken advantage of two different methods of voting to vote in a manner that felt safe and effective. However, I appreciate the options even more from the standpoint of upholding the importance of voting in a democracy. I understand that my work schedule which allows me to

be at home and get to the polls on election days is not something everyone is able to do, but everyone's voices should be heard. Making voting available in a variety of formats is imperative to our democracy fully representing everyone who chooses to participate.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:22 PM

Thank you for all you do to have an informed electorate and make voting safe and honest.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:26 PM

Remove RCV no one trusts voting process anymore and RCV confuses lots of people

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:28 PM

We should not use computers to vote. They are manipulative.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:29 PM

I liked it

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:40 PM

Ranked choice voting is dumb.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:42 PM

I once voted early at Mtka City Hall and had to stand in a long line to vote. I have since gone in an early evening time to my polling place.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:49 PM

Could the city advertise where information about the candidates can be found. What happened to the debates sponsored by the league of women voters?

Anonymous

1/24/2022 04:57 PM

I am not happy with ranked choice voting ,

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:09 PM

Ranked choice does not deliver any of its promises

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:10 PM

A mail ballot is very convenient. It lets me check my information on candidates and make an informed decision on who and what I am voting on.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:13 PM

I hate the ranked voting, I think it's stupid.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:19 PM

I think ranked choice is complicated and unnecessary. It muddles the election

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:23 PM

My husband and I worked together on using the rank voting and hoped we were successful with the persons we wanted.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:48 PM

I like that each State runs it's own elections. I believe that is a strength of our system. I don't like any move at the Federal level to control State election processes. The more Centralized something like elections is, the more subject they are to being corrupted wholesale. (If something is corrupted at a State level, it is diluted in it's negative impact for a Federal position.) I did not vote in favor of rank-choice. I didn't see enough proof of something being wrong with how we handled elections to warrant the change. Changing such a vital process should not be taken lightly. I am open minded, if someone is willing to share the flaws now corrected and not replaced by worse flaws by adopting rank-choice. Thank you for the survey and keep up the good work.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:53 PM

I received a mailer in the 2021 Municipal Election that confused me about whether the City of Minnetonka endorsed certain candidates because it looked like an instruction about ranked choice voting. Recently I learned that someone filed a complaint and the Board (judge?) ruled against those candidates. I think it's important to keep our elections above board and enforce examples like that.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 05:53 PM

I believe everyone should show their IDS when voting. And rank choice voting is a scam.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 06:00 PM

Ranked choice, why?

Anonymous

1/24/2022 06:16 PM

I believe ranked choice voting is an essential way to ensure that under-represented voices in our community can be heard.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 06:28 PM

Ranked choice voting is unnecessarily complicated. There were several opportunities to learn about RCV, I read them all, I'm an intelligent person, yet I still feel that I only have a very thin grasp on it. It also led to flyers going out telling people how to vote to ensure the desired candidates won. Frankly, it makes me distrust the whole process.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 06:36 PM

I hate ranked choice voting I don't think it reflects well the desires of the voters

Anonymous

1/24/2022 06:38 PM

Found it challenging to understand which candidates were running against each other - or for another seat, which made ranked choice harder to use effectively. It would be helpful to see the ballot before voting. Mail in ballots seem like an easy way to solve it.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 06:41 PM

I am not a fan of ranked choice voting.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 06:51 PM

I am satisfied with the options offered,.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 07:02 PM

As a relative new member of the community, I appreciate all the information I receive from the Minnetonka Memo. I appreciate all the secure methods available to me to vote.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 07:12 PM

Ranked choice voting is a progressive, political scam that disenfranchises many, and perhaps a majority of voters from the end result and where the candidate that was the top choice of the electorate can loose and the winner can win without a majority of the votes cast. Ballot exhaustion, the result of people not ranking all of the candidates in a race, plays a significant role in this outcome. Ranked choice voting is also a disservice to the candidates in a given race also removes the opportunity to cast votes for the top candidates based on good comparative information such as debates, etc. Ranked choice voting is a very bad idea that should have never passed in Minnetonka, but probably did because voters did not understand the implications. As a result of these serious flaws, ranked choice voting has weakened the credibility of Minnetonka's elections. Again, ranked choice voting is a very bad idea.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 07:25 PM

I think you did great

Anonymous

1/24/2022 07:31 PM

We need more information on ranked choice voting to make sure our votes work the way we want them to--no unintended consequences.

Anonymous

Only votes for one candidate in the rank choice. Only wanted to vote

1/24/2022 08:02 PM

for my best choice.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 08:35 PM

It was a terrible idea to start using this process.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 08:36 PM

Ranked Choice Voting. I do not like it. I think it leaves the door open for cheating. I hope we abandon this form of voting in the future.

Anonymous

1/24/2022 09:43 PM

In person only to avoid scams

Anonymous

1/24/2022 10:08 PM

Keep it open for all voters

Anonymous

1/25/2022 04:21 AM

While I understand ranked choice voting, many I spoke with were very confused. I do not know if I support a system that the top vote getter in (first round) can still lose.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 05:36 AM

I am not a fan of ranked-choice voting and would prefer to go back to one person/one vote. BUT voting is imperative to maintaining a democratic society.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 05:47 AM

If there was a 24 hour drop off that didn't require going in the building for mail ballots I would return my ballot that way instead of the mail.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 06:31 AM

The line to vote early the weekend before the election was so long and poorly spaced that it did not feel safe. Very crowded in the room too.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 06:42 AM

Covid forced mail in ballots for me in 2020 & our local election in 2021. I also read up more thoroughly on the School Board candidates this last election. I was more informed this time because of the ranked choice voting. It's a good thing.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 06:50 AM

They do not allow cell phones into the voting booth but it's the only way that I can remember how I wanted to rank each candidate. It was easier when you just looked at one person and voted.

Anonymous

I believe the ranked choice voting is too complicated for members of

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1/25/2022 07:22 AM

our community that may have a more difficult time understanding how to vote. It may end up with their vote being counted for someone they don't want. I don't agree with this system.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 07:40 AM

The poll workers and volunteers where very helpful when explaining the process to people.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 08:06 AM

Voting was easy, and I was very proud to hear how many people showed up to vote this year. Election judges seemed well educated on RCV and were able to inform unsure voters of correct processes.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 08:11 AM

I used an absentee ballot for this past election and was grateful I did because I was able to do my research and fill in my selections as I went. I think it would have been a bit more challenging if I voted in person because with ranked choice voting you are voting exponentially more so I definitely would have needed to bring a "cheat sheet" to remember my selections.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 08:28 AM

I appreciate all of the volunteers and Minnetonka staff who allow us to vote in person early.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 09:18 AM

Ranked choice voting worked very well. Good job getting information out about it.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 09:26 AM

does this really save the city money?? lots of seniors here who would probably prefer the familiar method of voting

Anonymous

1/25/2022 10:01 AM

ranked choice voting is a scam used to game the system. We need a primary in order to actually vet candidates before we get to the general election. You should be ashamed of yourselves for allowing this on the ballot without adequate time to educate voters on the dangers of rcv. During a pandemic. Let's not forget that rcv passed with a minority of voters voting yes. This should not have been allowed. If you wanted a fair election, you would have counted blank votes as "no" votes, which is what is supposed to happen when a ballot question has costs associated with it. I can't wait to repeal this ludicrous way of voting.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 10:40 AM

I appreciated the ability to rank my choices. I found the process easy to understand.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 11:13 AM

Drop Ranked voting - dumb idea

Anonymous

1/25/2022 11:16 AM

I love having the choice to be able to go in ahead of time, to vote in person at City Hall. I also support the flexibility with mail-in voting in case I would not be able to vote in person.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 11:22 AM

Ranked Choice Voting is a misguided way to elect officials. It allows bad actors to flood the field with poor candidates in an effort to muddy the waters of qualified candidates. A Primary is the best way to set the field of candidates.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 11:35 AM

Hope more places adopt ranked choice voting!

Anonymous

1/25/2022 12:25 PM

I understood ranked choice voting after quite a bit of research, but many people in the community that I spoke with ON election day still thought that they could just vote for the same person each time and that it would count. I think the lack of understanding on how to vote in this way can skew the results in a major way. In my opinion, this is not a time for people to not understand how to properly vote. Based on this recent experience- its a way of voting that seems to misrepresent what the people may actually want (because if the voting is done wrong, the ballot is thrown out- correct?)

Anonymous

1/25/2022 12:33 PM

When I showed up to vote, I was shocked that they did not ask for my identification. Only my name and address. Someone could go in there 4 times, giving names/addresses of neighbors or others and vote multiple times. The system has totally gone downhill. I couldn't believe it.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 12:57 PM

Rank choice voting caused a lot of confusion with people I knew. People I know voted for the same person twice which would have caused their ballot to be thrown out because they were not well informed on ranked choice voting.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 12:57 PM

Ranked choice voting adds confusion to the voting process. I prefer the previous method of selecting one person per race.

Anonymous

I think this is a terrible way to vote. Seems to me this is another way



1/25/2022 01:26 PM

to manipulate the system and get certain people in that would otherwise never be considered. I grew up in MINNETONKA and I no longer recognize the city. Do you want us to be like (Minneapolis)? This is how I view the current city council. They want to run our city into the ground like the (Minneapolis) Council did theirs.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 01:36 PM

Found ranked choice ballot confusing and exasperating. Was well prepared with notes. Eliminate this "choice!!"

Anonymous

1/25/2022 06:48 PM

Same day, in person voting! Let's get back to basics

Anonymous

1/25/2022 06:54 PM

I found the ranked choice voting to be much more complicated than voting typically is. I would prefer to go back to the standard way of voting.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 07:58 PM

Ranked choice voting is very confusing and just adds to the complexity of an already difficult process. It leads to many ballots being thrown out from mistakes of the voters. Not a good process and should be reconsidered

Anonymous

1/25/2022 08:04 PM

Strongly dislike ranked choice.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 09:05 PM

It was obvious that there was mass confusion as to the process with the voters I encountered. We need clear, simple and fair elections again in Minnetonka. Ranked choice voting provides none of that...only what appears to be "rigged" outcomes. How in the world did we end up with this mess?? Please bring back one office, one person, one vote.

Anonymous

1/25/2022 10:19 PM

NIL

Anonymous

1/25/2022 11:49 PM

Rank choice voting is ridiculous and a sham. Any politician supporting this should be fired.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 12:09 AM

Ranked choice voting is a scam. Elections should be in person on one day. Any other method invites fraud.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 04:57 AM

Lack of transparency in the final count.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 05:11 AM

Ranked choice voting was pushed upon us by forces outside of Minnetonka. The results of this voting are unfair. We are strongly NOT in favor of this type of voting. We need to get rid of ranked choice voting and give Minnetonka residents a fair choice again.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 05:22 AM

Love use of ranked choice. Well done Tonka!

Anonymous

1/26/2022 06:49 AM

I feel that mail in voting can be completely manipulated (voting fraud)

Anonymous

1/26/2022 06:54 AM

This is needlessly confusing for senior citizens.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 07:03 AM

We hate ranked choice voting. We do not support any candidate that fosters this trendy scam on us.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 07:29 AM

I fully understand and fully HATE ranked choice voting. It's a trendy scam. One person one vote. I'll not support any candidate that supports ranked choice voting.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 07:43 AM

We will not support any candidate that supports ranked choice voting. It's silly voting. One person, one vote. Simplicity itself.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 08:05 AM

Only idiots support ranked choice voting

Anonymous

1/26/2022 10:12 AM

The poll workers were also very well versed on the process and able to answer any questions as they arose!

Anonymous

1/26/2022 10:20 AM

I would have liked more information about the candidates. It was difficult to find for some of them. Ranked choice voting seems great and I'd love to see it for state and federal elections. The single vote method does not allow me to support candidates outside the two dominant parties, keeps those two parties in power, encourages division of everyone into two camps, and does not reflect our diversity.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 10:23 AM

1. I arrived to find that MASK WERE NOT REQUIRED. That is like being forced at that point to enter anyway. It puts EVERYONE at risk unnecessarily. You should mandate in-person masks and if the sociopath anti-maskers want to vote let them =note outside or provide a mask for those who ask. 2. You ran out of ballots for a half-hour at the church on Groveland. It was good someone eventually came but several people left in the meantime

Anonymous

1/26/2022 10:36 AM

While I was very comfortable with the idea of RCV prior to the day of voting, I also know MANY MANY people do not read and were confused. I was very impressed with the way the on-site pollworkers that i observed were going out of their way to educate / inform each and every voter about how to cast their ballots using RCV.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 10:44 AM

Easy and a better result

Anonymous

1/26/2022 10:53 AM

I like ranked choice voting because I feel I can vote for the candidate I like best, even if she/he is unlikely to win, and rank my 2nd choice too.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 11:06 AM

Love ranked choice voting, the best way to elect qualified candidates.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 11:07 AM

I think ranked choice voting should be used in all elections.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 11:12 AM

I needed to know more about the candidates. I know who I wanted to be the top candidate but after that, I should have had more info on the rest of the candidates.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 01:01 PM

Ranked choice voting is for the naive. Should be one person, one vote. Simplicity itself. Anything else is a trendy scam.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 01:19 PM

I am very pleased that the City Of Minnetonka adopted ranked choice voting. It was easy and the information was informative.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 01:22 PM

I will only support candidates who oppose ranked choice voting. It's ridiculous!

Anonymous

1/26/2022 01:22 PM

I love ranked choice voting! I think it will help support candidates in the middle of the political spectrum. So glad we passed this!

Anonymous

1/26/2022 02:03 PM

Prefer early in person but also like mail in/drop off ballot

Anonymous

1/26/2022 02:50 PM

The elections staff always does a fantastic job. Thank you for your professionalism!

Anonymous

1/26/2022 03:26 PM

Ranked choice is a poor alternative for school board elections when there is no information available about candidates. May as well skip voting on the school board slate.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 05:49 PM

Had to contact other organizations and outlets to get full information on candidates, especially for Hopkins School Board. Local newspapers had large gaps, and transparency of some candidate mailings were suspect.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 07:19 PM

Really dislike rank choice voting. Disappointed Minnetonka is following In the disastrous footsteps of Minneapolis.

Anonymous

1/26/2022 07:36 PM

Once the city mailings came out, I thought it made sense.

Anonymous

1/27/2022 04:18 AM

I think ranked choice voting stinks, and mail-in ballots and ballot drop boxes are only good for cheaters.

Anonymous

1/27/2022 04:53 AM

RCV is not an acceptable form of voting and I don't trust the process (or the outcome)

Anonymous

1/27/2022 06:28 AM

There were ample opportunities to learn about RCV, both in print (mailings, newspapers, online) and at events. It makes perfect sense. I'm thoroughly disgusted with the group of candidates who ran as a block, and tried to confuse people about the election and about RCV. They should be banned from ever running for office again.

Anonymous

1/27/2022 07:22 AM

I can't even begin to understand the rationale of ranked choice voting, as it comes across as making what was once our most important task

as American citizens, to having evolved into a situation where no matter how limited someone's credentials are, that if enough people toss them into a lower choice ranking they could STILL potentially win an election. I'm not sure how the ultra progressives got this approved, but I for one won't ever vote for more than whom I believe to be the best candidate for any given election. Similarly all this nonsense of opening up the voting where most anyone can show up without any identification and still cast their votes wherever they decide to show up to vote is incredibly sad.

Anonymous

1/27/2022 07:22 AM

We are not supportive of ranked choice voting however it does affect the way we vote. We think RFV makes the process unnecessarily complicative. It's all about making a decision.

Anonymous

1/27/2022 07:50 AM

Ranked choice voting turned out to be easily manipulated by a group(s) of small interest groups. Many people it seems did not understand the process. Process enabled candidates who had know chance of winning to stay in the race to water down the votes for opponents and helping "buddies" - this tactic costs legitimate candidate additional time, energy and money to run their campaign etc.

Anonymous

1/27/2022 11:34 AM

The example analogy the city staff made with voting for our favorite tree was helpful in understanding the ranked choice voting process

Anonymous

1/27/2022 12:15 PM

I was quite pleased with the quality and quantity of info about RCV that was distributed/made available before the election. I was already familiar with the concept and comfortable using it, but it was still encouraging to see!

Anonymous

1/27/2022 01:58 PM

I do not like rank choice voting and I think that it should be voted on again, now that people have had to use it I don't think it is popular and should be removed as an option.

Anonymous

1/27/2022 03:02 PM

It's stupid!!! Now my taxes pay for someone to manage it!!!!

Anonymous

1/28/2022 07:53 AM

Ranked choice voting is for idiots. Anyone supporting this short be fired.

Anonymous

Just look to the Minneapolis Mayor and City Council members to see

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1/28/2022 09:59 AM

the disastrous consequences of RCV. RCV is nothing more the a "fixed" or "rigged" voting system that only benefits the far-left. It's nothing more than another dangerous way for Progressives to destroy our cities, counties, states and country.

Anonymous

1/28/2022 10:35 AM

Ranked Choice voting is very confusing to everyone I talked too as well as myself. Do not like RCV!!! Too many candidates to get to know and counting of RCV seemed very difficult and NOT transparent. I hope the city does not use RCV again.

Anonymous

1/28/2022 01:05 PM

We don't believe in rank choice voting! Everything that has worked forever is now being wiped out! Including censorship, more government control, freedom of speech. You just wait. My husband lived it and flys the flag every day. But he came here legally, went to night school to learn English at 23. And is proud to be an "American". And not a blank American Etc! When did we start that? Just an American!

Anonymous

1/28/2022 03:48 PM

I spoke with numerous people who didn't understand it and don't like it

Anonymous

1/28/2022 05:48 PM

Really appreciated the explanation of ranked choice tally on the Mtka website following the election . Clear text and visually interesting.

Anonymous

1/29/2022 12:47 AM

We HATE ranked choice voting. We understand it, we just think it's trendy and only for fools. We won't support ANY candidate that supports rank choice voting.

Anonymous

1/29/2022 06:15 AM

The reason I vote in person is because one year my absentee ballot was rejected and I was informed AFTER Election Day. They said my signature did not match when in fact it should. This was the year where our local State rep, Yvonne Selcer won by only a few votes and my vote would have made a difference. Knowing that is was not counted made me never use another method for voting besides at the voting place on Election Day. I did support ranked choice voting in the beginning. I assumed it would make candidates more civil since my vote could matter even if they were my second choice. But what I saw was candidates running in groups and I feel that was not appropriate and resulted me in not voting for anyone in a group. I just want the negative campaigns to stop and for candidates to talk about what they stand for and not how they feel about their opponents. I never vote for candidates that are negative. As of now, my support

for RCV is neutral. I do feel that the City of Minnetonka did an amazing job educating the citizens of Minnetonka.

Anonymous

1/29/2022 04:01 PM

We need voter ID to vote.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 08:26 AM

Please require voter ID.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 10:13 AM

I love that ranked choice voting gives us more than 2 options without 'wasting' our votes.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 11:04 AM

I completely support RCV and wish it were in use in ALL election scenarios.... ESPECIALLY at the state and federal level.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 05:33 PM

I want to return to the traditional way of voting. RCV is too convoluted and confusing for reliable democratic process.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 05:51 PM

I was so confused by ranked choice voting, I didn't vote.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 06:01 PM

I don't see any value in RCV. I read the materials sent out by the City and I also asked the poll workers to explain the approach. The poll workers, while very polite, were unable to explain it clearly. This process is confusing.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 06:02 PM

Please consider eliminating RCV. It's non-inclusive and troubling to shift to this method, especially now.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 06:07 PM

Cell phones should be allowed in the voting booth so that I can place the candidates in the order that I had chosen. Before RCV I didn't need to bring my cell phone because I had only one person that I wanted to vote for now I have 3-8 people to choose from in a particular order that I have ranked out.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 06:44 PM

It is confusing. I read all literature that I could get my hands on to try to understand it. I put much effort into being prepared and it was still difficult. Afterwards, I did not understand how to read the results. After Election Day, many of my neighbors said they had no idea how to vote and were upset over the confusion. This confusion breeds

distrust in the system. The original way was better. Please get rid of this terrible experiment.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 06:46 PM

While I fully understand RCV and how it works, it is a terrible process which does not achieve any of the stated goals. Should be done away with entirely.

Anonymous

1/30/2022 07:41 PM

I do not like Ranked Choice Voting - I would like it to be repealed

Anonymous

1/30/2022 08:07 PM

Traditional voting is much less complicated and more clear cut. RVC is exhausting for the user in researching all the candidates and just isn't necessary. Plus the trust in voting is weakened with RCV

Anonymous

1/30/2022 08:10 PM

Please protect against voter fraud—it is not that Hard to do!

Anonymous

1/31/2022 12:09 AM

Ranked choice voting is for idiots. One person, one vote.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 12:22 AM

What idiots pushed ranked choice voting?! The tradition method works best. Show up at your polling place and vote for your preferred candidate. Simple and elegant. Anyone who supports ranked choice voting should be kicked out of office.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 03:11 AM

Am iunpleased with rank voting. Forces my vote to someone I don't want to vote for.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 05:12 AM

I didn't care for it as a method in a final election. It might make sense in a primary but it doesn't provide near enough benefit compared to how much disruption changing long standing voting norms cause. I actively tried to be informed beforehand and still felt underprepared, and that shouldn't be the experience when a person is trying to vote. In order to build confidence, the process can't be confusing

Anonymous

1/31/2022 05:30 AM

I do not support ranked choice voting. It unfairly represents the people's choices

Anonymous

1/31/2022 06:22 AM

Ranked choice voting is gimmicky and un-democratic.



Anonymous

1/31/2022 06:44 AM

I believe the person who gets the most votes should win.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 07:06 AM

I carefully studied materials both from the city and from candidates. I understood how to do it, but it is not straight forward and clear. It is confusing. It was especially confusing for my elderly in-laws who have been voting the regular way for 65 years! I don't understand why it had to change; it doesn't seem like it was really an improvement.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 07:38 AM

As an election judge I saw a dozen voters give up and send a ballot with errors through the machine rejected and not corrected disqualify their votes because they did not want to get a new ballot and try to figure it out

Anonymous

1/31/2022 07:40 AM

RCV is a waste of time and energy. It's difficult to understand, and really unnecessary. It certainly did not accomplish it's stated goal of having more people run for office in Minnetonka.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 10:21 AM

Please repeal RCV.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 10:47 AM

The distrust I have in a particular voting process is anything other than election day at polling place - and even there I have some distrust because no ID is required

Anonymous

1/31/2022 12:23 PM

I no longer trust the voting process

Anonymous

1/31/2022 12:29 PM

Voting needs to be in-person, provide an ID as proof of person voting. Election integrity has been lost through mail-in ballots. Mail-in ballots should be reviewed against voter registration files to ensure compliance. Rank choice voting allows a candidate to win a commission seat with less than 50% of the vote. Not a true representation of democracy!

Anonymous

1/31/2022 02:00 PM

RCV is a fairly recent invention for voting that does not serve our democratic process. I have read opinions by leaders from both sides of the political spectrum who have that opinion. It is a very confusing way to vote and I recommend that it be repealed as quick as legally possible!

Anonymous

1/31/2022 02:04 PM

Keep up the good work, I feel like opting for me is always so easy and convenient, and I wish it could be so for all voters across the nation. We are very fortunate this out elections are runs so well!!!

Anonymous

1/31/2022 03:10 PM

There was nothing wrong with the previous way of counting, why make it confusing. A total percentage of one vote should suffice. That's crystal clear! Simplicity is better!

Anonymous

1/31/2022 03:17 PM

Rank choice was not approved by a majority ; non vote ballots were not counted as no like a school bond referendum. Charter commission recommendations were not advertised or emphasized.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 03:27 PM

RCV was pushed through in a COVID year without in -person discussion. A change to our city charter is a serious proposition. The commission of former city leaders chosen to study RCV said it was not good for our city and the council went ahead and put it on the ballot anyway. Truly reckless behavior.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 05:24 PM

I was very disappointed with the adoption of RCV in MTKA. I bought a home in MTKA over MPLS precisely over this issue. An unfortunate digression in our democracy.

Anonymous

1/31/2022 07:21 PM

I think the city of Minnetonka makes it easy to vote. There are convenient polling places and the city hall is easy to get to and park.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 04:01 AM

I am not sure if we have gone to this yet, but I strongly disagree with mail in voting if no ID required - Absentee I agree with as ID is required. Disagree with rank choose voting.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 06:11 AM

I don't like it! Look what Minneapolis got stuck with.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 07:49 AM

Early and mail in voting should only be allowed under certain circumstances

Anonymous

2/01/2022 08:59 AM

the early voting judges are very well informed and impartial. this is a good option.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 09:12 AM

Booth at the Farmer's Market with a sample ballot and opportunity to talk with election staff was very helpful to understanding ranked choice voting.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 09:24 AM

RCV was rushed through the City Council. There were no public forums to discuss the pros and cons. Outside dark money was involved with the FairVote community organizer. RCV should be done away with.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 12:20 PM

I think it could confuse some voters and might end of not voting for their actual choice. I do not think it is necessary and again might confuse some buyers.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 08:19 PM

I think ranked choice voting is confusing and unnecessary and you should do away with it.

Anonymous

2/01/2022 09:01 PM

Hate it, Because My vote for the one person I want for that particular position is washed and with all the other candidates.

Anonymous

2/02/2022 08:19 PM

I do not support the rank choice process. I prefer a primary for multiple candidates and then a general election vote. I feel more information on the candidates and their positions come out in this approach than with multiple candidates in a ranked choice process. I believe we end up with less qualified candidates being elected when a candidate 2 or 3 tiers down in the voting rank wins. The end result is detrimental to Minnetonka. Ranked choice voting needs to be repealed.

Anonymous

2/03/2022 07:55 AM

I think rank choice is great when the voters are extremely educated, which I don't think is the case for the majority of voters. It allows fringe candidates to run that people have little knowledge of who they are & who have zero track records. The ramifications are very real when we find that they do not represent the majority in any way. I prefer one vote only - no second chance votes when your vote doesn't win. I think Minnetonka will become just like the city council in Mpls. I fear our police force will be cut. Crime is my number one priority.

Anonymous

2/03/2022 08:09 PM

RCV seemed to attract a number of candidates who had no previous involvement in city government. So it took more time and effort to learn about all the candidates and pick the best qualified ones. I

prefer having a primary election to narrow the field.

Anonymous

2/04/2022 04:19 AM

My polling place is very convenient and has never had long wait times on election day. If it did I would probably vote early or by mail.

**Optional question** (313 response(s), 375 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question



**Study Session Agenda Item #4  
Meeting of Aug. 15, 2022**

**Title:** Campaign Signs

**Report from:** Loren Gordon, AICP, City Planner

**Submitted through:** Mike Funk, City Manager  
Julie Wischnack, AICP, Community Development Director

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**Action Requested:** Discuss the options presented by staff and provide feedback

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**Summary Statement**

Signage in Minnetonka is generally regulated in number, size, and location of signs serving commercial and non-commercial purposes. This approach respects the city's natural and built environments by controlling what could otherwise create a proliferation of signage detracting from the city's overall character. While strongly regulating signage, the city has kept the sign ordinance current with several updates to respond to changing legal issues and community interests. In 2020, Minnetonka residents voted to adopt ranked-choice voting for local city elections, which occur in odd-numbered election years. Ranked choice voting typically increases the number of candidates on a ballot for local elections. This city council requested a discussion of the sign ordinance in light of the ranked-choice voting ordinance.

**Strategic Profile Relatability**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Strength & Operational Excellence | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe & Healthy Community           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability & Natural Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Livable & Well-Planned Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure & Asset Management           | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Inclusiveness            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A                              |   |

**Financial Consideration**

- Is there a financial consideration?  No  Yes [Enter estimated or exact dollar amount]
- Financing sources:  Budgeted  Budget Modification  New Revenue Source  
 Use of Reserves  Other [Enter]

**Background**

Minnetonka regulates campaign signs as “temporary non-commercial signs” by city ordinance. “Temporary non-commercial signs” are not commercial signs, including but not limited to signs that convey messages concerning political, religious, social, ideological, public service, and informational topics. Although this discussion is focused on campaign or political signs, signs with other messages may exist on properties. The sign ordinance distinguishes non-commercial signs from commercial signs or signs customarily identifying a business. Commercial signs advertise or identify a product, business service, entertainment, or other commercial interests or non-profit organizations. These signs have specific regulations.

State statute allows signs of any size and number for state and federal elections. The current city code limits campaign signs to a maximum of 3 signs per property and 6 sq. ft. per sign, and a total of 18 sq. ft. for local elections. State and federal elections occur in even-numbered years. There is a notable difference in the sign regulations between odd and even election years.

Ranked choice voting increased the number of candidates in the 2021 city council election. In local elections from 2011 to 2019, the number of candidates on a ballot ranged between 5 and 8. The 2021 ballot included 12 candidates. It is a difficult and nebulous exercise to anticipate the appropriate number of signs that may accommodate a person’s desire to support multiple candidates.

School District elections are also held on odd-numbered years. The city has three school districts – Minnetonka, Hopkins, and Wayzata. Like city council elections, school district elections in each district can have a large number of candidates on a ballot. Between 2011 and 2021, the number of candidates in these three school districts ranged from 3 to 12.

Below is a summary of the number of city and school district candidates on a ballot by election year.

*City council candidates on a ballot by year:*

Year	Mayor	At-Large A	At-Large B	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Total
2011				2	1	1	2	6
2012			8					8
2013	2	2	4					8
2015				2	2	1	1	6
2017	2	2	2					6
2018						5		5
2019			1	1	2	2	2	8
2021*	2	5	5					12

\* 2021 was the first year of ranked choice voting in a local election.

*School district candidates on a ballot by year:*

Year	Hopkins (ISD 270)	Minnetonka (ISD 276)	Wayzata (ISD 284)
2011	5	8	7
2013	7	4	9
2015	6	4	6
2017	5	3	3
2019	7	11	8
2021	5	8	12

To illustrate how candidate support may translate to signage, below is an example of a Minnetonka property owner living in the Minnetonka School District who wishes to show support for candidates in the 2021 election:

**Minnetonka City Council** – In 2021, 2 people vied for mayor, 5 persons vied for At-Large Seat A, and 5 persons vied for At-Large Seat B. Given the opportunity for a voter to rank the “top 3” choices for each At-Large seat, the possibility exists for 7 signs – 3 for each ranked At-Large seat, and one for a mayoral candidate.

**Minnetonka School Board** - In 2021, 8 persons vied for 3 school board positions. It is logical that a voter could show support for their “top 3” candidates by placing 3 campaign signs on their property.

Combined, a property owner might wish to show support for 10 candidates (7 city council; 3 school board) with 10 signs. This would not be allowed under the current maximum 3 sign, odd year regulation.

**Other community signage**

Staff surveyed nine comparable suburban communities and Minneapolis for sign regulation of local elections. (See Attached). Minnetonka’s sign regulations are by far the most restrictive of the suburban communities surveyed. There are varied approaches ranging from virtually no regulation to regulating total signage to 8 square feet on residential properties in Minneapolis.

**Options:**

For discussion purposes, staff proposes three options to address non-commercial signs:

- 1) **No change in regulations** – Maintain the current limit of 3 non-commercial signs per property.
- 2) **Revise non-commercial sign regulations to make consistent odd year - even year regulations.** As state statute places no restrictions on the number or size of signs, local election races would follow the same regulation.
- 3) **Increase allowable signs in the odd year to 12.** This increase would allow a voter to show support for candidates in the highest number of positions on a ballot – Mayoral, 2 At-Large Seats, and school board positions.

	State Statute	Minnetonka	Brooklyn Park	Burnsville	Eagan	Edina	Lakeville	Maple Grove	Minneapolis	Plymouth	St. Louis Park	Woodbury	Commonalities among surveyed communities
<b>Definition</b>	N/A	"Non-commercial sign" - any sign that is not a commercial sign, including but not limited to signs that convey messages concerning political, religious, social, ideological, public service and informational topics.	"Temporary campaign signs" - posted by a candidate for public office or by a person or group promoting a political issue or a political candidate	TEMPORARY SIGN: Any sign which is erected or displayed for a specific period of time, and not of a permanent nature.	Noncommercial sign means any sign which does not contain advertising for the sale of products or services.	Temporary sign means a sign which is erected or displayed for a limited period of time.	N/A	Campaign sign means a temporary sign promoting the candidacy of a person running for a governmental office, or promoting an issue to be voted on at a governmental election.	Non-commercial speech. Dissemination of messages not classified as commercial speech which include, but are not limited to, messages concerning political, religious, social, ideological, public service and informational topics.	Non-Commercial Speech: Dissemination of messages not classified as commercial speech which include, but are not limited to, messages concerning political, religious, social, ideological, public service and information topics.	Sign, political means a temporary sign, which advertises or promotes a candidate for public office, a political party, an issue to be considered in a public election or any other message not classified as a commercial message.	Political sign means a sign pertaining to an election to any public office, any ballot measure, or containing any social, ideological or religious information of a noncommercial nature.	
<b>Number of signs</b>	Municipal ordinances may regulate the size and number of noncommercial signs at other times. In jurisdictions which have no sign ordinance, campaign signs may be posted in any size and number throughout the year.	3	N/A	In jurisdictions which have no sign ordinance, campaign signs may be posted in any size and number throughout the year.	N/A	1 sign per candidate per frontage	No max	N/A	Cannot exceed sign area	N/A	No max	Depends on zoning	No maximum; or no mention of limit in code
<b>Sign Area</b>		6 SF; or aggregate of 18 SF per property	Signs must not exceed sizes authorized by state statute for state general elections		16 SF	6 SF	50 SF per sign face; 100 SF per sign face within the freeway corridor district	N/A	Residential: 8 SF, Other areas: 32 SF	N/A	No max		No maximum; or no mention of limit in code
<b>Sign Height</b>		3 feet	12 feet above grade		N/A	N/A	N/A	6 feet	N/A	No max	No maximum; or no mention of limit in code		
<b>Sign setback</b>		5 feet from edge of street	no setback; 30 feet clear-view triangle enforced		public ROW: 5 feet from back of street curb	may be within 10 feet of public street, cannot be within 50 feet of regular sign or traffic sign, and shall not be placed in clear view zone.	Shall not prevent egress	N/A	no setback	4 feet from edge of street	N/A	15 feet from property line	Outside of clear view zone and setback 5 feet.
<b>Allowed in ROW?</b>	N/A	No	No	No, but allowed when attached to a mail box or light post	Yes, with consent of abutting property owner	N/A	N/A	No; including boulevard trees and utility poles	Yes, with consent of abutting property owner	No, and no public property	No	No Row, public property, or within clear view zone.	
<b>Timeframe</b>	46 days before the state primary and then 10 days after general election	N/A	46 days before the state primary and then 10 days after general election	N/A	N/A	60 days prior to the election until seven days following the election	46 days before the state primary and then 10 days after general election	90 days before and ten days after the election, or 46 days before and 10 days after general election	August 1 in any general election year until ten (10) days following the general election and thirteen (13) weeks prior to any special election until ten (10) days following the special election	13 weeks and 10 following a special election, or 46 days before and 10 days after general election	46 days before the state primary and then 10 days after general election	100 days before the election until 10 days after the election	46 days before the state primary and then 10 days after general election





**Study Session Agenda Item #5  
Meeting of Aug. 15, 2022**

**Title:** 2023 Preliminary Budget Review

**Report From:** Darin Nelson, Finance Director

**Submitted through:** Mike Funk, City Manager  
Moranda Dammann, Acting Assistant City Manager

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**Action Requested:** Review the preliminary 2023 budget and levies and provide feedback

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**Summary Statement**

We are pleased to propose to the city council a 2023 levy and budget consistent with our strategic goals and community values. Within that framework, the budget recommendations presented are both forward-looking and responsive to the community and the city council's concerns, specifically to ensure that city services are maintained. The proposal aligns with the reaffirmation by a considerable majority of Minnetonka community survey respondents that they would support an increase in taxes to maintain current city service levels. The recommendations are built using long-term forecasts, including a conservative eye on the national economy and technological changes.

As always, the City of Minnetonka will continue to provide the excellent services that our residents and businesses have come to expect, and at a reasonable value, both in 2023 and well into the future.

**Strategic Profile Relatability**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Financial Strength & Operational Excellence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe & Healthy Community           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainability & Natural Resources          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Livable & Well-Planned Development |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure & Asset Management           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Inclusiveness            |
- N/A

Statement: The city's six strategic priorities drive the development and direction of the annual budget.

**Background**

On [May 16, 2022](#), the city council held a budget kick-off meeting. The objective of the budget kick-off meeting was to provide the city council with a high-level overview of the budget preparation process, factors affecting the budget, and the previously forecasted future levy estimates. This meeting followed a series of department director reports that provided an overview of each department's operations, prior year highlights, upcoming goals and innovations, and finally, the departments' challenges.

As presented at the budget kick-off meeting, during the development of the 2022 budget last year, staff forecasted a 2023 levy increase of 6.7 percent. The city council indicated a preference towards a levy increase in the 5.0 to 5.5 percent range.

Since the May study session, department directors and city management have been working diligently to forecast revenues and expenditures along with other factors influencing the budget and levy. Several dynamics are influencing this year's levy request, further outlined in this report.

City staff has a historical approach and budget philosophy to create a needs-based budget. The proposed 2023 budget is no different. As such, staff recommends increasing the preliminary city levy for 2023 by 7.1 percent. Excluded from this increase is a \$25,000 decrease for HRA (Housing and Redevelopment Authority) supported programs as indicated in the preliminary Economic Improvement Program (EIP) presented to the council in June. This slight reduction reduces the overall city levy increase to 7.0 percent. Staff is always mindful of being responsible stewards of the public's tax dollars. Staff continues to search for innovative ways to provide more cost-effective and efficient methods of service delivery.

### **Our Public Process**

The purpose of this study session is to review key budget issues and provide direction on the 2023 preliminary tax levy and city budget. The city council must set and certify to the county by September 30, 2022, as required by state law. The city calendar currently provides for the city council to adopt its preliminary levies on September 12. The preliminary levy establishes the maximum amount the city can levy for 2023.

This budget study session focuses on the bigger picture. Guided by these discussions, detailed budget requests will be reviewed in November, with the final budget adopted in December. At the November 21 study session, staff will have complete information regarding revenues and expenditures for the current year and better insight into forecasting current 2023 uncertainties. The final 2023 levy may be less than the preliminary levy amount but cannot be greater.

Minnetonka always encourages input on its budget from the public. In addition to the public budget discussion scheduled and information published on proposed tax notices by Hennepin County for December 5, residents and businesses will again have the opportunity to provide feedback via multiple avenues, all of which are publicized on the city's website and in the *Minnetonka Memo*. Comments will be shared with council as budget options are considered, and updated information will consistently be posted in the *Memo* and on the city's website.

### **Long-Term Financial Planning and Sustainability**

The city's strategic profile outlines six strategic priorities, of which financial strength and operation excellence is one. This strategic priority focuses on the city's long-term financial position and providing innovative, responsive, quality city services at a level that reflects community values and is supported by available resources.

The preliminary budget and levy focus on the long-term financial sustainability and its impact on future levy increases. The current 2022 budget utilized federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to buy down the levy by \$1 million. This levy buy-down is a one-time action and must be added to future levies to restore this one-time reduction to maintain service levels. Part of the plan for the ARPA funding is to buy down the General Fund levy by \$1 million in 2022 and

\$500,000 in 2023. The \$500,000 difference in these levy subsidies needs to be added to the 2023 levy to maintain service levels. Five hundred thousand equates to a levy increase of approximately 1.1%. The 2024 levy will also need to add an additional \$500,000 to the levy as the remaining ARPA funds would be depleted.

The city's General Fund ended 2021 with a very healthy unassigned fund balance of approximately 59 percent of the ensuing year's expenditure budget. This solid financial position was due in part to federal funding received in 2020 and 2021, along with stronger than anticipated building permits. The city's General Fund fund balance policy requires a balance between 30 to 50 percent of the following year's operating budget. The city council may appropriate balances above 40 percent for one-time costs that have no ongoing financial commitments.

Excess General Fund fund balance is routinely programmed within the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) due to the one-time nature of the projects. The 2023 preliminary General Fund budget is programming transfers of \$2.35 million to various CIP funds. This will reduce the fund balance to an estimated 42.5 percent at the end of 2023.

## **2023 Budget Initiatives and Influencing Factors**

### *Personnel*

The draft General Fund 2023 budget is estimated to be \$46.8 million, an increase of 7 percent or \$3.06 million. Over three-quarters of the city's General Fund operating expenditures is the cost of its greatest assets, its employees. A cost of living adjustment (COLA) has been preliminarily set at between two and three percent along with a potential market increase, which is dependent upon each position's comparable position in other cities. Preliminary estimates indicate a total wage increase of approximately 2.6 percent or \$1.1 million. Again, these are preliminary estimates. The council will ultimately determine final COLA adjustments, which are either already set by existing union contracts or will be set through upcoming union contract negotiations, and finally by approving all 2023 non-union wage adjustments in December.

In 2021, the city exited the LOGIS healthcare consortium in favor of bidding on its own health insurance. The bidding environment was very favorable. As a result, the city saw a decrease in 2021 premiums with a cap on rates for 2022, limiting the city's exposure in the second year of the contract. This move saved the city about \$585,000 in 2021. The 2022 health insurance rates did increase to the 12.5 percent cap. This increase was directly attributed to a rise in our claims, which equated to an additional cost of \$330,000. This year's rate is not protected with a cap and is budgeted for a ten percent increase, which equates to about \$391,000. 2023 is the last year of the city's three-year agreement, and preliminary discussions with our insurance broker indicate our claims are still running high.

Another significant increase impacting personnel costs relates to workers' comp insurance. Rates for this are set by the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust and are also dependent upon the city's experience rating. The city's experience rating has been extremely low, which provides significant savings. However, that experience rating is expected to increase and coupled with increases in rates, most notably around public safety employees, the city is anticipating a General Fund increase of \$264,000.

Lastly, the 2023 budget includes an additional staffing request of 5.4 full-time equivalents. These requests were not part of the prior year's forecasted levy for 2023 that was presented back in May. These new requests include:

- *Two full-time firefighter technicians.* These two positions will allow for a position to be staffed 24/7 staffing at fire station #1 and will help ensure at least two units are continuously staffed with two full-time personnel. The full-time fire staffing hired this year will allow for 24/7 staffing of fire station #3. The combined cost of these two firefighters is about \$235,000, of which about \$100,000 of realized savings are recognized in the budget between a decrease in paid on-call staffing, training and equipment costs.
- *One data analyst position to be shared between police and fire.* The police department has been very active in recent months in collecting data. Still, the department lacks the capacity to analyze the data to be proactive with intelligence-led policing efforts. The fire department would utilize this position to aid the department in statistic tracking, which is required as part of the department's accreditation goal. This position has a cost of \$96,200 that would be split between the police and fire departments' budgets.
- *One park maintenance public service worker.* This position has an estimated cost of \$109,500. The lack of available seasonal help is driving this request. It is increasingly difficult to find seasonal help for mowing and snow removal. The hiring of one full-time position maintenance position would be partially offset by a \$25,000 decrease in seasonal salaries, but provides more adequate and reliable shift coverage.
- *One human resources wellness and safety specialist.* This position has an estimated cost of \$116,000. Over time, there is a positive return on this investment in that it is expected the position will pay for itself. As evidenced by the 2023 increase in health insurance and worker's compensation costs, this new position will develop a stronger, more aligned wellness program and develop a centralized safety program that will give the city greater control of future annual health care and worker's compensation costs.
- *Legal assistant moving to full-time from part-time.* This position was created in 2021, in coordination with the police department's use of body worn cameras. The number of videos requiring review has increased, as older cases with only squad videos are resolved and replaced with new cases that involve both squad and body camera videos. The position's workload will continue to increase as the court works through its backlog of jury trials and an increasing percentage of cases include body camera videos. The estimated cost of moving this position to a full-time benefited position is \$44,900.

The total cost of the new staffing is approximately \$602,000, which equates to a 1.3 percent increase in the levy.

### *Inflationary Pressures*

Similar to our residents and businesses, the city is experiencing inflationary pressures in almost all facets of operations. Fuel costs for next year are budgeted to increase by \$184,000 or 50 percent. We have seen some recent reprieve at the pump, but our gasoline contract pricing is still expected to jump from its current pricing of \$2.50 gallon to something much higher. Fleet parts and service is experiencing soaring inflationary costs and is expected to increase an additional \$93,000 next year to \$1.21 million.

Natural gas and electricity costs are also increasing and are substantially impacting the budget. Similar to gas and diesel costs, natural gas thermal rates have already increased and are anticipated to be 35 percent higher for this next year. Electricity is also expected to increase by about 12 percent. Combined utility costs will be increasing by \$117,000, which equates to a 0.3 percent increase in the budget.

Departments are anticipating increases in almost all other service delivery and supply costs. In June, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 9.1 percent over the past 12 months. In comparison, the Municipal Cost Index (MCI) rose 12.5 percent from May 2021 to May 2022. The MCI tends to be a more accurate inflationary picture for local governments since it measures goods and services utilized by municipalities versus the goods and services used by individual consumers. Unfortunately, inflation is having a tangible impact on the city's budget. The 2023 budget has accounted for some specific increases for certain areas. Still, overall the budget is not keeping pace with inflation, and departments will be required to be creative in maintaining their current service levels.

### *What's Not in the Budget*

The CIP levy was reduced from a preliminary levy increase of \$790,000 to a reduction of \$407,000 to reduce the 2023 preliminary levy to a 7.1 percent increase. This reduction was made possible by utilizing General Fund reserves in 2023 and future years while gradually recouping lost CIP levy dollars in the coming years. The CIP's out-year balances are manageable, but a concerted effort is needed to ensure funding is restored in the future, or future projects may need to be delayed.

For the last few years, staff has been trying to move the last half of the Cable TV Special Revenue Fund operational costs over to the General Fund. Cable franchise fees support the operations and capital outlay in this fund. These fees have been declining as more and more people move away from cable television in favor of internet streaming services. Staff has been planning to move the remaining full-time employees and other operational costs not associated with cable programming out of the fund and into the General Fund, thus ensuring the fund remains viable. The first half of this transition was completed in 2020, and the second half was initially planned for 2021 until COVID-19 impacted that year's levy request. That move was then delayed until 2023. In trying to reduce the 2023 levy to a manageable level, staff is further delaying this move until 2024. This move saved the 2023 levy \$327,200 and is tentatively programmed to be included in the 2024 levy.

Other items or new programs not included in the budget at this time are funding for buckthorn and curbside collection as well as lake and pond aquatic invasive species removals. Curbside collection is scheduled to be discussed at the September study session, which depending upon council direction, may affect the 2023 or future budgets.

### **2023 Preliminary Levy**

Since recovering from the recession beginning in 2014, the city's community survey has shown our taxpayers' consistent recognition of the value of city services and remarkable support to increase taxes in order to maintain city services. In the 2022 survey, 72 percent of those who stated an opinion still favored such an increase.

The 2023 proposed operating and capital budgets require an overall net increase in the city property tax levy of 7.1 percent to maintain city services. This increase includes all the changes

mentioned earlier in this report, along with \$500,000 in ARPA funds to subsidize the levy increase. Although appearing separately on property tax statements, the HRA levy would decrease by \$25,000, which equates to a 0.1 percent decrease in the city's overall property tax levy impact.

### 2023 Levy Analysis

<b>Levy (thousands)</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Change</b>
City property taxes, current services	44,815	44,815	0.0%
Prior Year One-Time Requests		(115)	-0.3%
ARPA Levy Reinstatement		500	1.1%
Staffing COLA		1,154	2.6%
Workers Comp		264	0.6%
Health Insurance		391	0.9%
Energy Costs		117	0.3%
Fleet Maintenance		93	0.2%
Fuel Costs		184	0.4%
General Liability Insurance		50	0.1%
Other General Fund Supplies & Services		111	0.2%
New Staffing Requests		602	1.3%
New Requests		241	0.5%
CIP Levy Increases/(Decreases)		(407)	-0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44,815</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
HRA	325	300	-7.7%
<b>Total City Levies</b>	<b>45,140</b>	<b>48,300</b>	<b>7.0%</b>

The 2023 levy estimate excludes the decertification of the Boulevard Gardens TIF district. This district is estimated to provide approximately \$500,000 of additional levy capacity without impacting existing taxpayers. This additional tax capacity effectively decreases the levy *impact* by about 1.1 percent to existing taxpayers.

#### Discussion Question:

- ***Does the city council support the proposed costs related to various personnel and other budget impact requests, including reducing the CIP levy from what was discussed at the June CIP meeting?***

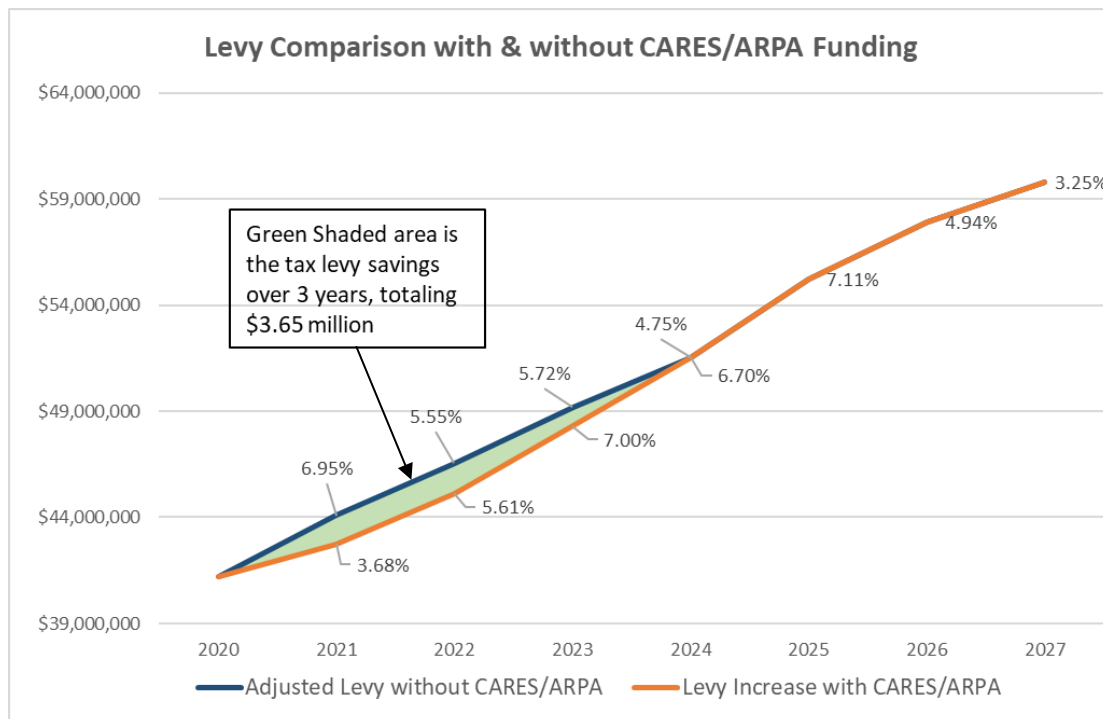
#### **Levy Forecast**

Over the last two years, the city has been fortunate to receive federal grant funding from the CARES Act and ARPA. These allotments have aided the city, and its residents and businesses in battling and fending off COVID-19 from the health and financial impacts felt by many. In addition, these grants have allowed the city to provide property tax relief in 2021, 2022 and 2023, thus reducing our necessary tax collections by \$3.65 million over this same timeframe.

The blue line in the chart below would represent the potential levy if federal funding had not subsidized the levy from 2021 through 2023. If federal funding had not been received, the 2023



preliminary tax increase would have been estimated to be 5.72 percent, which is lower than the currently requested 7.0 percent. However, the total tax collections under the 7.0 percent levy increase are \$900,000 less than if we had not received federal funding. 2023 is the last year of available tax relief and thus will also require a larger levy increase in 2024 to maintain the current service levels.



Due to some of the shifting taking place with the 2023 budget and levy, the 2024-projected levy includes a few baseline costs that will need to be considered this time next year. Those costs include:

- 2023 ARPA property tax relief recoupment - \$500,000
- Cable TV staff and operations - \$327,200
- Reestablishing the CIP levy - \$710,000
- Presidential election cycle - \$145,000
- Interfund loan repayment for the Community Center remodel - \$248,800

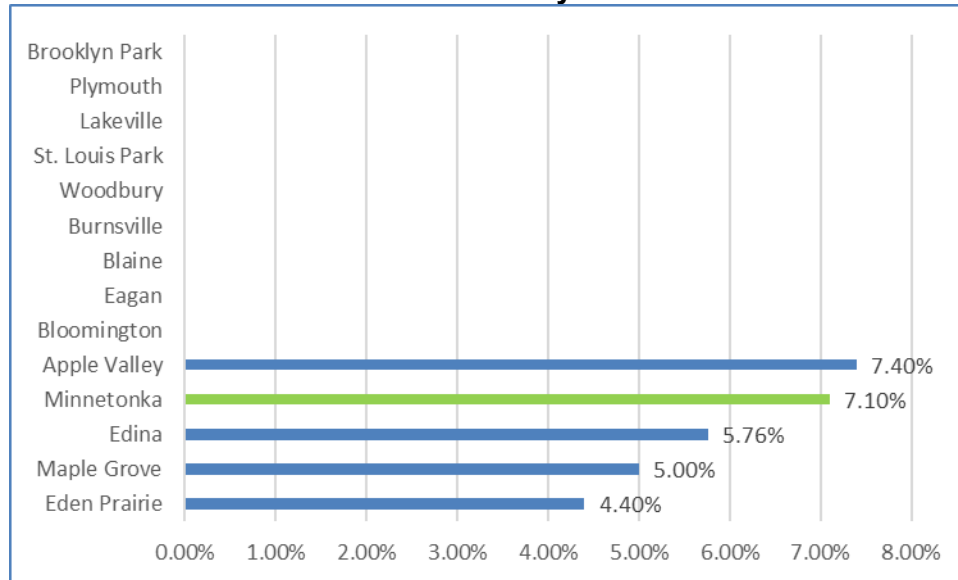
These costs, plus other routine increases related to personnel and other services and charges, increase the estimated 2024 levy to 6.7 percent.

The 2025 budget includes funding for approximately nine additional full-time firefighters as the department transitions to more career-orientated staffing. The 2025 budget also adds a patrol officer with a second officer planned in the 2027 budget. These additions are based on current and projected population growth along with the light rail system coming online.

**Comparisons with Other Cities.** In most years, our comparable cities typically have an estimated idea of their preliminary levy by late July or early August. This year is a bit odd as most cities are unsure of their levy increases and have indicated they expect it to be late August before they have a clearer picture. The following chart illustrates just how limited our available information is to date.

An updated chart will be provided in September with more accurate levy estimates. As a reminder, each city is unique, and its tax levies can vary for many reasons. Similar to all our comparable cities except for one, Minnetonka does not and will not receive LGA in 2022. Equally important, unlike many of these other cities, the city does not rely upon special assessments to fund street reconstruction and maintenance.

**Potential 2023 Preliminary Tax Increases**



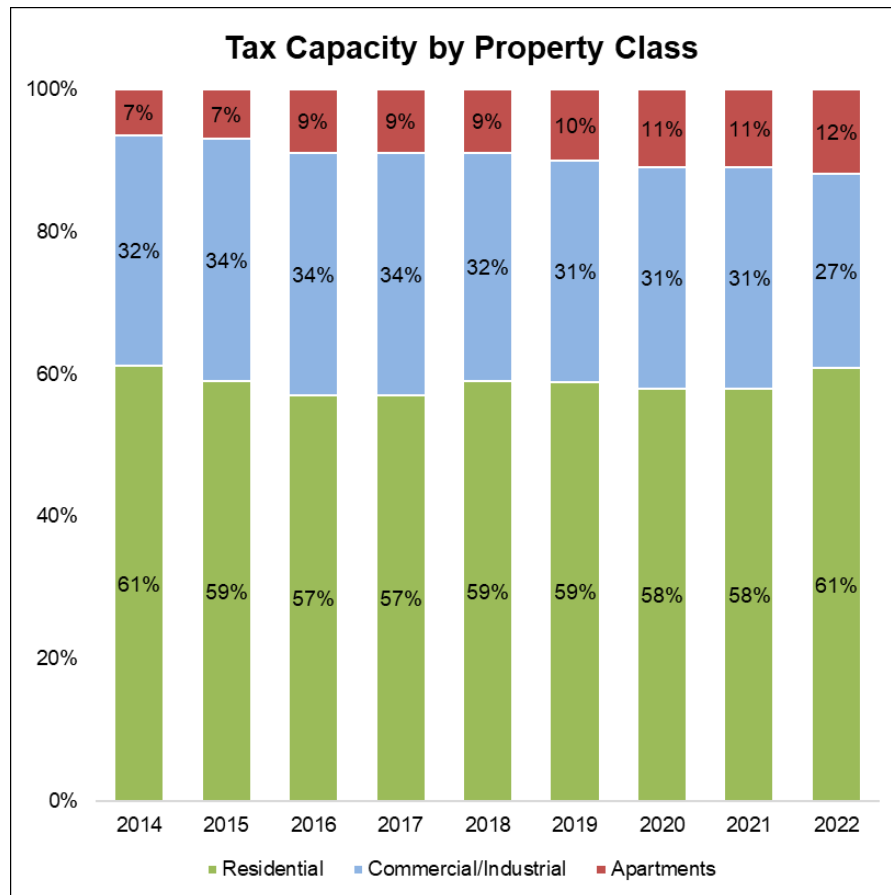
**Homeowner Impacts.** New development and redevelopment in the city again increased the city’s property tax base last year, as reported in March by the city assessor. Over the previous nine years, the city’s assessed market value has increased by 58 percent. A portion of that increase results from improved real estate as opposed to market forces alone.

The table below outlines this year’s growth (including new improvements) in the market by major property type.

	<b>Overall Growth</b>	<b>Total Change (millions)</b>
Single-family Residential	16.1%	\$943.8
Lakeshore	23.1%	\$91.9
Townhouses	10.8%	\$73.4
Condominiums	7.1%	\$42.7
Commercial	3.9%	\$62.6
Industrial	10.3%	\$36.9
Apartments	12.9%	\$174.7
Other Property Types	9.4%	\$24.0
<b>Total Change</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>\$1,450.0</b>



The varying growth rates of the different property classifications equates to a shift in property tax burden. The tax burden between property types tends to ebb and flow over time as market conditions affect properties differently. Most notably for taxes payable in 2023 is the increase in all residential housing property types. This residential increase will cause a shift in tax burden towards all these property classes while shifting the tax burden away from commercial properties. The apartment growth over the last several years is mainly due to new construction, which adds to the tax base and helps alleviate some of the tax burdens for all taxpayers.



Calculating the impact of changes in property taxes on homeowners in Minnesota requires a complicated mix of data and information that changes each year, some of which depends upon legislatively defined formulas, such as the state fiscal disparities program. The final piece of fiscal disparity information is typically received in late August. In prior years, we were fortunate to receive this information right before our study session. This year's study session is a week or so earlier, which will likely be before this final piece of information is available to provide better estimates of levy impacts. Rough estimates indicate that a median-valued home that increased in value 15.6 percent to \$468,500 will see a monthly tax increase of \$10.60. Again, these are rough estimates, and final estimates will likely change in either direction.

**Discussion Questions:**

- ***Does the city council concur with shifting expenditures into future years to flatten the 2023 levy while increasing the projected levy for 2024?***

- ***Does the city council still concur with moving forward with the community center remodeling project, utilizing internal funding to be repaid over 15 years?***
- ***Does the city council agree that \$48,000,374, including \$80,000 for the self-funded Ridgedale Mall tax abatement (overall 7.1 percent increase), should be certified as the city's preliminary general levy for 2023?***

#### **HRA LEVY**

The city's first levy for housing and redevelopment began in 2009. State law limits levies, and the maximum rate is 0.0185 percent of a city's taxable market value. This equals approximately \$2 million for Minnetonka in 2023. On June 20, the city council reviewed in a study session the 2023–2027 Economic Improvement Program (EIP), which recommends the 2023 HRA levy decrease by \$25,000 for a total levy of \$300,000. The indicated uses of the funds are SW Light Rail repayment (\$75,000), Housing Programs (\$100,000), and Homes Within Reach (\$125,000).

The Economic Development Advisory Commission (EDAC) will review the HRA budget and levy at its September 9 meeting.

#### **Discussion Question:**

- ***Does the city council agree that a decrease of \$25,000 for a total of \$300,000 should be certified as the HRA preliminary levy for 2023, which is the levy amount presented at the EIP study session in June?***

Attachment:  
General Fund Preliminary Budget

## General Fund Preliminary Budget

Object Account	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Requested	\$ Change from 2022 to 2023	% Change from 2022 to 2023
<b>Revenues</b>						
Property Taxes						
4010 - AD Valorem Tax Levy	\$ 29,560,970	\$ 32,109,862	\$ 33,760,800	\$ 37,345,000	\$ 3,584,200	10.6%
4020 - Uncollectible Taxes	180,502	240,230	(200,000)	(200,000)	-	0.0%
4030 - Tax Penalties and Interest	24,335	61,576	24,000	24,000	-	0.0%
4050 - Tax Forfeit Sale Revenue	-	25	-	-	-	
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>29,765,806</b>	<b>32,411,694</b>	<b>33,584,800</b>	<b>37,169,000</b>	<b>3,584,200</b>	<b>10.7%</b>
Licenses & Permits	4,283,867	4,587,093	3,081,900	3,207,400	125,500	4.1%
Intergovernmental	5,245,070	3,578,239	1,211,300	758,840	(452,460)	-37.4%
Charges for Services	363,091	441,186	551,000	345,950	(205,050)	-37.2%
Fines & Forfeitures	204,465	167,539	253,500	135,000	(118,500)	-46.7%
Investment Interest	665,712	(38,619)	575,000	1,156,400	581,400	101.1%
Recreation Charges	564,565	1,066,249	1,193,900	1,245,000	51,100	4.3%
Miscellaneous	785,389	949,063	857,200	826,850	(30,350)	-3.5%
Transfers In	1,447,500	1,457,800	1,469,200	1,494,800	25,600	1.7%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>43,325,466</b>	<b>44,620,243</b>	<b>42,777,800</b>	<b>46,339,240</b>	<b>3,561,440</b>	<b>8.3%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>						
Personnel Services	28,140,524	29,907,169	33,707,100	36,092,800	2,385,700	7.1%
Supplies	1,432,356	1,559,969	1,830,750	1,988,900	158,150	8.6%
Other Services & Charges	6,940,883	7,549,595	8,239,950	8,757,540	517,590	6.3%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>36,513,763</b>	<b>39,016,733</b>	<b>43,777,800</b>	<b>46,839,240</b>	<b>3,061,440</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
<b>Revenues Over/(Under) Expenditures</b>	<b>6,811,703</b>	<b>5,603,510</b>	<b>(1,000,000)</b>	<b>(500,000)</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>3.1%</b>
<b>Other Financing Uses</b>						
Transfers Out	4,174,608	3,954,603	2,888,000	2,471,000	(417,000)	-14.4%
<b>Total Revenues Over/(Under) Expenditures after Transfer Out</b>	<b>\$ 2,637,095</b>	<b>\$ 1,648,907</b>	<b>\$ (3,888,000)</b>	<b>\$ (2,971,000)</b>	<b>\$ 917,000</b>	
<b>Expenditures by Department</b>						
10 - Mayor & City Council	\$ 320,636	\$ 217,068	\$ 303,100	\$ 305,000	\$ 1,900	0.6%
11 - General Administration	819,897	685,907	1,023,300	1,099,800	76,500	7.5%
12 - Community Center	457,627	471,890	621,000	695,200	74,200	11.9%
13 - IT	1,056,028	1,124,164	1,374,500	1,423,900	49,400	3.6%
14 - Legal	880,361	955,710	1,007,800	1,090,100	82,300	8.2%
15 - Finance	1,020,877	1,150,758	1,176,850	1,207,300	30,450	2.6%
16 - Assessing	823,894	855,446	919,000	954,600	35,600	3.9%
17 - Building Maintenance	1,338,022	1,620,458	1,731,500	1,913,800	182,300	10.5%
18 - Joint Recreation	1,136,970	1,558,368	1,870,850	1,930,400	59,550	3.2%
19 - Planning	627,696	675,436	858,800	844,100	(14,700)	-1.7%
20 - Engineering	1,249,141	1,332,207	1,512,900	1,574,800	61,900	4.1%
21 - Community Development	2,211,781	2,228,615	2,510,500	2,614,900	104,400	4.2%
22 - Street Maintenance	3,343,355	3,576,645	4,041,450	4,399,740	358,290	8.9%
24 - Parks & Trails	1,863,058	2,049,415	2,171,500	2,369,900	198,400	9.1%
25 - Police	11,022,379	11,637,838	11,882,050	12,726,900	844,850	7.1%
26 - Fire	3,852,327	3,971,849	5,293,200	5,764,400	471,200	8.9%
28 - Senior Citizens	331,183	360,650	412,900	376,700	(36,200)	-8.8%
29 - Environmental Health	393,504	360,266	397,400	402,600	5,200	1.3%
30 - MTKA Recreation	588,603	597,386	625,100	636,800	11,700	1.9%
31 - Natural Resources	1,599,335	1,621,734	1,865,800	1,944,200	78,400	4.2%
33 - City Manager	561,395	822,012	838,800	917,600	78,800	9.4%
34 - Human Resources	777,183	909,154	972,200	1,233,900	261,700	26.9%
35 - Contingency & Transfers	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	0.0%
36 - Communications	238,511	233,756	317,300	362,600	45,300	14.3%
<b>Total Departmental Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 36,513,763</b>	<b>\$ 39,016,733</b>	<b>\$ 43,777,800</b>	<b>\$ 46,839,240</b>	<b>\$ 3,061,440</b>	<b>7.0%</b>



**Study Session Agenda Item #6  
Meeting of Aug. 15, 2022**

**Title:** September Study Session – topics and date

**Report From** Mike Funk, Acting City Manager

**Submitted through:**

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**Action Requested:** Affirm upcoming topics and date

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**Summary Statement**

This item is informational and is intended to provide the council with the upcoming study session agenda items and study session schedule.

**Background**

The Minnetonka city council is scheduled to hold a total of eleven (11) study sessions in 2022. To maximize study session meetings, provide staff direction and focus on council priorities, council members ranked specific topics they expressed interest to review. At the Jan. 10, 2022 Study Session the city council reviewed these rankings, discussed priorities and provided direction to staff.

At the Feb. 7, 2022 regular council meeting the city council unanimously approved the 2022 Study Session Work plan. See attached. Staff committed that at each proceeding study session the topics for the upcoming study session will be provided.

Section 1.5 of the City Council Rules of Procedure states, individual council members may propose agenda items for future meetings at a study session, and the council may provide direction to the city staff regarding scheduling such matters. In essence, this document can be modified throughout the remainder of the year by a majority of council members.

Unless modified by the city council, the 2022 Study Session Work Plan agenda items for September 19, 2022 are:

- Young person sustainability commission interviews
- Housing: homelessness
- Affordable Housing
- Citywide curbside pick up

**Discussion Questions**

1. Does the city council confirm upcoming topics and date?