

**Addenda  
Minnetonka City Council Study Session  
Meeting of August 15, 2022**

**ITEM 3– Recap of Ranked Choice Voting**

The attached correspondence was received after distribution of the packet.



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**To:** City Council  
**From:** Moranda Dammann, Acting Assistant City Manager  
**Date:** Aug. 15, 2022  
**Subject:** Change Memo for the Aug. 15, City Council Study Session Agenda

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**ITEM 3 – Recap of Ranked Choice Voting**

The attached correspondence was received after distribution of the packet.

**From:** Bruce Honnigford  
**Date:** August 14, 2022 at 9:34:57 PM CDT  
**To:** Minnetonka Mike <mike@minnetonkamn.gov>, Brad Wiersum <bwersum@minnetonkamn.gov>, Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>, Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>, Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>, Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>, Bradley Schaeppi <bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** RCV regrets

To the City council members who rejected the advice of the charter commission over approving a ballot measure for RCV:

If your goal was to waste taxpayer money, welcome dark money into our community politics and confuse people about how to vote for their candidate for no good reason, you did a great job.

Well done!

Bruce Honnigford  
13705 Summit Ln  
Minnetonka MN

**From:** Ellen Cousins  
**Sent:** Monday, August 15, 2022 4:09 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <bwersum@minnetonkamn.gov>; Bradley Schaeppi <bschaepi@minnetonkamn.gov>; Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>; Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>; Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>; Kimberly Wilburn <kwilburn@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Cc:** Becky Koosman <bkoosman@minnetonkamn.gov>; Public Comment <publiccomment@minnetonkamn.gov>; Mike Funk <mfunk@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** RCV - study session tonight

Good Afternoon Mayor and Councilmembers,

I understand this evening you will be discussing ranked choice voting and the community's response to this voting scheme.

As you discuss this voting scheme, please keep in mind the following points/questions:

The majority of the community did not vote for this. To be clear, the majority of Minnetonka resident voters in 2020 did not vote for this. We had 37,405 voters cast a vote in the presidential race. We had only 34,038 voters cast a vote for the ballot question. That means 455 voters did not vote either way for ranked choice voting. When you add that number to the "no" votes cast, you get 18,930. With only 18,475 voters who cast a "yes" vote, that means the majority of voters did NOT vote for rcv. So, when you say the majority of voters prefer rcv, you are in fact, in error. Please stop saying this, as it is untrue.

As I analyzed the results of this vote, there was not one single precinct where all of the residents voted either for or against this ballot question. Every single precinct had residents who chose to leave their ballot blank on this question.

As you saw from the survey, the majority of people who responded and those who made comments, do not prefer rcv. They would prefer to go back to the traditional method of voting. Therefore, as representatives for the City of Minnetonka residents, you should not be in favor of this in our city, regardless of your personal feelings.

This voting scheme costs money. Traditionally, when a ballot question costs the taxpayers money, the blank votes are counted as "no" votes. Why did you decide to just drop those ballots?

Perceived benefits touted by rcv advocates don't generally apply in the City of Minnetonka. Historically, we have had very few primaries and very little animosity in our city council races. Therefore, the costs savings of rcv do not apply in our city as we have not had to pay for primaries. Additionally, there was much more animosity, as seen in the letters to the editors, regarding our city council races.

As you may recall, there was a tremendous amount of outside money spent on this ballot question in favor of rcv. Our residents who opposed it were at an extreme disadvantage as we went up against fairvote, who had been working in our community for over two years to get this through.

We had a short 6 weeks to try to organize, raise money for flyers, educate the residents as to the dangers of rcv, and put out signs before early voting started - during a pandemic.

The city council of 2020 should be holding their heads in shame for allowing this to be put on the ballot. The council was listening to people and organizations outside of Minnetonka, not listening to the advice of the charter commission and not even requiring a petition from residents with the required amount of signatures.

Furthermore, the city council is coming under increasing criticism for not listening well to residents. A variety of topics have seemed to sail through because of a perceived social good by some, not based on data or reality. On this topic, you have data. This is not supported. Please consider a repeal.

I appreciate your service to our community,

Ellen Weishar Cousins