



**CHARTER COMMISSION AGENDA**

**July 14, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.**

**CHARTER COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING**

**To be held via WebEx**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve minutes of July 7, 2020 meeting
4. Public comment opportunity: hear from the public regarding ranked choice voting
5. Commission discussion of ranked choice voting (optional, if time permits)
6. Future meeting schedule
7. Adjournment

Attachments:

- a. City attorney memo
- b. Comments received from the public

Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, the charter commission's regular meeting place is not open to the public. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021, some commission members will participate in the meeting remotely via WebEx. Members of the public who desire to monitor the meeting remotely or to give input or testimony during the meeting can find instructions at <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/government/virtual-meeting-information>.



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**TO:** Charter Commission  
**FROM:** Corrine Heine, City Attorney  
**DATE:** July 9, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Meeting of July 14, 2020

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The purpose of the July 14, 2020 charter commission meeting is to receive comments from the public regarding ranked choice voting. This memo provides supplemental information for the commission.

1. Item 2: Approval of minutes. The minutes of the July 7, 2020 meeting have not been completed. They will be provided via an addendum on Monday, July 13, 2020.
2. Item 4: Public comment. Promptly after the agenda for the July 14 commission meeting has been posted to the city website, the communications staff will promote public participation in the meeting as follows:
  - The city's website will feature an article on the July 14 meeting, with links that allow the person to submit feedback by email or fill out a form so that they can participate by calling in to the WebEx meeting
  - An email will be pushed out to more than 12,000 subscribers (those who subscribe to: latest news, community events, all boards and commissions, seniors, media). The email will also include links for recipients to submit feedback by email or fill out a form to participate by calling in.
  - Posts that refer followers to the links for participation will also be made to the following social media networks (with followers listed)
    - Nextdoor – 19,100 followers
    - Facebook – 4,515 followers
    - Twitter – 6,866 followers
    - Instagram – 1,808 followers
  - This week's message from the mayor, which is distributed to more than 5,500 subscribers, will also include information about the meeting.
3. Supplemental information: community survey. At its July 13, 2020 city council meeting, the city council will receive a presentation from Peter Leatherman of The Morris Leatherman Company. Mr. Leatherman will report on the results of the 2020 Minnetonka resident survey. Detailed information about the survey is included in the city council packet, which can be accessed at <https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/552/3427>. As mentioned at a previous charter commission meeting, the 2020 survey included a question about ranked choice voting.

Morris Leatherman conducted a telephone survey of 400 randomly selected residents of Minnetonka, using both cell phone and landline telephone numbers. Survey responses were gathered by professional interviewers across the community between May 12 and May 29, 2020. The results are predicted to be accurate representations of the Minnetonka population, within +/- five percent in 95 out of 100 cases. Demographics information of survey respondents can be found in the Leatherman executive summary, which is contained in the July 13 city council agenda packet.

The 2020 survey included the following question:

As you may know, three cities – Minneapolis, Saint Paul and Saint Louis Park – have changed their local elections to a ranked choice voting system, which allows voters to rank their first, second and third choice for each race.

Would you favor or oppose the use of ranked choice voting in Minnetonka?  
Do you feel strongly that way?

The responses overall were:

Strongly favor	15%
Favor	51%
Oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	10%
Don't know/refused to answer	12%

Morris Leatherman provided cross-tabulation data on the survey responses, to identify demographic information for each set of respondents. In order to keep all information on one page, the cross-tabulation data is shown on the following page.

<b>Demographic</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Favor or strongly favor</b>	<b>Oppose or strongly oppose</b>	<b>Don't know/refused</b>
<b>Residency</b>	Five yrs or less	70%	19%	12%
	6-10 yrs	76%	18%	7%
	11-20 yrs	61%	27%	12%
	Over 20 yrs	57%	25%	17%
<b>Household</b>	Senior	59%	24%	17%
	Households w/ children	68%	21%	11%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	Homeowners	63%	21%	14%
	Renters	72%	22%	6%
<b>Age</b>	18-24 yrs	67%	17%	17%
	25-34 yrs	68%	22%	10%
	35-44 yrs	75%	18%	7%
	45-54 yrs	68%	21%	12%
	55-64 yrs	60%	27%	13%
	65 and over	56%	28%	16%
<b>Race</b>	White	66%	21%	13%
	African-American	62%	38%	0%
	Hispanic-Latinx	53%	20%	27%
	Asian-Pacific Islander	85%	10%	5%
	Multi-racial	61%	39%	0%
<b>Gender</b>	Men	65%	24%	11%
	Women	67%	21%	12%
<b>Ward</b>	Ward 1	75%	15%	10%
	Ward 2	62%	26%	13%
	Ward 3	61%	27%	12%
	Ward 4	65%	22%	13%

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:43 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Charter Amendment Discussion

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**From:** Kathryn McCullum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 6, 2020 11:30 AM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Charter Amendment Discussion

I am extremely concerned about the charter amendment for ranked choice voting for several reasons.

One reason I'm concerned is the fact that it's being pushed through so quickly. There are so many people who are not even aware of the substantial and serious proposal. Having a snippet or two in the Memo is not informative nor is it educational (even if it's on the front page as noted by the communications staff).

In addition, holding public hearings on such a massively important item DURING A PANDEMIC is incredibly irresponsible. And now the topic is only being discussed in the "inner circle" with no consideration of residents or their input.

Residents are not showing up to voice their opinions? Residents. Don't. Know. About. The. Proposal. It's like the biggest secret in Minnetonka. Then there is the pandemic. Making a decision on behalf of the people who are not educated on the proposal and are not able to meet to discuss their concerns is irresponsible.

There is no way that the citizens of Minnetonka have been educated enough on this substantial change for it to move forward on the ballot yet this year.

Also, a survey was done? Were ALL residents given a chance to participate in the survey? I know I didn't get one and many of my neighbors did not get one either. As you know, a survey is part of the education process for residents in addition to providing a wide-ranging notice of the potential and significant change that may be considered.

There is another reason that this is not a good proposal for the community. The ranked choice voting is being touted as one answer to helping with "extreme partisanship" by those in favor. However, in reviewing the history of this proposal, you may note that the CD 3 representative introduced a bill in Congress early this year to promote ranked choice voting, with an identical bill in the Senate - both democrats. In addition, this proposal is being pushed by a special interest group that supports the CD 3 candidate. Now understanding this information, I as an Independent, can only view this initiative as an "extreme partisanship" proposal from the beginning through to the end.

I sincerely hope you recommend to Council that this item be given additional time in order to inform and educate the residents.

Thank you for your time.

[As an aside, I worked as an election administrator for numerous years. I know what election administration entails. If anyone says ranked choice is more efficient and less costly than what is currently in place, they are either terribly misinformed or they are lying. ]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 1:42 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Ms. Heine,

Ranked choice voting is very important to me, and I know it is to many in the city, state and country. Please let the voters decide on this in November. Let's be a leader on this in Minnetonka and show the state that we can pass and implement RCV. Voters should not have to decide between throwing away their vote and supporting the candidate of their choice. It seems to me that RCV would be even more important with mail-in ballots when it comes to primaries, so with the current trend we'll really need this going forward. RCV and other forms of election reform lead us more toward a more pure democracy, which is good for us all.

Thank you for your attention and your service.

Sincerely,  
Libby Engelbret

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** S [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 2:23 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

This note is to reiterate the importance of the Charter Commission voting in favor of directing the City Council to allow the question to be placed on the November ballot. I believe the City of Minnetonka needs to be far more progressive in many areas, including giving this option to all residents in future elections. If the City Council is serious about making this community be more inclusive of all residents, this is a vehicle to help towards that goal! Sandy Johnson

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Charter Commission: Ranked Choice Voting

Ms. Heine and Commission Members,

Please allow voters in November to decide the fate of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

RCV solves many problems, but the most pressing to my mind is the following:

**Primary elections with extremely low (4%) turnout.**

RCV would allow Minnetonka to eliminate this costly, low-turnout and unrepresentative primary election, and move all candidates to the November ballot, when turnout is highest and most representative of our community, and yields a winner supported by a majority. It increases 'effective voter participation', since all November election voters have a more complete voice in the entire process.

I can't imagine why you would oppose letting these very voters decide if Minnetonka should employ RCV.

Michele Pasko  
13024 Muriel Road  
Minnetonka  
[REDACTED]



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:08 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Amendment

Here is another message from Kathryn McCullum. Please include it in the next packet.

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**From:** Kathryn McCullum <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:09 PM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Amendment

Hi again Karen,  
I will be sending this to other Commission members.

I watched the Charter Commission meeting and I would like to reiterate my statements regarding the fast pace of this proposal and the lack of informing and educating the residents. They go hand in hand.

The fast pace has lead to an incredibly sloppy process in getting the word out to and educating the residents. In listening to the meeting, it was very clear that it was not thought out.

As the city attorney noted, the city has several email lists where residents can choose to be notified on specific topics on which they would like to receive information and those lists do not overlap. She noted that this particular item did not fall into any of the topic categories. So, how many residents were notified from those lists? Which list was used? How were the residents on those lists chosen to receive notice? Were they selected at random? Who exactly received the notice.

In addition, if the city is only sending notifications to people who are on email lists, this would leave the majority of residents in the dark. Is this because the city doesn't believe the other residents aren't interested? That's what it looks like.

And this doesn't even include the survey that was done. Which residents received the survey? Were they chosen at random? How many received it?

Also, the fact that the Minnetonka Memo is written a month in advance is not a sufficient reason for the lack of notice to residents. The article contained no relevant information. I think you know that. There are numerous ways to notify. One is to actually send notices to the residents. With such a fundamental change in the election process, the money spent on notifying all residents is well worth it. Why hasn't that been done?

I sincerely question the reasoning behind rushing this item through. Minnetonka is known for outstanding communication. The way this has been handled is so off the mark. Again, people aren't even aware of the proposal.

The residents must be educated on what they are voting for and that hasn't happened in any way.

Thank you for your time.