



14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | eminnetonka.com

TO: Charter commission
FROM: Corrine Heine, City Attorney
DATE: July 13, 2020
SUBJECT: Addendum to July 14, 2020 charter commission agenda packet

The first addendum to the July 14, 2020 charter commission packet contains the information identified below. An additional addendum will be issued tomorrow afternoon, if additional public comments are received.

- Item 3 – Minutes.

The draft minutes of the July 7, 2020 charter commission meeting are attached.

- Item 4 – Public comment opportunity

Attached are public comments that have been received. This includes comments that had been addressed to the city council rather than the charter commission. However, because the city council will not consider ranked choice voting until after the commission makes its report, it seemed appropriate to inform the commission of these comments.

Commission members are reminded that the following previous agenda packets, all of which are available at the city website, also contain public comments on ranked choice voting:

- May 18, 2020 addendum to council packet
- May 26, 2020 addendum to charter commission packet
- June 8, 2020 council packet and addendum
- June 9, 2020 charter commission packet and addenda
- June 23, 2020 charter commission packet and addendum
- July 7, 2020 charter commission packet and addendum



UNAPPROVED
DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE
MINNETONKA CHARTER COMMISSION**

July 7, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Northrup called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members present: Dick Allendorf, Karen Anderson, John Cheleen, David Larson, John Northrup, Terry Schneider, Linnea Sodergren, LuAnn Tolliver, Brad Wiersum.

Members absent: None.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2020 MEETING

Wiersum requested a change in wording at page 5 of the minutes, to clarify that the city receives data from the various media it uses. Anderson moved, Larson seconded, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2020 meeting as revised. By roll call vote, all voted in favor.

4. DISCUSSION: WHAT PROBLEM(S) IS MINNETONKA WORKING TO SOLVE WITH RANKED CHOICE VOTING?

Northrup briefly summarized the topics covered by the charter commission in its previous meetings in May and June. City Attorney Heine briefly summarized the structure of the staff report.

Schneider said the commission needs to discuss each problem, but that the list of topics should not be used as a checklist, where all problems must be addressed in order for the commission to recommend the use of ranked choice voting.

Northrup identified the first identified problem, which is low voter turnout. He asked whether the commission perceived low turnout as a problem in Minnetonka. Schneider said that the city does experience low voter turnout, part of which might be due to holding elections in odd-numbered years. He noted that Minneapolis had boosted its voter turnout, but that might be attributed to increased voter outreach and not only the adoption of RCV. Schneider said the city had chosen odd-year elections in order to avoid partisan politics that occur during elections in even-numbered years. With odd-year elections, the city gets steadfast voters who are engaged in city affairs and

regularly turn out for elections. Schneider noted that when he was mayor, he would check the voting records of applicants for commission positions, and he was amazed at the number of people who did not vote in city elections. He would ask people why they did not participate in local elections, and they often responded that they did not see a need to vote because they were happy with the way the city was run.

Cheleen indicated that his experience was that the council has always done a solid job and has stayed away from partisan politics. He noted that there is housing turnover, and younger families are moving in. He felt that one way to increase voter turnout would be to work together with schools to promote voting in elections. Anderson said it would be nice to have greater voter turnout, especially at primaries. She did not feel that RCV was the only way to increase turnout. She noted that the number of candidates and competitive races can improve voter turnout. Moving to even-year elections would improve voter turnout, but the downsides outweigh the benefits of that change. The downsides would be the introduction of partisan politics and also the fact that the city elections would be at the end of a long ballot and might not gain voter interest.

Sodergren said there was not solid evidence that RCV by itself increases voter turnout. She noted that Minneapolis City Clerk Casey Carl had talked about the voter outreach that city had done. She felt that voter education is important. Wiersum stated that Minnetonka had fairly good turnout compared to other cities of similar size with odd-year elections. Regardless of what happens with RCV, the city may want to look at what other things could be done to increase voter turnout. He agreed with others that moving to even-year elections would not be a good idea.

Allendorf said the research papers did not seem to indicate that RCV made a difference in voter turnout. He agreed with others that the city should look at ways to improve voter turnout, but not necessarily RCV. Larson said that the quality of mayors the city has had with its existing voter turnout has been excellent. He believes voters are comfortable that the city is well run.

Schneider noted that FairVote had commented on the voter turnout as being unrepresentative. He was not sure whether that

Northrup agreed with Sodergren that a communication plan could be a great way to improve voter turnout. He felt there was mixed evidence about the effectiveness of RCV alone. The commission may want to recommend

Northrup noted that the second problem identified was an insufficient number of candidates. Anderson said it is a problem, but she was not sure that RCV would increase the number of candidates. The data suggested that the number of candidates increases when an incumbent was not running. She said she had run five times and

always had opposition. She thinks it is healthy to have opposition and would like to see more candidates. However, she was not sure RCV would accomplish that – perhaps in the first two cycles but not over time. Schneider said that the city has received many applications when it has filled vacancies by appointment, but that the applicants were not inclined to run for election for various reasons. He believes that, for a number of reasons, people are more engaged today and interested in getting involved in their community. He foresees that more people will be interested in running for office. He's not certain RCV is the answer.

Sodergren said that applicants for appointment to vacancies typically point out that they do not have to do the work of campaigning for office. She said RCV would provide a longer time period for candidates to get organized and campaign for office, and in that respect, RCV could encourage more people to run. Wiersum commented that Minnetonka's filing date was in May, because there was the potential for an August primary. In St. Louis Park, the filing deadline was July, because there would not be a primary due to that city's adoption of RCV. He felt that elimination of a primary might encourage more people to run because the candidates would not have a lengthy period of time that they need to campaign. Minnetonka does not have a lot of primaries because some candidates who are not as committed drop out when they realize there will be a primary. Wiersum was not certain that eliminating primaries would be the decisive factor in increasing the number of candidates, because deciding to run for office is a daunting prospect, especially for people who have never run before.

Allendorf said that when there are more people running, you have better people running. He ran six times and always had opposition. The candidates who have run have been quality candidates. He did not think that increasing the number of candidates would increase the quality of candidates.

Northrup felt that the data showed that RCV does tend to increase the number of candidates who run. He felt RCV generally achieves its objectives on this issue.

Northrup introduced the next issue, which is the lack of majority winners. Schneider said that when the city has a vacancy that it has to fill, it is a challenge because there could be multiple candidate running with no primary. He believes the RCV model would be appropriate in those instances. He thinks that using it in special elections would be a way to introduce RCV to Minnetonka voters. Anderson said she disagrees with trying RCV for special elections only. If the city is going to use RCV, it should not be piecemeal. She looked at the issue of majority support for candidates from the perspective of exhausted ballots. RCV does not always result in winners who have a majority of all votes cast.

Wiersum said he agreed with both Schneider and Anderson. It is challenging to look at RCV on a piecemeal basis, but he also sees the lack of a primary in special elections as a big problem. Sometimes the council will appoint a candidate rather than risk low voter turnout at a special election held in the winter months. When the council does appoint, the council often uses a ranking process to select the person to be appointed. Special elections are the one area where Wiersum has the least comfort with the current system, but he is also concerned about piecemeal application.

Sodergren said she wanted to go back to the number of candidates. She felt RCV might possible address an issue of lack of diversity of candidates. Some residents had raised the issue of racism. Other than data from Minneapolis, the studies in the packet did not address whether RCV increased diversity of candidates. She believes the commission should be able to address the issue of candidate diversity. Northrup stated that the commission could wrap up the issue of special elections and then come back to diversity.

Anderson asked whether there was a problem with conducting RCV special elections in even-numbered years. Heine responded that holding an RCV election in an even-numbered year raises the issue of ballot conformity. State law requires a specific order for listing offices on ballots for state elections. The RCV ballot cannot appear on the same page as the other offices. A special election held in August or November of an even-numbered year might require a second ballot. Hennepin County election staff had previously stated that there were potential legal issues. On the other hand, Minneapolis is holding a special election for one of its council seats in August of this year, and the Minneapolis city clerk had indicated that Minneapolis was looking at moving its elections to even-numbered years.

Northrup returned to the issue of diversity of candidates. Schneider said it is an important issue. He would guess that RCV might increase the diversity of candidates. His personal feeling is that the best way to increase diversity is to increase participation in boards and commissions and to encourage talented persons to run for office. He said it is hard to get people to make a commitment to run for council because it is a big commitment. There are more things the city can do to encourage people to run, which have nothing to do with RCV. Larson said that diversity is broad-ranging, not just racial diversity, but gender, sexual orientation, disability and other demographic groups. He is concerned about exhausted ballots and does not see that as a fair election.

Wiersum said that having more candidates is positive, and the likelihood of having a more diverse pool of candidates is greater when the number of candidates increases. The city should work toward increasing the number of candidates regardless of what voting system the city uses.

Northrup agreed with Schneider's statement that getting involved in city commissions is a good way to see how city governance works.

The next topic was costly primaries. Northrup and Schneider both noted that the commission would be talking about costs of implementing RCV later in the meeting.

The next topic was a lack of civility in campaigning. Schneider said he had followed local elections since the 1970's and in all that time he could only recall one instance of negative campaigning. The city has hardly any negative campaigning. He was proud of how the council had handled diverse opinions over the years, and he pointed out one comment from the public that was contrary to that tradition. Anderson said that the data indicates RCV could help promote civility in campaigns, but she had never seen that as a problem in Minnetonka. She suggested that lack of civility could become a problem in the future, because lack of civility is more common with use of social media. She's not certain RCV would solve that problem, the data suggested RCV improves civility.

Wiersum said he has not had a problem with people being uncivil. People who run for office in Minnetonka love their city, and at the council level, the council members focus on being respectful of each other and of staff. He sees odd-year elections as a benefit because the city stays out of partisan rancor. Social media is a problem, because anonymity creates opportunities for people to say things that they would never say to your face. He sees merit to the argument that RCV helps with civility, but it has not been a problem in Minnetonka.

Allendorf said that in 23 years on the city council, he could only remember one person who was negative toward the council and staff. He thinks that was an anomaly that RCV would not have addressed.

Northrup moved back to the question of costly primaries. He noted that Moranda Dammann had included information about the cost of primaries and the potential costs of implementing RCV. He referred to page 11 of the packet addendum.

Schneider asked for clarification of the numbers in the report. Heine stated that for every \$400,000 increase in the budget is a 1% increase in the budget. Page 11 shows the increase in the city budget that is attributable to the use of RCV and then correlates that to the percentage increase in budget. For example, a \$67,000 increase in the budget is a budget increase of .17%. That page also shows how the budget increase impacts the tax bill for an averaged value home of \$378,500. The same information is shown for future budget years, with the assumption that there is no change in the overall budget amount or the value of an averaged-value home.

Allendorf said that the cost information is easier for people to understand when they understand the impact that it has on the budget and the levy. Allendorf said that the voters should know that RCV would be more expensive than the current system.

Tolliver commented that the chart shows the current costs of an election, but if the city increases the number of voters who participate in an election, that could also increase the costs of an election, independent of RCV.

Schneider said it is clear that the costs are higher. He wondered if the city had an extra \$70,000 to \$100,000 to spend, it might be better to spend it on voter outreach than on RCV. Northrup said he was also surprised by the costs. Allendorf said the ballot question should make clear to the voters that the cost might be higher.

Sodergren said that if the commission were to recommend that RCV be placed on the ballot, the staff should look at other ways to potentially reduce the costs. Anderson said it is difficult to assess based on a hypothetical. RCV could save money if the city did not hire additional staff, but that could result in a longer delay in obtaining election results. Minnetonka will expend costs on voter outreach, and it will cost more money, even if the commission can't identify the precise cost.

Northrup asked if the commission wanted to develop any consensus around the issue of what problems RCV is trying to solve. Schneider felt that the commission had discussed each issue thoroughly.

5. REVIEW OF CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY CITY COUNCIL

Heine gave the staff report.

Northrup asked whether the charter commission would have a role in determining the rules for the ballot and breaking a tie. Heine responded that no city has established detailed rules in its charter but has left that to the city council to determine by ordinance. Anderson asked whether the ordinance would address the number of candidates that would be ranked, and Heine responded in the affirmative.

Tolliver asked what wording would go on the ballot. Heine responded that the ordinance is published in full so that the voters know what the amendment to the charter states. However, the amendment does not go on the ballot. The city council must determine the wording of the ballot question and do that in an impartial fashion.

Cheleen asked whether the council could change rules in the ordinance after the ordinance is adopted. Heine responded in the affirmative and noted that Minneapolis

had amended its ordinance several times in order to make improvements that expedited the process for determining the winners.

Allendorf asked whether the charter commission would have input on the ballot question. Heine responded that the charter commission could provide its input, but the wording of the ballot question is up to the city council and the commission has no formal role in that process.

Schneider would like to discuss the pros and cons of implementing RCV only for special elections and not for all elections.

Sodergren asked if there would be an opportunity to have more discussion about the education plan, because that would be an important issue if RCV goes forward. Heine indicated that the communication plan was geared to each step in the process. Right now the focus is on letting people know what the commission is doing and how to participate. If the issue is put on the ballot, the communications plan will shift to informing voters in a neutral fashion. That communications plan would come from the city's budget and would be up to the city council to oversee.

Wiersum suggested that the commission should consider the option of recommending RCV for special elections only. Heine stated that the city staff would prepare whatever amendment the commission requests, but that she and the elections staff had reservations about using RCV only for special elections, which occur only infrequently. She noted that it would require educating election judges and voters on two different systems and could result in voter confusion. Schneider and Wiersum agreed and withdrew the suggestion to look at RCV for special elections only.

Anderson also agreed. She noted that another option for the commission would be to extend the time frame. She is inclined to think that an extension is not needed, but thinks it should be discussed. She also asked the city attorney to confirm that, in order to pass, the ballot question would require 51% of all voters who cast ballots to vote yes, and not just 51% of those who vote on that question. Heine indicated she believed that to be correct.

Schneider mentioned that a resident's email, where the resident complained about doing this work in a pandemic. He had concern about the ability of the public to provide comment and get information. Heine explained that the *Minnetonka Memo* article could not include detailed information because of publication deadlines but that it included a website link so that updated information could be made available at that link. She also noted that the city would be pushing out information through numerous subscription lists. Northrup said that a little bit of information in the email would be helpful as well.

Allendorf said that RCV will cost more than the current system. He wants to know where the opportunity to present to city council. Northrup responded that would be part of the commission's report to the council.

6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Northrup reviewed the upcoming schedule of meetings. July 14 is the public comment meeting. He noted that the city is trying to explore going to a hybrid-style meeting, with some members of the commission attending in person at council chambers and some participating remotely. Heine indicated the plans were not finalized, but that it was not physically possible to have all nine members attend, maintain required distancing, and have audio and video work for all nine.

Northrup indicated that the commission will work on developing its report and recommendation to the council at the July 21 meeting. He asked commission members to be thinking about what the report might include, to make that meeting efficient. The July 28 meeting would be utilized if needed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Schneider moved, Allendorf seconded, to adjourn the meeting. By roll call voted, all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Tolliver
Secretary

Corrine Heine

From: Antony Kirk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:47 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked choice voting

Of course,

11912 Live Oak Dr, Minnetonka, MN 55305

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 2:38 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

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>

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Antony Kirk [REDACTED]

> Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:44 AM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Ranked choice voting

>

> I'm very much in favor of ranked choice voting. I truly believe it will greatly improve our democratic process ensuring we elect candidates who are supported by the majority of the electorate.

> Antony Kirk

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: August Aquila <a[REDACTED]v[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 9:16 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank Voting

I think it is a good idea. You have my vote!

Best regards,

August

August J. Aquila
AQUILA Global Advisors, LLC
4732 Chantrey Place
Minnetonka, MN 55345



Voted Top 100 People in the Accounting Profession in 2004, 2007, 2009 - 2019; Association for Accounting Marketing Hall of Fame Member Fellow Leaders Excellence at Harvard Square

Corrine Heine

From: Carter Glendenning [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:12 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RCV

Voter exhaustion, people only voting for 1 or at most 2 candidates, voters due to their personal time limits, don't have time to study ALL the candidates, greater chance of getting incompetent people in office. (look at the failed policies of Mpls Mayor Jacob Frey, where he abandoned the 3rd precinct to the ANTIFA rioters, AND the Governor of Maine- 4 years ago, where he called the IRS Nazis)

Lastly, the Connection of George Soros to FairVote Mn. As was mentioned at a previous Charter Commission, Geo Soros, who sinks countries, to manipulate the currencies.

Thank you.
All thoughts above have been thoroughly researched.
Carter Glendenning

Sent from my iPad

Corrine Heine

From: Caspers, Mike [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:53 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Cc: Caspers, Mike [AUTOSOL/MEAS/CHAN]
Subject: RE: Ranked Choice Voting

Sure, its
4139 Terrace Lane
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Mike Caspers | M: +1 [REDACTED]

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:39 PM
To: Caspers, Mike [REDACTED]
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Ranked Choice Voting

Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



[\[minnetonkamn.gov\]](http://minnetonkamn.gov) **Corrine A. Heine** | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov [\[minnetonkamn.gov\]](http://minnetonkamn.gov)

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Caspers, Mike [AUTOSOL/MEAS/CHAN] [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Cc: Caspers, Mike [AUTOSOL/MEAS/CHAN] <Mike.Caspers@emerson.com>
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

Hello,

I love the idea of ranked choice voting. I think it helps people vote for the candidate they want to select and then by picking other candidates as secondary options, they know their voice can be heard even if the first choice doesn't win in a close race.

Please continue to inform the public about this as a potential option.

Mike Caspers | M: +1 [REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Chip Walters <chip.walters@minnetonka.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting Comments

To Charter Commission and Others To Whom It May Concern:

First, I believe it is very unfortunate the City Council has put you in the position to “fast-track” this important decision.

It would be unusual under normal circumstances, but highly disrespectful to you and the residents of Minnetonka to pursue this topic during a global pandemic and such uncertainty of personal finances, lifestyle, education and employment.

This is NOT the time to advance Ranked Choice Voting.

Some comments:

- Solution looking for a problem. What specific problem(s) exist that ranked choice voting is the best solution?
- Timing: What is driving the pressure of accelerating the normal process to review a topic of this magnitude?
(The mere fact that the City sent out an email blast on a Thursday in the summer asking for comments for a Tuesday meeting is sufficient to tell a rational person, something is off on this process. Doesn't pass the “smell test”.)
- Advocacy Groups: It is disappointing the City Council succumbed to the outside pressure of an advocacy group bringing them a solution to a problem the City Council didn't know they had. And still doesn't. (I suspect some members were wooed by higher-profile personalities and so-called experts.)
- Cost: At a time when all organizations, private sector and government, are under extreme economic uncertainty and pressure to maintain, or do the same with less, the idea of spending one dollar, much less tens of thousands on something that is not essential, is arrogant and underscores that some do not fully realize their leadership role when most families are struggling on so many levels. The City should be looking for ways to reduce expenses, probably even layoffs, rather than the cavalier attitude of new expenditures. (Several Council Members and Staff have said they do not even know what the cost to educate and implement ranked choice voting would be. That is like signing a 30-year mortgage for a home without knowing what the price is.) I have also heard it would require hiring a new person on City Staff. Ludicrous.
- Education: To think Staff can successfully educate and inform all Minnetonka residents on Ranked Choice Voting before the election at a time when everyone's routines and habits of receiving and getting communications have been revised, reduced, altered is shortsighted. Minnetonka Mike and mailings are not sufficient. Just the fact the way people normally share and discuss topics during pre-pandemic does not exist. People are not talking to each other at the grocery store, coffee shop, fitness center, senior clubs, Rotary meetings, Chamber of Commerce events, church/synagogue/parishes, etc.
- Solutions: When deciding on a solution for a problem, City government should review all feasible solutions. What other solutions are possible to solve the problem you are trying to solve with Ranked Choice Voting.
- Bad optics and risk of reputation. Even if Ranked Choice Voting is right, (which I do not believe), the City is risking your reputation by advancing what will certainly be perceived, if not proven, as a “controversial topic”, during an unprecedented time in our world's history. Really, you think now is the best time to pursue this and fast-track decisions? (The mountain bike project was (is) a controversial issue, but that only affected a small percent of the residents. Ranked Choice Voting impacts everyone. The bigger/wider the topic, the more care to error on the side of caution. Pursuing this when many residents are sheltered at home and just trying to get through the next day is very short-sighted. (Personal story: I have been contacting the City each year for over seven years to help replace the crumbling capstones on the brick walls near the entrance of my driveway off of Williston Road. Each year the department head says they know about it but it is not a priority, they do not have the labor

and/or time. It is on “the list”. Now in the scope of things, not a life-changing issue. However, it is what I call a quality-of-life issue. Everyday, 3-4 times a day, for seven years, I am reminded that my City cannot help me fix what they are responsible for. Despite anything else that goes on in the city, little examples like this help form an opinion about my City and how I am treated as a 50+-year resident of the city.)

The City has numerous infrastructure concerns. Issues that affect resident’s daily lives and quality of life. Ranked Choice Voting is not a solution that we need to spend time figuring out what the problem is when the list of problems in the city is too long already. You want to solve a problem? There is not a resident I know in Minnetonka who has a favorable opinion about their Internet and/or cable provider. The City selects the suppliers, yet absolves any responsibility for accountability of service and costs. There is a problem looking for a solution.

Time for practical, prudent, wise, responsible leadership grounded in common sense. Looking forward to the day when we have leaders who are not afraid to stand up for basic common sense, rather than influenced by political pressure or perceived flavor-of-the-day “political correctness”.

Pursuing this now would be analogous to attempting to write a doctoral thesis in seven days stranded on an island.

Bad idea.

Thank you for reading.

Respectfully,
Chip Walters
14808 Cherry Lane
Minnetonka, MN

Corrine Heine

From: Chris i [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:42 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

15801 Randall Ln 55345

On Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 2:38 PM Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Chris i [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I sat thru a presentation on this subject last year. There are pro's and cons. The only problem I saw with RCV was when a voter doesn't have more than one candidate on their ballot.

There is an assumption that there is a good second choice. This may not be true. What then? Chris Ingram

Corrine Heine

From: Chris Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:32 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

This letter is a written comment for the Minnetonka Charter Commission meeting studying Ranked Choice Voting.

I write in favor of implementing Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka.

Ranked choice voting is an easy and effective reform that gives voters the power to rank their candidates in order of preference. It mimics an instant runoff. If a candidate earns a majority of first choices, they win, just like any other election. If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and his or her voter's ballots are counted for their second choice. This process continues until a candidate wins a majority of votes.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) provides the following benefits:

- * It promotes majority support. Often candidates win an election even when less than half of the voters support them. RCV ensures the winner always has real majority support.
- * It discourages negative campaigning. In non-RCV campaigns, candidates benefit from mudslinging and attacking their opponent instead of sharing their positive vision with voters. RCV lessens the incentives of that kind of campaign, and increases the incentives for positive campaigning.
- * It provides more choice for voters. Candidates are sometimes pressured to stay out of a race for fear of splitting the vote with a somewhat similar candidate. RCV eliminates this problem, giving voters a better selection of candidates from which to choose.
- * It saves money when it replaces preliminary or runoff elections.
- * RCV promotes reflective representation.
- * It minimizes strategic voting. Voters should be able to vote for candidates they support, not just vote against candidates they oppose most. In elections without RCV, voters may feel that they need to vote for the "lesser of two evils," because their favorite candidate is less likely to win.

Thank you,
Chris Johnson

4828 Williston Road

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Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:51 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RE: No on ranked choice voting

Emmett O'Hare
14505 Stewart lane
Minnetonka, MN 55345

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:34 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: No on ranked choice voting

Would you mind providing your name and address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:45 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: No on ranked choice voting

No on ranked choice voting

Corrine Heine

From: cpgrandma [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:55 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RE: Ranked Choice Voting

I am resident

Carolyn Glendenning
4501 Laramie Trail
Minnetonka 55345

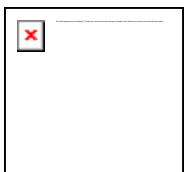
Thanks!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Date: 7/10/20 2:39 PM (GMT-06:00)
To: 'cpgrandma' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Ranked Choice Voting

Would you mind providing your full name and address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: cpgrandma [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:30 AM

To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

My comments:

I am not for Ranked Choice Voting because it is too confusing to the voter. It takes too long to thoroughly study each candidate and prioritize their ranking. The final outcome may not be what the voter really wanted or intended.

Thank you for asking for our opinion.

Carolyn - a Minnetonka resident.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Corrine Heine

From: Craig Laughlin <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:57 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice voting

I am 100% in favor of ranked choice voting.

Thank you,

Craig Laughlin
SRC Funding, LLC
10935 57th Ave. No.
Plymouth, MN 55442

[REDACTED]

Socially Responsible Corporate Funding
"Doing well by doing good"

Corrine Heine

From: c_carlson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:55 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RE: My opinion of Ranked Choice Voting

[I favor the adopting of Rank Choice Voting in Minnetonka!](#)

Ranked Choice Voting is a better way to vote because it promotes elections that are:

- **more efficient**
- **more representative**
- **more participatory, inclusive and diverse**
- **more civil**

RCV is **more efficient and saves taxpayer dollars** because it eliminates the costly low-turnout primary and combines the primary and general elections into one election in November when turnout is much higher and representative of our residents.

Evidence has shown time and time again that voters find RCV simple to use, and they like the greater choice and freedom of expression that they are given.

It would also be a great advantage in the Hennepin County Commissioner election for our District 6.

I also am in favor of RCV in the county, the state and federal elections.

Christopher Carlson
16025 Boulder Creek Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345

---- On Sat, 11 Jul 2020 10:40:32 -0500 **Corrine Heine** <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote ----

Would you provide your full name and address? It confirms that the comment came from a resident and identifies the ward in which you live.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: c_carlson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:11 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: My opinion of Ranked Choice Voting

[I favor the adopting of Rank Choice Voting in Minnetonka!](#)

Ranked Choice Voting is a better way to vote because it promotes elections that are:

- **more efficient**
- **more representative**
- **more participatory, inclusive and diverse**
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RCV is **more efficient and saves taxpayer dollars** because it eliminates the costly low-turnout primary and combines the primary and general elections into one election in November when turnout is much higher and representative of our residents.

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It would also be a great advantage in the Hennepin County Commissioner election for our District 6.

I also am in favor of RCV in the county, the state and federal elections.

Christopher Carlson
16025 Boulder Creek Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Corrine Heine

From: DARYL & PAM SATHER [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:52 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank Choice Voting

It is a dumb idea, please do not do it. I t is a idea that poor losers like.

Daryl Sather
9808 Robin Oak Road
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Corrine Heine

From: Dennis Grant [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:24 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank voting

No to rank choice voting.

Dennis Grant
291 Grace Pointe

Sent from my iPad

Corrine Heine

From: Ed Thiede [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:50 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I support ranked choice voting.
It is cheaper than running two elections.
It is faster than running two elections.
It is fairer because 3rd (or more) party votes distort the will of the voters.

From Ed Thiede, 6113 Clarion Circle

Corrine Heine

From: J.P. [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice

An absolutely horrible idea.

Ranked choice voting has contributed to the highly organized narrow interest groups being able to advance candidates. The freak show that is the Minneapolis City Council is a prime example of the dangers of ranked choice.

Traditional voting also disavows the winning candidate from claiming a “mandate” if elected with less than 50% of the vote. They need to know they represent ALL of the citizens, not just their most vocal and active supporters.

J.Brown
15100 Woodruff Rd
55391

Sent from XFINITY Connect Mobile App

Corrine Heine

From: James Durbin [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 6:00 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice voting (vote no)

I am not in favor of ranked choice voting. I do not believe the founding fathers would approve and I see it having no place in Minnetonka or elsewhere in the United States. Please don't fix what is not broken.

Please recommend "no" to the city council.

Thank you,

James Durbin
17015 Sherwood Rd
Minnetonka, MN

Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 11:34 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: I support ranked choice voting

Hello,

I fully support ranked choice voting for elections.

Jennifer Kelly
10800 Oak Knoll Terrace North

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].c [REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Jennifer pratt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:30 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Rank choice voting

3120 Shores Blvd
Minnetonka mn 55391

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 3:34 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Jennifer pratt [REDACTED] a n [REDACTED]

> Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:51 PM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Rank choice voting

>

>

> Hello.

> Yes! I am very much in favor of rank choice voting. It will drastically improve our democracy.

>

> Thank you.

> Jen Pratt

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Jim Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:20 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked voting

In favor of ranked voting

James k Wilson
5338 Beachside Dr
Minnetonka, MN 5534

Corrine Heine

From: john m schmitz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:15 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank choice voting

Please do not change the way that Minnetonka voters have used successfully for decades. Just look at what rank choice voting has “accomplished” in Minneapolis and St Paul.....mike schmitz, 5383 Ashcroft Road, Minnetonka

Corrine Heine

From: K Egger [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:00 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

Sure!
13235 Stanton Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55305
Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 3:58 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>
> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>
>
> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>
> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
> Office: 952-939-8262

>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: K Egger [REDACTED]
> Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:57 PM
> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
> Cc: K Egger <kde696@outlook.com>
> Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

>
> If RCV has been so successful in MPLS & St. Paul, why are those cities having such strife & difficulty with their leaders, mayors and council members?
> RCV disenfranchises voters, because ballots that do not include the two ultimate finalists, are cast aside to manufacture a false majority for the winner.
> RCV disconnects elections from the issues, and allows candidates with little support from voters, to win elections.
> Please hear my voice and vote no for RCV. As a lifelong Minnetonka resident & community supporter, I plead with you to maintain our current voting system. With so much change already occurring in our State, teaching voters a new rhythm, just before an election, could create havoc within our otherwise peaceful community.

> Thank you,
> Sincerely,
> Karen Egger

>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Karen Anderson
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:17 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fw: Support RCV on the Nov ballot

Here is another message re RCV for our packet.
Thank you.

From: David Dayhoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Karen Anderson
Subject: Support RCV on the Nov ballot

Hello Ms. Anderson, thanks for serving on the charter commission.

I want you to know of my strong support in favor of putting RCV on the ballot this Nov. I think the merits as a system are overwhelming. I would like to speak to the process instead.

I noticed in a previous meeting summary, a submitted critique by an opponent that RCV is being rushed through. While I don't think that's the case at all, respectfully I fail to see why that means it shouldn't go on the ballot.

Assorted outreach has taken place, and several neighboring cities already use RCV—it's hardly out of the blue. Regardless, if people don't feel like they have a preference or understanding, they can simply skip voting for it, or vote against it. The "rushed through" argument implies distrust that most voters won't take the time to form an opinion or take the vote seriously.

Meanwhile this year's election will have very high turnout, as opposed to delaying to some future, low-turnout non-Presidential year. If we genuinely want to hear the Minnetonka public's sentiment on RCV, 2020 is the year to do it.

Please trust the voters to make a choice. Thank you for supporting RCV on the ballot this fall.

David Dayhoff
5525 Conifer Trail

Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 7:32 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RE: ranked choice voting

Kirk Ransom
4916 Mayview Road
Minnetonka

Since 1985 when I left the Air Force after 21 years – and 180 missions in the RF-4 in Vietnam in 1965-66. We totally like Minnetonka, and the paper readers of ballots is superior then electronic screens.

I must don't like ranked choice type.

Kirk

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: 10 July, 2020 14:37
To: 'kdransom@earthlink.net' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: ranked choice voting

Would you mind providing your name and address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: kdransom@earthlink.net <kdransom@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 6:00 AM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: ranked choice voting

I do not like it!

I am 79 and stuck in my ways

Corrine Heine

From: Kent Mein Jr [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: I think this is great that the city is looking into this. I think it makes sense and I look forward to switching to it.

Sorry for some reason the message was only showing up on one line.

Thanks for getting back to me.

Kent Mein
[REDACTED]@ [REDACTED].u
14817 Williston Ln
Minnetonka MN 55345

On Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 2:32 PM Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Mr. Mein,

Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Kent Mein Jr [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:35 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: I think this is great that the city is looking into this. I think it makes sense and I look forward to switching to it.

Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:43 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RE: Ranked Choice Voting

I'm a resident, but I don't want my name and address listed. I prefer to stay anonymous. My zip code is 55305 (Hopkins post office), but I'm city of Minnetonka and Minnetonka utilities. I wouldn't be receiving the Minnetonka newsletter, if I didn't live in Minnetonka. That is how I found out about your contact information. If you don't want to use my input that is fine. Seriously, who would want to give their name out for anything right now with what is going on in the Twin Cities! Sorry.

----- Original Message -----

On Friday, July 10, 2020 3:36 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Would you mind providing your full name and address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: [REDACTED] print [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I would like to continue with our normal voting. I don't like that through the course of drilling down the votes my vote may not even be used. At that point why did I even bother going to the polls. I would like to pick one person and see what happens. At least my vote or votes will not get thrown out, and the person who maybe didn't get a majority but had the most votes will and should win the election. If campaigns want to use ranked choice to save money on primaries, that is fine. Actual elections should continue to vote as normal. I think ranked choice will cause

fewer people to vote. It is tough enough to remember all the people you had planned to vote for anyway. Now you are asking people to remember three different people for each position. Also, that will take way more time at the polls. I think fewer people will vote. I thought our goal is to keep it simple so more people will actually want to get out to vote? Thanks!

Corrine Heine

From: LeAnne Jergensen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:48 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked voting

3904 Cottage Lane
Minnetonka
55305

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 1:35 PM
To: 'LeAnne Jergensen' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Ranked voting

Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: LeAnne Jergensen <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 8:19 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked voting

I am 110% behind ranked voting. We should use it for all elections including the president. That way folks will feel like they can vote for an underdog, someone they really want, but can say ok for second choice go with one of the candidates that have a better chance of winning. And then either give no vote at all to those they do not want in office or the lowest ranking to them. It would allow people to feel like they are not throwing away their vote when they vote for someone who has little chance in a normal election. It would allow a better chance for third party candidates to win, which would force the main two parties to better represent the people or end up losing. Making for a better representative for the people!

Thanks
LeAnne Jergensen

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Corrine Heine

From: Leslie Herman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:58 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

Properly implemented, ranked-choice voting guarantees that the winner of an election always gets a majority (<https://www.lawinsider.com/dictionary/majority-of-votes-cast>) of the popular vote (<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2019/01/12/electoral-college-reform-conservatives-223965>), instead of merely a plurality ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plurality_\(voting\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plurality_(voting))). This would make the electoral college system fairer to all constituents (https://www.fairvote.org/the_electoral_college#how_the_electoral_college_works_today).

I support ranked-choice voting in Minnetonka's elections.

Thank you.

Leslie Herman
[4421 Hunters Ridge Road](#)
[Minnetonka MN 55345](#)

Corrine Heine

From: Liz Heuser [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Rank choice voting

Yes. I meant to include it originally:

Liz Heuser and Bill Kilian
17910 Comstock Rd
Minnetonka 55391

Sent from my iPad

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 2:33 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>
> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>
>
> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>
> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
> Office: 952-939-8262

>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Liz Heuser [REDACTED]
> Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:49 PM
> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
> Cc: Bill Kilian <Bill@kilian.us>
> Subject: Rank choice voting

>
> We are very much in support of ranked choice voting for the city of Minnetonka and hope we will be able to vote for it on the November ballot.

>
> Thank you for your consideration.

> Bill Kilian
> Liz Heuser

>
> Sent from my iPad

Corrine Heine

From: Malia Brandt [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 6:54 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: In favor of ranked choice voting

Please count me as a Minnetonka citizen in favor of ranked choice voting.

Thanks!
Malia Brandt
4200 Trail Ridge Ln

Corrine Heine

From: Margaret Dresse [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:45 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

Margaret Dressel
14517 Oakwood Road
Minnetonka, MN 55345

> On Jul 11, 2020, at 10:43 AM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

> Would you provide your address? It confirms that the comment came from a resident and identifies the ward in which you live.

>

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Margaret Dresse [REDACTED]

> Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:44 AM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

>

> This is a bad idea and I am against it.

>

> Peggy (Margaret) Dressel
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Mark B [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 12:10 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice voting

Mark Birnbaum
325 Townes Rd

Comment for council meeting:

My first choice is no RCV, until you define which methods/rules are behind RCV and ask for input again.
My second choice is RCV, if you define which methods/rules are behind RCV and ask for input again.

Analogy: I am not against sausage per se, but I would like to know the ingredients before I decide if I want to eat that sausage.

I would recommend with any approach, we have an ordinance that limits signage per square mile. This will reduce waste and serve to limit at least one form of campaign spending.

Corrine Heine

From: Mary Quain [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:15 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: ranked choice voting

Yes!

Mary Quain
4729 Merilee Dr.
Minnetonka MN 55343-8764
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Melissa Greenwood <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:23 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: RCV

Sure. Here it is:

6032 Pinewood Ln
Minnetonka, MN 55345

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 2:36 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Melissa Greenwood <[REDACTED]>

> Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 12:38 AM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: RCV

>

> Hello,

>

> I read through the RCV background and explanation and I support using this voting technique in Minnetonka. I would support putting the question to residents as a ballot measure.

>

> Thank you,

> Melissa Greenwood

Corrine Heine

From: Michael Koppelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 6:47 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: yes on ranked choice voting

100% in support of ranked choice (instant runoff) voting. It's the only hope for our democracy. If local government can successfully introduce this concept to the electorate, we will all benefit.

Thank you!
Michael Koppelman
6019 Fairwood Dr
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Corrine Heine

From: Mike Mehle [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:03 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I am for ranked choice voting.

Mike Mehle
2009 Runnymede Ct, Hopkins, MN 55305



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Corrine Heine

From: Mike Tierney [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 8:16 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

RCV is undoubtedly the best form of voting we can enjoy. It gives every candidate an opportunity.

Thanks,

Mike Tierney
17300 County Road 101

--

Mike Tierney

[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 9:17 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting - Opposed

I am a 34-year Minnetonka resident. I am opposed to the imposition of ranked choice voting for municipal elections.

Robert McFarlin
4240 Winchester Ct.

Corrine Heine

From: Monson, William [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I favor ranked choice voting as a fair strategy to produce final results that better reflect real-world voter preferences. I believe big campaign contributions & choices usually limited to our two dominant parties would not enjoy so much privilege with ranked choice.

Bill Monson
9731 Minnetonka Blvd (423)
Minnetonka, MN 44205



Corrine Heine

From: Nancy Gooch [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 5:42 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Against RCV

5998 Chasewood Pkwy #204
Mtna 55343

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 2:35 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>
> Would you mind providing your address?

>
>
> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>
> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
> Office: 952-939-8262

>
>
>
>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Nancy Gooch [REDACTED]
> Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 8:08 PM
> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
> Subject: Against RCV

>
> For your record, I am against RCV. I still believe that the Democratic way is still one person, one vote. And I've had some experience with unethical behavior from the Fair Vote organization. Not a fan!

>
> Nancy Gooch, Minnetonka resident and LWV board member

>
> Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Nila Varner [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 7:52 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

After having been an election judge for several years I would vote no on ranked choice voting. From my perspective it would increase the cost of elections and increase the time spent by election judges.

Nila Varner
5607 Green Circle Drive, #217
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Paul Dienhart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 9:05 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice

Please, please, please approve ranked choice voting. It might be the only thing to save democracy in our incredibly polarized society. Thankyou Minnetonka, for putting this on the agenda.

Paul Dienhart
2344 Nottingham Crt.
Minnetonka

Corrine Heine

From: Paul Fine [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked choice voting: my comments

I provided it to Mr. Salage earlier today, but here it is again:

14501 Atrium Way,
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Paul

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:34 PM
To: 'Paul Fine' <paulfine@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: Ranked choice voting: my comments

Would you mind providing your address?



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Paul Fine [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:57 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked choice voting: my comments

Dear Ms. Heine,

I take issue with RCV because it might completely eliminate my vote if I choose the "wrong" cadre of ranked candidates.

Let's say that there are five candidates for a political position. I decide to rank just three of the five. If my three choices are eliminated, my ballot becomes eliminated, and my input for that political position is also eliminated, as if I had not voted at all.

And if my ranked choices for other positions in an election are not selected, my input for those positions also disappears.

I prefer not to have this "Mr./Ms. Popularity" type of voting. Let's retain our current system.

Paul

A resident of Minnetonka since 4 July 1986.

Corrine Heine

From: Pete Rogan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:18 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

Sure
Pete Rogan
4780 Hamilton Rd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

On Fri, Jul 10, 2020 at 2:37 PM Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:
Would you mind providing your address?

Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

-----Original Message-----

From: Pete Rogan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 7:44 AM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I am a strong supporter of ranked choice voting. I urge the Charter Commission to support this electoral reform and recommend the city council include it on an upcoming ballot for the citizens to enact.

My wife and I have been Minnetonka residents for 15 years. I have studied and considered ranked choice voting for years and believe it is an effective way to improve the voters' ability to express their preferences and select the best candidates for public office. It's been shown by other cities and governments to be easy to implement, as well as being efficient and quick for tabulation.

Please strengthen our local democracy in Minnetonka with this electoral reform.

-Pete Rogan
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Peter Hitch [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:41 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RANKED CHOICE.

Totally in favor!

Make it happen!

Thanks,

Peter Hitch

13521 McGinty Rd E, Hopkins, MN 55305

Corrine Heine

From: Polly Bayrd [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:46 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked choice

We are at 5353 Dominick Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 11, 2020, at 10:45 AM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

> Would you provide your address? It confirms that the comment came from a resident and identifies the ward in which you live.

>

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Polly Bayrd [REDACTED]

> Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:44 AM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Ranked choice

>

> My husband I support the ranked choice initiative.

> Polly (and Gary) Bayrd

>

> Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: R Schnitzus <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 10:26 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Voting

Of course... 11306 Minnetonka Blvd.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 2:53 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: R Schnitzus <[REDACTED]>

> Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:51 PM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Voting

>

> No to rank choice voting.

>

> Jo ann Schnitzus

> Sent from my iPhone

>

Corrine Heine

From: Robin Hellmer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:54 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RCV

I support ranked choice voting.
Robin Hellmer
16248 Ringer Road

Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Ronald Massie [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 6:33 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Cc: Brian Kirk
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting Feedback

Ms. Heine:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the possibility that Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) may appear on the November ballot in Minnetonka. Below is my personal input which the City has requested in light of the council's consideration of placing RCV on the November ballot starting the week of July 13th.

In my opinion, RCV is an undemocratic voting scheme because it allows for some ballots to carry more weight than others. Some voters may have just one of their votes counted, if their candidate gets the most first-choice votes, while others have two, three, or even more choices tallied? That is not democratic, that is not "one person - one vote."

RCV is downright confusing! Up and down the socio-economic scale, voters in RCV communities have said that RCV makes voting more difficult. This, in turn, creates an air of voter suppression. Voters cannot know whether to rank their favorite candidate first or not, because it has been demonstrated that a voter can cause harm to their favorite candidate simply by ranking them first.

To cast an effective vote for the candidate of one's choice, you'd have to know how every other voter was going to rank their candidates, first, and then immediately be able to calculate what impact those votes would have on your vote. This fact alone should be reason enough to reject putting RCV on the ballot for adoption by Minnetonka voters.

Further, RCV has cost more money everywhere it has been implemented for a variety of reasons, counting problems being one of them. RCV does not guarantee a true majority precisely because exhausted ballots are not counted in the final round.

Finally, RCV is a deliberate scheme to remove clarity, accuracy, and credibility from our elections by people who think it will help their political ideology ascend to power. RCV eliminates the primary process and thereby cheats voters out of knowing who the finalists are, hearing what they have to say about each other, and making a final clear choice between the two. That's totally undemocratic!

Voters in Duluth, one of Minnesota's larger cities, rejected RCV by a margin of 3 to 1. Other cities in the US have also rejected RCV for reasons I've already stated above. Minnetonka does not need RCV now or ever!

Respectfully yours,

Ron Massie
4803 Deerwood Drive
Minnetonka, MN 55343
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Ruth Oremland [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 11:30 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Charter commission re rank choice voting

I'm extremely concerned that Minnetonka is voting to implement Rank Choice Voting. I am against Rank Choice Voting as it has been a proposal vetoed by both Democrat and Republican governors in various other states due to the unfair and confusing nature of the system. It makes it very difficult for third parties to gain political ground. It can literally take a person's first choice or entire vote away from them. I am stunned that Minnetonka would consider implementing a change to our voting system without properly educating the citizens of our city regarding the positives and negatives of the new system. I was shocked to learn such a drastic change would be proposed without notifying the every voter in the city of the proposed change. This seems sneaky and underhanded.

I have notified every resident on my contact list about this issue and NON of them had any idea about this proposal.

What is going on in Minnetonka this year? I guess I had better start paying more attention.

Ruth Oremland
4988 West End Lane

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked choice voting

Sorry.
3946 Colgate Ave
Minnetonka 55345

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 2:33 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>
> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>
>
> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
>
> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
> Office: 952-939-8262

> -----Original Message-----

> From: [REDACTED]
> Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:54 PM
> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
> Subject: Ranked choice voting

> I'm for it.

> Sally Wagner

> Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Sam Graber [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:56 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RE: Ranked choice voting

2020 Norway Pine Circle, MTKA, thank you!

Sam Graber
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Sam Graber <samgraber@comcast.net>
Subject: RE: Ranked choice voting

Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

[cid:image003.png@01D35FB8.39807F20]<<https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/>>Corrine
A. Heine | City Attorney City of Minnetonka | [minnetonkamn.gov](https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/)<<https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/>>

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Sam Graber [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 6:55 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked choice voting

I support ranked choice voting.

Sam Graber
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

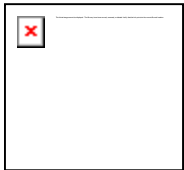
From: Sara Durham <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked voting
Attachments: image002.png

Sure -- 3810 Huntingdon Dr. Minnetonka, 55305

Kind regards,
Sara Durham

On Fri, Jul 10, 2020, 2:36 PM Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Sara Durham [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 11:49 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked voting

Hello,

I understand you are the contact for Minnetonka residents to give input on ranked-choice voting? I think it's a great idea and I hope it gets approved.

The method you are planning to adopt will enable everyone to list their favorite candidate as #1 without fear that doing so will split the vote causing a less-popular, but unique, 3rd candidate to win..

Thank you for proposing to adopt ranked-choice voting.

Kind regards,

Sara Durham

Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 7:57 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice

I am writing again to emphasize my support for RCV.

I hope the Charter Commission will forward the issue for a referendum vote by Minnetonka citizens in November. November will be a high-turnout election, providing the opportunity for a huge number of voters to decide the issue. I believe RCV will save money because we can eliminate primary and special elections, which have minimal voter participation.

People will not have trouble understanding how to use RCV, which has been Demonstrated in many states and cities already.

Sharon Grimes
14301 Stewart Lane, #201
Minnetonka

[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Susan K Wilson [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 7:51 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Voting

10451 Greenbrier Road, Apt 220
Minnetonka MN 55405

Susan K Wilson

> On Jul 10, 2020, at 3:50 PM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>

>

>>

>> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Susan K Wilson [REDACTED]

> Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 3:47 PM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Ranked Voting

>

> I don't believe it's necessary to change our voting system

>

> Susan K Wilson

Corrine Heine

From: Victoria Albright <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 5:22 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice voting

I am strongly in support of Ranked Choice Voting. It makes a ton of sense. The bipartisan system discourages many people from voting if they don't like any of the candidates and/or because they feel as if their vote doesn't matter. People are apt to vote for the candidates they think will win, without considering their own values and choices. Traditional voting makes it harder for new candidates to get a foothold since incumbents usually win by default of not many people voting. With Ranked Choice Voting, we are able to more clearly see how people truly support candidates and line up with their views. It is not an "all or nothing" vote. This results in politicians being selected by voters who truly want that person in office, and allows politicians to better understand the wants and needs of their constituents.

Victoria Albright
15835 Woodgate Rd. S.
Minnetonka

Corrine Heine

From: WILLIAM FULLER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RE: ranked choice voting

14920 Belvoir Drive Mtka 55345

On 07/10/2020 2:39 PM Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Would you mind providing your address?



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: WILLIAM FULLER [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: ranked choice voting

if it's not broken donot try to fix it. I would suggest voters hardly know anyone on the ballot so why would ranked choice voting solve whatever. The system isnot broken. William J Fuller PS I have lived here for over 50 years

Corrine Heine

From: Wynn-Anne Rossi Music [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked voting

Both my husband and I are very much in favor of ranked voting. Thank you for putting this on the agenda for consideration. We vote YES. Wynn-Anne and Greg Rossi ~ 17925 Minnetonka Blvd.

Corrine Heine

From: Al Sussman [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: In favor of ranked choice voting

I am heavily in favor of ranked choice voting. In an era where a plurality of voters increasingly elects candidates that a majority of voters detest, ranked choice voting provides a vehicle for more moderate candidates to attract a majority of voters. While a winning candidate may not be everyone's first choice, at the very least a winner has the most "I could live with that candidate" votes.

Ranked choice voting results in elected officials that are inherently more representative of voters. Candidates will be forced to adopt policies that appeal to a majority of voters vs. the current environment in which candidates are satisfied with attracting a plurality, which by definition is a minority.

I would go so far as to say that Ranked Choice voting is the fastest and easiest way to repair our fractious politics.

Alan Sussman
12211 Orchard Ave W
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Corrine Heine

From: MICHAEL MOYLAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 12:07 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

Sure, here it is. Michael and Lynda Moylan
13509 Preston Rd.
Minnetonka, MN 55305

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 2:38 PM
To: 'MICHAEL MOYLAN' [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Ranked Choice Voting

Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: MICHAEL MOYLAN [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I strongly disagree changing our voting system to Ranked Choice Voting for many reasons.

Michael J Moylan

Corrine Heine

From: SHANNON THEIN [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 12:12 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Rank Choice Voting

1709 Pondview Terrace Wayzata 55391

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 11, 2020, at 10:29 AM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Would you provide your address? It helps the commission to know whether the comment comes from a resident or non-resident.

[<image002.png>](#)

Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Shannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:33 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Rank Choice Voting

I do not support Rank Choice Voting for these reasons

1. Difficult and more costly to administer and educating voters has a cost.
2. Less informed voters on the candidates - coupled with the new procedure could make for a person that didn't reflect the voter's desires
3. Disenfranchise voters and make them less likely to participate. Ballot exhaustion.
4. Potential to get candidate who does not get the majority vote.
5. Could be found to be Unconstitutional
6. Open's the door to fraud
7. Could end up with one party rule and that healthy debate may not take place..especially important in this "cancel culture" to hear all positions and be able to defend or support your position. People may not know what or why a candidate has that opinion. May not be able to determine the defined choices.
8. Some votes may not count at ALL and some counted more than once. You could be a candidate that wins even though you didn't have the majority of first place votes.
9. WHO BENEFITS?

I say NO to RCV
Shannon Thein
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting, really!

From: [REDACTED] > on behalf of Jonathan Kemnitz
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 7:27 AM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting, really!

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Kemnitz
5732 Holiday Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-5421
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:58 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Rank choice voting

From: ed herzog [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:11 PM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Rank choice voting

Dear council member,

I know the council is considering rank choice voting. The complexity of it is daunting particularly when I am not sure the current system is broken. So I encourage you and other council members to please take time to review it in depth. It is a major and strategic change. My bias is against it.

Thanks for listening

Ed Herzog
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Begin forwarded message:

From: Maureen McLearen [REDACTED]
Date: June 29, 2020 at 1:54:00 PM CDT
To: Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Re: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Hi!

Someone sent this to you in my name.
I know nothing about this,

Sincerely,
Maureen McLearen

On Mon, Jun 29, 2020 at 9:33 AM Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Thank you for your note. I appreciate knowing your perspective.
Sincerely,

Brad Wiersum
Mayor
City of Minnetonka

> On Jun 10, 2020, at 4:43 AM, Maureen McLearen
> [REDACTED] <@everyactionadvocacy.com> wrote:

>

> Dear Mayor Brad Wiersum,

>

> I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move
> Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

>

> Sincerely,

> Maureen McLearen

> 4900 Acorn Ridge Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-3104
> [REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:54 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: This is very important for the health of our democracy! Please move forward on Ranked Choice Voting. Minnetonka is following this closely.

From: [REDACTED] > on behalf of Chris Barry

Sent: Sunday, June 21, 2020 1:58 PM

To: Brian Kirk

Subject: This is very important for the health of our democracy! Please move forward on Ranked Choice Voting. Minnetonka is following this closely.

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Chris Barry
15404 Highland Lawns Ct Minnetonka, MN 55345-5502
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 11:54 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@everyactionadvocacy.com> on behalf of Kevin Lattery

Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Kevin Lattery
4301 Victoria St Minnetonka, MN 55345-2847
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:26 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kim Meehan [REDACTED]
Date: July 9, 2020 at 3:51:59 PM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Kim Meehan
5624 Cherry Hill Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-6603
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 8:25 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Danielle Brown [REDACTED]
Date: July 8, 2020 at 9:11:42 PM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply-To: daniellesb2710@icloud.com

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Danielle Brown
2710 Olde Wood Ct Wayzata, MN 55391-2535
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Molly Ekstrand [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 11:52 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: In Favor: Rank Choice Voting

Dear Minnetonka Staff and Council Members,

I'm writing in favor of rank choice voting, especially for city and municipal elections. Traditionally, there has been lower voter turnout for municipal elections. Also, we generally have not been inundated with numerous candidates for each position. The Primary elections, especially for municipal elections, has (in my view) been a popularity contest for who can get more of their friends and relatives to vote for them in the primary.

Eliminating a primary and implementing Rank Choice Voting would allow a voter to move away from a traditional binary choice system.

It is change, change and transitions are hard for some. I recognize it may take longer to calculate the elected winner. There may be more human and financial resources involved during a transition. It would save human and financial resources by eliminating a Primary. I do feel that this could be a very positive change that could be more inclusive for Minnetonka.

Kind regards, Molly
15508 Highwood Drive (Ward 3)

Molly J Ekstrand, BPharm, BCACP, AE-C
[North Star Medication Optimization LLC](#)
Join me in my Zoom [REDACTED]

NORTH STAR
MEDICATION OPTIMIZATION
Strategic Partnerships Transforming Healthcare

Corrine Heine

From: Colleen Haggart [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 12:22 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Cc: Brad Wiersum
Subject: thoughts on ranked choice voting

Hello Mayor Wiersum and City Council,

I am writing in response to hearing about 'ranked choice voting'. I am disappointed that this is even a discussion, to be honest.

The integrity of the vote is simple. You either win, or you do not. Ranked choice voting is manipulating the purity of the vote. It is also an effort for one party rule which I find disturbing and unethical. We need voices on both sides - and - we need to be respectful that there are differences that do not equal hatred as it is often defined in polarizing discussions.

The justifications - are just that - justifications to support your new focus. This is unfair, and unlike the Minnetonka Council that I have always known. I have lived here 25 years. I have worked in the local school districts. We attend church in the community. People are engaged in a variety of wonderful and thoughtful ways that are positive - do not sell us short with the polarizing themes.

My husband and I have stayed here because it is a genuine community that has shown the kindness and compassion in neighbors and in giving. The community has thrived with activity through the faith based communities, the local businesses, and city / community organizations. It has thrived on common values of 'treat each other with kindness' and 'the common good'.

I am disappointed in how you the council has managed this new 'discussion'. It has not been a 'discussion' and should not be addressed at a time when people are in quarantine, under duress and preoccupied with the 'what ifs'.. Give us the community what we deserve - our voice. We have earned that as citizens in this community.

It feels somewhat underhanded to only get an email today that you are going forward on this discussion, when the last time I noted, you were tabling it. Do not refer to social media as a source of communication. That is not communicating.

This should be the voice of the people. Frankly, I do not believe it should be a discussion. The vote - is one person, one vote. Please honor the integrity in that.

I plan to view the meeting tomorrow. I ask that you maintain our right to vote in the manner it was designed - not 'ranked choice voting'. I strongly disagree with ranked choice voting.

thank you,
Colleen Haggart
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Craig Alciati <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 4:40 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice voting

Dear Minnetonka City council members,

I would just like to let you know my wife and I are 100% in favor of Ranked Choice Voting! Let's start forming positive coalitions rather than separating in to factions. Sadly both parties seem focused on the later. Ranked Choice may be the best choice to overcome our current situation.

Thanks very much for taking this up!!

Craig Alciati and Juliette Alciati
FERRIS LANE, MTKA

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Saturday, June 27, 2020 6:42 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alma Solis [REDACTED]
Date: June 25, 2020 at 10:45:58 AM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Alma Solis
501 Carlson Pkwy Hopkins, MN 55305-5808
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 7:35 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kathleen Kaysinger [REDACTED]
Date: June 25, 2020 at 6:57:54 PM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply- [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Kaysinger
4754 Winterset Dr Minnetonka, MN 55343-8722
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jennifer Johnson [REDACTED] >
Date: June 25, 2020 at 2:33:34 PM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Johnson
18810 Kingswood Ter Minnetonka, MN 55345-5023
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 11:16 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: RCV - Thank you & Expanded Statement

On Jun 13, 2020, at 9:40 AM, paula ramaley <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear City Council & Mayor Wiersum -

Thank you all for your patience and perseverance at Monday's meeting, and for hearing out opinions regarding RCV, and for your decision to forward the RCV ballot issue to the Charter Commission for consideration.

I very much understand and empathize with concerns about staff time and resources but also feel that this issue deserves consideration and a decision by voters, hopefully this November.

Please find attached an expanded version my remarks made at the City Council meeting, which I have also sent to the City Attorney for inclusion in the meeting minutes and other files relating to this issue. As noted therein, a special shout out to council members Schaeppi, Coakley and Kirk for their response to an earlier email on this issue - your responsive leadership is much appreciated.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paula Ramaley

--

Paula Ramaley
17306 County Road 101 West (Ward 3)

[REDACTED]

<Statement to City Council Supporting RCV.docx>

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Paula Ramaley

--

Paula Ramaley

17306 County Road 101 West (Ward 3)



<Statement to City Council Supporting RCV.docx>

Staff note: attachment was not provided with email but is part of record of June 8, 2020 council meeting

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Thank you for Moving Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kristine Falk [REDACTED]
Date: June 13, 2020 at 3:06:33 PM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Thank you for Moving Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

Thank you for voting to take the next step toward putting Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot in November for Minnetonka voters.

As we heard during the June 8th public hearing, Ranked Choice Voting is more representative and inclusive, saves time and money, and encourages positive, issue-based campaigns.

I would be thrilled to cast my vote in favor of Ranked Choice Voting in November.

Sincerely,
Kristine Falk
17560 Hampton Ct Minnetonka, MN 55345-2522
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Conan Stanton [REDACTED]
Date: June 18, 2020 at 11:19:35 AM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply-To: conanstanton@live.com

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Conan Stanton
17027 Sherwood Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-6816
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 1:58 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lisa Illies [REDACTED]
Date: June 19, 2020 at 6:28:53 AM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply- [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Lisa Illies
15604 Robinwood Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-1422
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Thursday, June 25, 2020 1:43 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Wendell Ellis [REDACTED]
Date: June 23, 2020 at 3:55:54 PM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply- [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Wendell Ellis
12000 Marion Ln W Apt 1201 Minnetonka, MN 55305-1302
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Jeanne Lutgen [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 12:49 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: RCV

Sure. 6085 Rowland Rd 109 Minnetonka MN 55343

> On Jul 11, 2020, at 11:12 AM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>
>> Would you mind providing your address? It helps the commission to know whether comments come from residents or non-residents, and it identifies the ward where you live.

>
>
> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
>
> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
> Office: 952-939-8262

>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Jeanne Lutgen [REDACTED]
> Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 4:36 PM
> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
> Subject: RCV

>
> I am a Minnetonka resident and in favor of Rank Choice Voting. Please let the voters of Minnetonka make this decision. We need to make it easier for all citizens to run for office. It is difficult for many of us to afford a primary race, and a November election. I would love to hear from a more diverse group of candidates.

>
> Thank you for listening.

>
> Jeanne

Corrine Heine

From: Scott Tankenoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Cc: Scott Tankenoff
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting for the City of Minnetonka

To the Mayor and City Councilmember of the City of Minnetonka,
I have reviewed significant different pieces of information regarding ranked choice voting, and I am NOT in favor of implementing ranked choice voting in the City of Minnetonka for many reasons. I ask that the City of Minnetonka does NOT make a change to ranked choice voting.

Thank you, and also thank you for your service to the City of Minnetonka.
Scott

Scott M. Tankenoff
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Rosemary Ritchie [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 2:17 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

I'm in Ward 4.
18420 Spring Crest Drive.
Rosemary Ritchie

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jul 11, 2020, at 10:35 AM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>
> Would you provide your address? It will identify the council ward in which you reside.

>
>
> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>
> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
> Office: 952-939-8262

>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Rosemary Ritchie [REDACTED]
> Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 4:51 PM
> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
> Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

>
> I first thought ranked choice voting would be great, but as I thought more about it, I'm not sure. Voters need to take time to study possible real life scenarios.

> For example, let's say Candidate A is an entrenched incumbent who has lost enthusiasm and energy, but still likes the status and recognition that comes with being Mayor. Candidates B and C are challengers with lower name recognition and fewer resources. When the City has a primary, chances are that Candidate A will receive the most votes, a plurality, and only one of the 2 challengers will win a spot on the ballot for the general election, let's say Candidate B. Then the supporters of Candidate C will throw their support to either A or B. The result is that B has a chance of unseating A and bringing new vitality to the office.

> With RCV, there would be no primary, and all 3 candidates would duke it out in the general election. The incumbent, with better name recognition and resources, is likely to receive the most votes, but still a plurality, since voters would have to become educated about 3 candidates instead of 2.

> My guess is that RVC would not result in more competent people winning office, and could result in less qualified elected officials.

> So I hope the Charter Commission will recommend against putting RVC on the ballot this November. We need to become better educated about it. I'd love to see someone present other hypothetical scenarios, as well as actual reports from cities that have implemented RVC. How is it actually working?

> Rosemary Ritchie
> Former Charter Commission member

Corrine Heine

From: Peg Carlson [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice voting

I am in favor of ranked choice voting. I would like to see it on the ballot this year. Thanks for your consideration.
Peg Carlson
Boulder creek drive, Minnetonka

Corrine Heine

From: Mary Kirchof [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Written Comment is support of Rank Choice Voting for July 14th charter commission meeting
Attachments: Charter commission letter for July 14, meeting.docx

5919 Wyngate Lane

Minnetonka, MN 55345

July 12, 2020

Dear Charter Commission,

We have been residents of Minnetonka for 33 years, raised our children here, and have never missed voting in any election. Mary is a Minnetonka election judge. We are retired, Cal from a career as a computer scientist and Mary as a teacher and literacy coordinator in a Metro public school district and were both adjunct instructors in higher education.

We first learned about Rank Choice Voting from the League of Woman Voters and after researching it became committed to working for rank choice voting in Minnetonka. Relatives and friends in New York City, Minneapolis and St Louis Park have shared it is an easy process and allows inclusive representation in their communities.

We have watched council seats needing replacement council members here in Minnetonka and been gratified by all the people who have wanted to run and serve. Rank Choice Voting gives more of those people the opportunity to get their message out for elections when more people are voting than in primaries that are not well attended in non presidential years of voting.

It gives us voters a chance to learn more about the issues from a variety of candidates and share our ideas, concerns with them. We become more knowledgeable about our local government prior to elections. After the election we would know that the candidate who represents us does so with the majority of the vote from a wide range of voters.

Minnetonka Council has been a leader in climate change, parks and community livability. With the challenges in our current world this is a great time to put Rank Choice voting on the ballot. As seniors we believe this system of voting is easy and will increase participation in city governance that we believe is a foundation of our democracy.

This is the time to lead in democratic principals of citizens deciding on the best form of voting in their elections. With Rank Choice Voting on the ballot in November, when large numbers will vote, more Minnetonka citizens will be able to decide how elections will best be held in our community.

Sincerely,

Cal and Mary Kirchof

5919 Wyngate Lane

Minnetonka, MN 55345

July 12, 2020

Dear Charter Commission,

We have been residents of Minnetonka for 33 years, raised our children here, and have never missed voting in any election. Mary is a Minnetonka election judge. We are retired, Cal from a career as a computer scientist and Mary as a teacher and literacy coordinator in a Metro public school district and were both adjunct instructors in higher education.

We first learned about Rank Choice Voting from the League of Woman Voters and after researching it became committed to working for rank choice voting in Minnetonka. Relatives and friends in New York City, Minneapolis and St Louis Park have shared it is an easy process and allows inclusive representation in their communities.

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This is the time to lead in democratic principals of citizens deciding on the best form of voting in their elections. With Rank Choice Voting on the ballot in November, when large numbers will vote, more Minnetonka citizens will be able to decide how elections will best be held in our community.

Sincerely,

Cal and Mary Kirchof

Corrine Heine

From: Mark Francis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 6:33 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: RCV Input

Hi Corrine,

Thank you for sharing this with the Charter Commission.

Mark Francis

To the Charter Commission;

Although you've heard from me before I wanted to reiterate my point that in RCV elections 10% of votes become disqualified due to ballot exhaustion. This a genuine flaw in the system and is simply part of how RCV works. Just like certain candidates become eliminated each round, certain votes become eliminated each round and, to me, it is too important to ignore and enough for me to believe that our city should not adopt this system.

In contrast to our current system, RCV can take perfectly valid votes and remove them from participating in an election. As a commission charged with guiding the city you have the tough job of going against the sentiments of a persistent, organized and vocal group, however, part of that job includes helping our City Council and Minnetonka's voters understand how a significant portion of our votes will have zero impact on elections should this system become adopted.

In January, Fairvote's representative told you that in a typical city election with 5 - 6 candidates like Minnetonka's that 10% of votes become disqualified. This admission can't get any plainer. But beyond this one passing statement this group and its local extension make little to no effort to educate the public (or you) on what most voters would find repugnant: 1 out of 10 votes not counting in an election's final decision. 1 out of 10 voters might as well as not have shown up to the polls. The Minnetonka rep claimed not to know or understand the 10% ballot exhaustion rate while his boss clearly did. That in itself raises some questions around a simple fact.

Please remember that:

- The 10% rate comes from a [2019 study of 96 RCV elections across the nation conducted by the Maine Heritage Policy Center](#).
- [Other studies](#) show similar and higher rates of ballot exhaustion.
- In [2017 the City of Minneapolis elections](#) had a weighted average of disqualified votes/ballot exhaustion rate of 13.4%.
- In [2013 the City of Minneapolis elections](#) had a weighted average of disqualified votes/ballot exhaustion rate of 17.8%
- In [2019 the St. Louis Park](#) the rate was 9.4% for a council member seat.

Minnetonka's proponents point to low primary turnouts as a reason for their efforts. But even Prof. Schultz who spoke to you in January said that the "silver bullet" to increase turnout could be a simple move to even year elections. These same proponents have tried to equate ballot disqualification/ballot exhaustion to low primary turnouts' effect on voters but this is an apples to oranges comparison. Ballots become disqualified in RCV due to the system itself; a voter votes because he/she believes their vote will count. On the other hand, not participating in a primary is a conscious choice by a voter. One is a victim of a system while the other is a personal choice. Perhaps Lincoln stated it best: *"Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters."*

You can find where proponents say that not fully filling out a ballot and ranking all candidates is because a voter is indifferent about some candidates. I contend that it is just the opposite as a voter may very well not rank candidates that they never want to be represented by. Yet those ballots are potentially disqualified. Proponents go further and proclaim that RCV makes everyone's vote more powerful, however, that does not apply to someone who rightfully undervotes and whose ballot then becomes disqualified.

Since I last spoke to you I hope that you have been able to take some time to explain the 10% disqualification/ballot exhaustion rate to people you know and get their reaction. That should tell you everything. They will quickly see beyond the proponents' superlatives surrounding oversimplified examples and realize the unfairness of this system is not something they want.

Allow me to leave you with a short [article from the ACLU of Kansas](#). They a) note how RCV suppresses low-propensity voters, b) conclude that RCV is unnecessary, and c) take the position that encouraging participation in current elections is a more common sense approach.

Thank you for your time and efforts as you decide what is best for Minnetonka's voters.

Mark Francis

Staff note: The linked article from ACLU of Kansas is attached. The other linked sites are not attached because they have been referenced in materials from prior meetings.



TESTIMONY OF
VIGNESH GANAPATHY
POLICY DIRECTOR, AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF KANSAS

KANSAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

OCTOBER 27, 2017

- WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY -

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Kansas is a non-partisan, non-political membership organization dedicated to preserving and strengthening the constitutional liberties afforded to every resident of Kansas. We work to preserve and strengthen our constitutional rights and freedoms through policy advocacy, litigation, and education. We proudly serve over 30,000 supporters in Kansas and represent more than 1.6 million supporters nationwide.

The ACLU of Kansas is neutral on ranked choice voting, which would replace Kansas’s “first-past-the-post” elections with a system in which voters would rank their choices, creating an instant runoff when no candidate receives more than 50 percent of the first-choice votes.

Although we strongly support the goals of ranked choice voting—fairer elections and greater choice—we are neutral on ranked choice voting in Kansas because:

- **Ranked choice ballots have suppressed voter turnout, especially among those segments of the electorate that are already least likely to participate.** Ranked choice voting (RCV) has resulted in decreased turnouts up to 8% in non-presidential elections. Low-propensity voters are already less likely to participate in elections that do not coincide with congressional or presidential races. By adding additional steps to voting, RCV exacerbates this tendency, making it less likely that new and more casual voters will enter into the process. Moreover, RCV exacerbates economic and racial disparities in voting. Voting errors and spoiled ballots occur far more often. In Minneapolis, for example, nearly 10% of ranked choice ballots were not counted, most of these in low-income communities of color. Other municipalities have seen similar effects.
- **Particularly at a time when citizen participation in Kansas has fallen due to restrictive and confusing policies, ranked choice voting is unnecessary.** Due to arduous documentary proof of citizenship requirement and confusing registration process, tens of thousands of Kansas citizens have been unable to cast a ballot, or have avoided the polls all together. As a result, Kansas has voter participation in the bottom half of states nationally. While we applaud efforts to motivate citizens to participate through fairer elections and greater integrity, RCV would only add confusion to an already uncertain election system in the state.

- **Kansas should pursue efforts to encourage citizen participation in elections through simple, common sense reforms such as election-day registration and permanent advance ballots.** States across the country have enacted election-day voter registration, and seen increases in turnout over 10%. Counties across the state already do it by allowing a voter to re-register and cast a provisional ballot if they are already registered in another county. And although Kansas citizens can already vote by mail, voters must renew their status each year in a long, complicated process. No Kansas citizen should have to choose between going to work and casting a ballot. We have the opportunity to cut the red tape and unnecessary obstacles, making it easier to vote by mail. These simple reforms would provide greater access to the polls for members of the military, the elderly, young people, voters of color, low-income Americans, and busy professionals.

Despite the fact that we support the goals of ranked choice voting, there are more effective ways to encourage citizen participation and strengthen our elections. Therefore, we are neutral on ranked choice voting in Kansas.

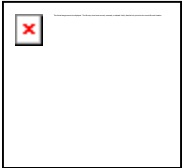
Corrine Heine

From: Lesli Kramer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 2:15 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked choice voting

Address:
3372 Creekview Terrace
Minnetonka 55305

On Sat, Jul 11, 2020, 10:31 AM Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

Would you provide your address? It helps the commission to know whether the comment comes from a resident or non-resident.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Lesli Kramer [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 10, 2020 7:23 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked choice voting

Please put ranked choice voting on the ballot.

Corrine Heine

From: Laura Geislinger [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 12:57 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: In support of RCV

Greetings,

I am writing in support of putting Ranked Choice Voting to a vote in Minnetonka. As a former Minneapolis resident, I was thrilled when RCV was adopted. I appreciate the ability to have my vote count, even if my top candidate is at the bottom of the ballot. I also think it is especially applicable in municipal and other non-partisan elections, as we can consider so many facets of a candidate's qualifications for a position, beyond party affiliation.

Thank you,
Laura Geislinger
5316 Oak Dr., Minnetonka

Sent from my iPhone

Corrine Heine

From: Larry Wade [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I support Ranked Choice Voting.

Larry Wade
15524 Day Place
Minnetonka, MN 55345
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: KenRader [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

Certainly

My address:

Ken Rader

4512 Laramie Trail

Minnetonka, MN 55345

On 7/11/2020 10:26 AM, Corrine Heine wrote:

> Would you be able to provide your address? It helps the commission to know whether the comment comes from a resident or non-resident.

>

>

> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>

> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: KenRader <[REDACTED]>

> Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 8:24 AM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

>

> I support Ranked Choice Voting and request that it be on the ballot for adoption

>

> Ken Rader

>

Corrine Heine

From: Kathrynne McCullum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 8:03 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Charter Commission

15380 Highland Place

I've been a resident in Minnetonka for 59 plus years.

Thank you for all you do!! You are very much appreciated.



> On Jul 11, 2020, at 11:18 AM, Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov> wrote:

>
> Would you mind providing your address? It identifies the ward where you live and confirms that you are a resident.

>
>
> Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney

> City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

>
> 14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345

> Office: 952-939-8262

>
>
>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Kathrynne McCullum <[REDACTED]>

> Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 8:19 PM

> To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>

> Subject: Charter Commission

>
> Please forward this to the Charter Commission members. I sent this to them but haven't heard back from them yet.

>
> 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, 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

From: John Guenther [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Comments for Tomorrow's Minnetonka Charter Commission Meeting

Hello Corrine - I look forward to viewing tomorrow's commission meeting. Here is a comment I wanted to share. Thank you!

"I feel that the idea of restoring healthy competition to the political system in the United States at every level is one of the most hopeful and exciting possibilities for the future imaginable. We need more choice and more voice desperately now. Imagine a future where for example, a Democrat, a Republican and a Libertarian all work together to get some critical infrastructure bill passed. Maybe a fourth or fifth political party is involved as well. It brings tears to my eyes to think of the type of results and real change for all Americans that could result. Final five ranked choice voting and elimination of primaries are keys to making this future a reality.

Thank you,
John Guenther"

Address
1731 Oakways St
Minnetonka, MN 55391

--



John Guenther
Owner, Product Launcher



Corrine Heine

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 3:04 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked choice voting

I support rank choice voting.

Eric Wickiser
5630 Mahoney ave
Minnetonka, 55345
612 388-2944

Corrine Heine

From: Deborah Calvert
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 4:08 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fwd: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Vibhu Rajappan [REDACTED]
Date: July 11, 2020 at 3:01:32 PM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Vibhu Rajappan
14720 Richards Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-2933
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:21 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Begin forwarded message:

From: Laurel Dercks [REDACTED]
Date: July 12, 2020 at 8:28:24 AM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: **Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting**
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Laurel Dercks
18454 Creeks Bend Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-6141
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Sharon Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Rank choice voting

Sharon O'Phaeley
3221 Shores Blvd

In favor of ranked choice voting.

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:24 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: I support rank choice voting in Minnetonka.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pamela Malley [REDACTED] >
Date: July 12, 2020 at 9:50:50 AM CDT
To: Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: I support rank choice voting in Minnetonka.
Reply-To: [REDACTED]

Dear Council Member Deb Calvert,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Pamela Malley
14501 Atrium Way Apt 227 Minnetonka, MN 55345-4757
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Cate Fields/Linda Masse [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: ranked choice voting

Please go to ranked choice voting. Thank you.
Cathleen M. Fields
18329 Creeks Bend Dr.
Minnetonka, MN 55345

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:26 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Amy OBrien

[REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Amy OBrien
3514 Baker Rd Minnetonka, MN 55305-4000
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Beverly Montgomery [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:13 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Cc: Brad Wiersum; Kissy Coakley; Brian Kirk; Brad Schaeppel; Susan Carter; Rebecca Schack
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I have studied the issues about ranked-choice voting and feel that it would be an advantage to implement the system in Minnetonka. It has proven to be successful in other communities such as ours and has not been too difficult for citizens to master.

Beverly Montgomery
14601 Atrium Way #333
Minnetonka 55345

Corrine Heine

From: Beth Pursley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 1:21 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Re: Ranked Choice Voting

Sure. 5300 Rogers Drive

-----Original Message-----

From: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
To: 'Beth Pursley' [REDACTED]
Sent: Sat, Jul 11, 2020 1:28 pm
Subject: RE: Ranked Choice Voting

Would you provide your address? It helps the commission and council to know whether comments comment from residents or non-residents, as well as the ward in which they reside.



Corrine A. Heine | City Attorney
City of Minnetonka | minnetonkamn.gov

14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345
Office: 952-939-8262

From: Beth Pursley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 1:27 PM
To: Corrine Heine <cheine@minnetonkamn.gov>
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

Please leave our voting system the way it is!

Corrine Heine

From: al carp [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: We strongly support ranked choice voting.

Thank you for considering it.
Al and Ruth Carp
4801 Caribou Drive
Minnetonka 55345

Sent on my Samsung Phone.

Corrine Heine

From: A Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2020 11:07 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: "Yes" for ranked choice voting

Yes for choosing ranked choice voting

Lorie Skibness
3314 Frear Drive
Minnetonka MN 55305

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:27 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Sandra Larson
Sent: Saturday, July 11, 2020 5:28 PM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Sandra Larson
11472 Fairfield Rd W Unit 302 Minnetonka, MN 55305-7434
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, July 9, 2020 3:51 PM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Kim Meehan
5624 Cherry Hill Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-6603
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:28 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 9:11 PM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minntonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Danielle Brown
2710 Olde Wood Ct Wayzata, MN 55391-2535
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:29 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 8, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Brian Kirk
Subject: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

I just signed up in support of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I urge you to move Ranked Choice Voting forward to be included on the November ballot.

Sincerely,
Lu Bjornoy
4289 Lindsey Ln Minnetonka, MN 55345-4579
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: David Landt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2020 10:33 AM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: In favor of ranked choice voting

Dear Charter Commission:

I am a resident and a pastor of a congregation in Minnetonka. I am excited and would encourage our city to adopt ranked choice voting.

Thank you!

David Landt
13713 Favorite Lane
Minnetonka, 55305