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**TO:** Charter Commission  
**FROM:** Corrine Heine, City Attorney  
**DATE:** July 20, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Addendum to July 21, 2020 charter commission agenda packet

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The addendum to the July 21, 2020 charter commission packet contains the information identified below. An addition addendum will be issued tomorrow afternoon, if additional public comments are received.

- Item 3 – Minutes.

The draft minutes of the July 14, 2020 charter commission meeting are attached. Also attached are public comments that were submitted for the record and referenced in the minutes. The public comments will be included in the files of the July 14, 2020 meeting.

- Public comments received

Also attached are public comments that were received after the final addendum for the July 14 meeting was distributed. This includes comments that have been sent to council members, as well as to the charter commission.



UNAPPROVED  
DRAFT

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**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA CHARTER COMMISSION**

**July 14, 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 JULY 7, 2020 MEETING

Tolliver requested a change on page 6, regarding the comment about increased costs of voter education. Allendorf requested a change at page 3, regarding his opinion that more people running does not mean that there are better candidates. Anderson moved, Sodergren seconded, to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2020 meeting, as revised.

By roll call vote, all voted in favor.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY: HEAR FRM THE PUBLIC REGARDING RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Northrup summarized the work that the commission has done so far. The commission will hear from members of the public this evening.

Sodergren noted that the commission had received written comments from a number of people and thanked everyone for sharing their comments.

Paula Ramaley said she is a fourth-generation resident of Minnetonka. She was shocked by the 4% turnout for primaries and 15% for general elections. After doing a lot of research, she found that ranked choice voting would ensure diversity of candidates and allows voters to evaluate a lot of ideas and candidates, She thinks the greatest benefit of RCV would be diversity of viewpoints and ideas.

Ben Gozola indicated that he had been on the Robbinsdale charter commission. He said RCV is not the latest flavor of the month but that a ground swell of residents asked the council to consider it. Based on the city survey, 56% of residents favor RCV.

Regardless of where commissioners stand personally on the issue, they should let the voters decide in November. There are four months to get the word out to voters. The positives are the elimination of primaries; it is not a complicated system; it promotes civility.

Jonathon Wiese said he is in favor of RCV. He is a 20-year resident. He uses ranked choice voting in business. RCV allows robust conversation. The more choices there are, the more interested voters are. It is a community building opportunity.

Kim Gohman supports RCV because it empowers candidates to choose the candidate they want and not just the safe choice. RCV helps diversify the field of candidates. RCV allows more than two candidates to run without fear of splitting the like-minded votes. RCV makes democracy more fair and functional. Minnetonka voters should have the opportunity to choose RCV.

Judy Melinate is in favor of RCV. She agreed with Ms. Gohman's comments.

Sandy Johnson lives at 12201 Minnetonka Boulevard. She's lived in Minnetonka for three years. She previously lived in St. Louis Park, which she considers a very progressive city. In St. Louis Park, the city council chose RCV and it did not go to the voters. She sees RCV as a tool in order to help Minnetonka become more progressive. It is critical for the issue to go on the ballot in November.

Ben Wilinski is an eight-year resident of Minnetonka. He is strongly in favor of putting the issue on the ballot in November. Primaries are a waste of time and money when so few voters participate. RCV would solve that problem.

Marc Jaffe is a 10-year resident of Minnetonka. He is in favor of RCV and would like to see it on the ballot.

Ann Deuring lives at 17149 Chiltern Hills Road. She spoke in favor of RCV. Subsequent to the meeting, she emailed in her comments for the record. Her email has been added to the addendum for the July 7, 2020 meeting.

Bryana French said that RCV is better for marginalized communities. She identifies as black and LGBT. She moved from Minneapolis, where she voted in an RCV election. With RCV, every vote counts and it would help reduce voter apathy. Data shows that RCV increases voter turnout.

Clarence Richard. Minnetonka is a leader among cities. He begged the commission to bring the issue to voters in November. We are losing our democracy. He sees a

systemic problem in our democratic process. It can be fixed, but it needs a level playing field.

Lu Bjornay said many people are like her and get sick of ads by the time voting comes around. Voters tend to vote for who can win, not those that they actually favor. RCV gives more choices. She is an election judge and has seen the low voter turnout. RCV can eliminate the primary and be overall lower cost. In Minneapolis, they had an increase in voters of 43%. She hopes Minnetonka can vote on RCV in the fall.

Paul Gilles has been a resident for 12 years. He is very against RCV. He doesn't see low voter turnout as a problem. If people don't want to vote, that is their choice. He sees RCV as a solution in search of a problem.

Joe Jacobs has been a resident for about 10 years. He has noticed low voter turnout and it bothered him. He spurred him to become more active. Voting is the personal responsibility of the citizenry. RCV concerns him because the election system has worked for years. RCV is not going to solve polarization. Polarization is not caused by the election system. Most people are so uninformed about candidates that they won't rank all of the candidates, and it results in ballot exhaustion. If the city wants to increase participation, it needs a more educated electorate, not RCV.

Rickey Brown has been a resident for 33 years. He supports RCV. It promotes a majority of support for the winning candidate. It results in more candidates and promotes diversity. Voters can support an outside candidate without worrying about wasting their ballots. RCV can cut costs by eliminating primaries. The council should provide education so that voters understand how RCV works.

Jennifer Johnson has lived in Minnetonka for 20 years. She supports RCV. She agrees that the results of the election are more valid because the results are more reflective of what voters want. Having more choices would make voters more engaged. She would like to see RCV on the ballot.

Diana Klein is a lifelong resident of Minnetonka. She is in favor of RCV and would like to see it on the ballot in November. RCV ensures that the winning candidate has a majority of support. She finds RCV simple to understand. Studies show there are statistically few errors on RCV ballots.

Linda Halley said she and her husband live on Clear View Drive. She spoke in favor of RCV. Subsequent to the meeting, she emailed her comments for the record. Her email has been added to the addendum for the July 7, 2020 meeting.

Chris Barry lives in Glen Lake in Minnetonka. He has lived in Minnetonka for 21 years. He is in favor of RCV. His main focus is in increasing voter participation and in engaging younger voters. He believes RCV will increase awareness of voting in the community and increase choices. The current system is a zero sum game and discourages people from voting.

Sarah Brandt has lived in Minnetonka 45 years and has been an election judge. She favors doing away with primary elections. She has noticed that those against RCV oppose the mechanics of the election. She looks forward to having more conversation and engagement in elections.

David Teigland has lived in Minnetonka for four years. He has served as an election judge in Minneapolis. He saw fewer spoiled ballots and a minimum of questions. He is in favor of Minnetonka adopting RCV.

David Haeg said that he started the conversation about RCV about two years ago. He talked with a FairVote representative. That got him thinking. He saw that most of the council members had either been appointed or had won with less than a majority of the vote. He started networking with neighbors. It took over a year to get the council to hold a study session. This is a grass roots, community funded effort. Most of the work has been done by volunteers. He is only asking for it to be put on the ballot to give voters a choice.

Anderson commended Haeg for the organizing he had done. She said that the commission had received many emails. Thirty of the emails were identical and came from [everyactionadvocacy.com](http://everyactionadvocacy.com). One of the people said that she had not sent the email and knew nothing about it. She questioned the validity of the 30 emails. Haeg said that he uses tools to organize people. He sends an email to people who have asked to be updated. Every email came from someone who used that tool.

Jen Bouchard is a fourth-generation Minnetonka resident. She is on the Hopkins School Board. She's seen Minnetonka evolve into a diverse community and she sees RCV as a further evolution. She's been following the commission's work. She favors RCV because it will foster inclusiveness, is cost-effective, and promotes majority support. The recent survey showed that residents approved RCV by a three-to-one margin. She would like the voters to have the ability to decide.

Bill Sorem has lived in Minnetonka for 25 years and has been an election judge. He is in favor of putting RCV on the ballot. He had been at one primary where only three voters showed up at the precinct.

Jeanne Lutgen lives at 6085 Rowland Road and has lived in Minnetonka 35 years. She has also been an election judge. She is in favor of putting RCV on the ballot. Candidates who have less resources and name recognition may be more likely to stay in a race if they can campaign until November. Low voter turnout is a problem. RCV will create more candidates and more interest in the community. Voters should be able to decide this issue.

Kevin Lattery has lived in Minnetonka for 17 years. He is strongly in favor of RCV. Ms. Gohman covered most of his points. One of the greatest problems the nation faces is divisiveness. RCV gives good candidates a better chance of winning without political endorsement. The local level is a great place to start with RCV.

The city attorney read into the record comments from Kathryn McCullum and Sandy Jambeck. Their written comments have been added to the July 7 meeting addendum.

Amy Morsman is in agreement with most of the people who called in. She doesn't see this as a liberal or conservative issue. The city should want a higher participation rate. Primaries knock out a lot of candidates before the voters have been able to hear their ideas. She hopes to see RCV on the ballot in the fall.

Julie Johnson has lived in Minnetonka over 20 years. This conversation has been going on a long time. It is important to get the issue on the November ballot so that the city can hear from the most voters.

Mary Blake lives in Ward 4 and is part of a fourth-generation Minnetonka family. She spoke in favor of RCV. Subsequent to the meeting, she emailed in her comments for the record. Her email has been added to the addendum for the July 7, 2020 meeting.

Barb Westmoreland is a lifelong Minnetonka resident. She spoke in favor of RCV. Subsequent to the meeting, she emailed in her comments for the record. Her email has been added to the addendum for the July 7, 2020 meeting.

## 5. COMMISSION DISCUSSION OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING

The commission did not have any discussion.

## 6. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

Northrup said that at the next meeting the commission will discuss the report to the city council, the structure of that report, and possibly the ordinance. The July 28 meeting will be to refine the report and vote on what to send to the city council.

Cheleen commented that the chair had done a fantastic job of handling the public comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Allendorf moved, Tolliver seconded, to adjourn the meeting. By roll call voted, all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnn Tolliver  
Secretary

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:09 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Anne Deuring comments on RCV

Hi,  
Here are my comments from tonight's Charter Commission meeting for the record. Thanks.

Anne Deuring  
17149 Chiltern Hills Road

I am in favor of ranked choice voting because it gives worthy candidates with good sense, pragmatism, and moderation a chance of winning. The current system seems prone to yield winners with extreme agendas, both far right and far left, resulting in gridlock because of lack of compromise and consensus. With ranked choice voting I'll know that I haven't just wasted my vote. Thank you.



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Linda & Michael Halley [REDACTED] t>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 8:00 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** RCV

Hello Ms. Heine,

I called in to the Charter Commission meeting tonight regarding RCV. Below is my prepared statement which I would like entered into the meeting record. (I did not say all of this on the call as so many other previous callers made these points already, but this is what I prepared).

Hello,

My name is Linda Halley. My husband Mike and I live at 18610 Clear View Drive in Minnetonka.

We have lived in Minnetonka for 44 years and raised 3 children here who all graduated from Hopkins High School ~ we're proud to say that 2 of them are now public school teachers.

We are very much in favor of Ranked Choice Voting being on the ballot this November.

Because we have voted in every election here, we were very surprised to learn that only 4% of residents vote in the primaries and 15% in local elections.

We believe that RCV will help to remedy that by eliminating the costly primaries all together and giving voters more choice and better informed candidates in November elections. We think that candidates will be more representative and diverse and appeal to a broader base of voters and voters will be more engaged with them and more motivated to vote.

RCV is more efficient, more representative, more inclusive, more civil and easier for voters.

Thank you all so much for your service to our city and for considering moving forward on RCV.

Thank you so much,  
Linda Halley  
[REDACTED]

RCV call in to Charter Commission  
July 14, 2020

Good Evening, Chair Northrup,  
Mayor Wiersum,  
and Charter Commission Members Sodergren, Tolliver, Cheleen, Anderson, Larson, Schneider  
& Allendorf,

I'm Barb Blake Westmoreland, a lifelong Minnetonka resident. I retired a couple of years ago after a 28 year career in Hopkins Public Schools. I know most of you very well from our work together on Hopkins Schools Kids Voting for 10 years and Empty Bowls for 19 years!

And now, here we are together again, working on behalf of Minnetonka residents, to solve several problems we've had for quite a while with our city council election system:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Only 14% of us vote in city elections; only 4% of us vote in an August primary, which is rarely needed.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - In the last 10 city elections, only 3 of those elections had at least 2 candidates running for each seat. In other words, in 7 out of the last 10 elections, there were seats up for election that had only one candidate running (from staff report to Charter Commission).
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - If an elected official leaves office before the end of their term, the city council has more often than not used their option to appoint the new council member, rather than hold a special election. On the current council, 3 out of the 7 started their 1<sup>st</sup> term from an appointment.

Last September the City Council asked you, the Charter Commission, to study Ranked Choice Voting as a possible solution for these problems. You have helped us all learn why Ranked Choice Voting is what is needed for our city elections. I commend you for the thorough process you are very near completing.

I ask you now to recommend to the City Council to give Minnetonka voters the final decision about adopting Ranked Choice Voting for our city elections - by putting the question on this November's ballot.

Thank you,  
Barb Westmoreland  
4713 Caribou Dr

## Public Comment to Minnetonka Charter Commission by Mary Pat Blake

July 14, 2020

Thank you for your service and for this RCV Study.

My name is Mary Blake and I live in Ward 4. I am part of a 4-generation Minnetonka family that settled here in the 1950's, and became founding members of a major church still prominent in Minnetonka today. I love my city.

I am in favor of Ranked Choice Voting going on the November ballot. Here's why:

If someone wanted to design a voting system that overrepresented the advantaged class, our current elections process would look a lot like it: holding a two-stage election that's poorly publicized, during years without any state or national races on the ballot. I've talked to many election judges and they have said that voters in Minnetonka City Council Elections are disproportionately composed of older, wealthier and whiter people than our overall population. And this is not an accident, having such low turnout, with 4% in the primaries and 15% in the general elections. This is a choice you've made and prefer, and have done NOTHING to fix.

During the last meeting, many Charter Commission members, many of whom are current or former Mayors and City Council members, spoke at length that the voters in the even year elections (when we have state and national races) won't be as informed on the issues and they're not as good of voters, or said that the 4% who vote in primary elections are the "right kind of voters." Some of you even defended the idea that we don't need choices of candidates for voters, as long as they are "good candidates." I don't think YOU should get to decide who the right voters and right candidates are. The voters do that. And the fact that 3 Mayors can sit on this commission and either say these things or not speak up about how WRONG they are, well, that's shocking, but also very revealing.

What does it take to break through this system as a woman of color? We found out last November when Kissy Coakley won her close election. A key reason she won is because she quit her job for 6 months to campaign door-to-door. She happened to beat an older white man who, while a very "good" person by your standards, did almost no campaigning, but did have the explicit support of many people on the Council and the Charter Commission. Somehow, Kissy still won. And she isn't anything like the rest of our City Council. Kissy has a totally different life experience. She shares a lot in common with many Minnetonka residents, and truly understands their needs far better than other councilmembers. This is what "representation" means.

In the past, you've ignored the inequities in our voting system, and this needs to be called out. But now, in this moment, many commission members seem to be considering ways to keep this off the 2020 ballot. You are actively putting your thumb on the scale in real time, as residents watch you, to keep voters from making this decision on Ranked Choice Voting.

This is an issue for the voters to decide. All the voters. This year.

I love my city and want to fix this unfair, racist election system now.

Thank you.

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Kathryn McCullum [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 8:16 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Re: Charter Commission

Dear City Attorney Heine,

As we discussed, please have my comments read into the record during the public comment time. I completed the online form to reserve a time.

Thank you.

Members of the Charter Commission:

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As you know, I am extremely concerned about the charter amendment for ranked choice voting for several reasons.

The most important 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.

The last charter amendment discussions spanned for a period of over more than two years. The following is a very brief description of just a few items the council, charter commission, and task force discussed, actions that were taken, and plans that were made.

-a task force was appointed to develop a resident communication plan. The task force reported to the charter commission with recommendations

-Information was forwarded to the school district for inclusion in their publications

-1991, after several meetings, a task force member, "spoke in favor about not rushing the issue to allow for education" and to "feel the pulse of the people..."

-April 11, 1991 bottom of page 3 majority of page 4:

- A comprehensive plan of action for communication was recommended by the task force.
- The minutes state the task force would "fine tune a plan" to present to the charter commission.

-The charter commission discussed educating the Hopkins and Minnetonka school district students on the topic of charter amendments and teachers would have students debate in their class.

-The League of Women Voters was involved.

-A public forum was done on the charter amendment.

There is much more information I could share with you on the past process that was done. If you would like, I can forward the minutes to you for reference. (City staff was great in getting the documents to me before the charter commission meeting.)

The items stated above are significant and clearly show that a charter amendment, no matter what the topic, is important to the residents and not something to put on an accelerated schedule.

Of course the residents should be notified and educated on ranked choice voting. That's a given. But the city has a precedent on process for a charter amendment and the time to begin the notification and education process is before the residents have an opportunity to speak at public hearings and provide public comment, and not after the an amendment is already approved to go on the ballot.

The cost alone of the new election process is a significant educational item that should be brought out into the light. The information that is out in the public now is not accurate in any way.

It was noted at the last charter commission meeting that the cost could be \$40,000 to \$100,000, with costs for adding an employee and benefits. It was not clear if the employee and benefits would be included in the amounts stated above, but the residents do not know the actual amount or if the employee and benefits are included in the amount because of lack of education and communication that should have occurred much earlier in the discussion.

It must be stated that there will definitely be unforeseen costs and those should also be studied in further detail and supplied to the residents. Additional pay for election judge time (and more time will be needed with the new process) will certainly be an expense that has to be considered and explained to the residents.

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

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully, Kathryne McCullum



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-----

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Sandy Jambeck [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:03 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** RCV

I am unable to "attend" the meeting tonight but I would appreciate having my remarks read and shared with the Commission. Thank you. They are as follows:

My name is Sandy Jambeck and I am a long time resident of Minnetonka. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions about RCV to the Charter Commission. I have been interested in this voting option for several years and have followed the use of it in Minneapolis, St Paul, and St. Louis Park. All of these cities have had great success and the voters like the system. It's also been successful in other states and countries across the world. You will hear all of the reasons why Minnetonka should adopt RCV so I will not go over those points. Rather I would like to tell you about my experience volunteering at the Farmer's Market last summer. Having stopped at the booth and trying out the system by choosing my favorite vegetable, I volunteered to assist in the booth. It was my observation that there was a great deal of interest in it. Some people had not heard of it and were willing to stand and talk to find out more information. Others were aware of it and liked the idea that Minnetonka was looking at this. The people who stopped to talk took a sample ballot and chose their favorite flower, vegetable, or other choice of the day. Without exception everyone was able to do this, from young children to elderly adults. This is not difficult. We all do it all the time in our lives when we make lists prioritizing items. We've been doing this since we were children. As a teacher, I had my students list and rank things in the classroom. It will not be difficult to educate voters as to how to vote in this manner. I've also been an election judge in Minnetonka. I am impressed by the level of interest, knowledge, and civic pride of our community members. We have very high voter turnouts for general elections. It would be wonderful to have RCV and avoid primary elections where only a small number of voters turn out to choose the candidate. Regardless of how you might personally or initially feel about this concept, it is of utmost importance that it be put on the ballot and the decision left to the voters in our community. Let people vote. It is the right thing to do and will allow Minnetonka voters to make that choice in the November election. This is the future of voting. I would love for this wonderful, progressive city to be another RCV city in MN.

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Alice Ford [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 2:49 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Rank choice voting

I am Alice Ford .I have lived at 3725 Cardinal Rd for over 43 years.

I am against the Rank Choice Voting.

I am trying to understand why our Mayor and Council are pushing this change of voting during a Pandemic and Isolation. Residents can not come to the meetings at City Hall.

They are virtual meetings that other legislators have found to be inadequate in getting information exchanged to make good decisions.

I suggest that until an open meeting without restriction to the citizens be held, that no decision about this Rcv be made.

Our Country, State and City has been voting one person, one vote for almost 250 years. It Has been the envy of many other countries. Some have fought in their own Countries, to emulate our method of voting. They are not choosing Rank Choice Voting. They are giving it up. They see the fallacies of RCV .it is a method of voting that in the past King and Queens and Dictators and third world countries liked. They could control the outcome. Thus continue to control the people.

Our Founding Fathers chose to use a system that allowed citizens to choose their leaders using knowledge about the candidates . In most elections the winner is determined at our local level in a couple hours. It is pretty straight forward. Winner takes all.

I will close with the statement that MInneapolis used RCV for their mayor and council.

It took over a week to decide who won. As we can see over the last couple months the results of picking the best candidates and expecting them to win does not work withRCV. I don't want Minnetonka to grow into MInneapolis . We don't need to copy a flawed system.

Please vote " NO" on Rank Choice Voting.

Respectfully,  
Alice Ford

Sent from my iPad



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Chuck Lindeberg [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:45 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Thoughts on Ranked Choice Voting For the July 13, 2020, Meeting of the City of Minnetonka Charter Commission

Dear City of Minnetonka Charter Commission Members,

Ranked Choice Voting has potential benefits for all levels of government – local, state and federal. Some of RCV's advantages apply at all levels while others will be more focused.

There are general benefits of RCV that will apply at all levels of government that adopt the policy, as well as specific ones in localities like the City of Minnetonka. The most tangible of these latter is Ranked Choice Voting will eliminate the need for, and therefore the costs of, run-off elections in cases where no candidate achieves a majority in the first round of a primary. In the past when there have been multiple candidates in a primary cycle, it has been common that voter turnout for the runoff drops markedly below what it was in the first round, thus diminishing the perceived legitimacy of the result. In many municipalities that have implemented RCV voter turnout has increased over what had been experienced previously in first round primaries.

RCV experience has also shown it tends to reduce incentives to “go negative” during campaigns. Candidates realize that if no one gets a majority of first-choice votes they must be perceived positively by people beyond their core supporters to have any chance of winning. This dynamic works against candidates who are running for office to pursue an agenda based on a single issue that is highly controversial. The current primary/run-off system is more vulnerable to gaming that tilts the process in favor of such candidates.

At the state and federal levels, over a century of legislation, court decisions and regulatory actions and inactions has rendered our political system captive to the moneyed interests, first and foremost of which is the financial sector. Our two legacy political parties have become little more than two consortia of stenographers who compete for the lead roles taking the dictations of their campaign paymasters and copying it into law. Now, in 2020, the most devastating pandemic in a century has revealed the agenda of those interests to have rendered many of the formerly productive sectors of the American economy hollowed-out shells, devastated opportunities for small business, and continues to push tens of millions Americans toward poverty. Meanwhile the Sturm und Drang discourse propelled into the public space by the “parties” establishments is intended, first and foremost, to distract each party's most dedicated election day supporters from waking up to the fact the two parties' economic agendas are all but identical and serve only the interests of the very wealthy instead of all the people.

My fondest hope is that as Ranked Choice Voting gains traction at the municipal level it will begin to be adopted state-wide here in Minnesota and other states. Neither I nor anyone else can promise it will be the silver bullet fix for our political system. But I do believe it has more promise as an avenue to enabling the restoration of genuine government of, by and for the people of the United States of America than anything else on the horizon. As such we have little to lose and much to gain by implement Ranked Choice Voting and doing our best to make it work for everyone.

I was born and raised in Minnesota and have lived all but twelve of my eighty years here, the last forty two in Minnetonka and most of them as a home owner. My wife and I won't be around much longer to see how this all unfolds, but I fear for the futures of my three children and especially my grand children, the oldest of whom is twelve. It is for them I am submitting this letter to the Minnetonka Charter Commission.

Thank you.

Chuck Lindeberg  
6045 Chasewood Parkway  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Drake Lorence [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 4:54 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Cc:** kari Lorence  
**Subject:** "Fair Vote" Please make this part of the meeting record tonight

My wife and I have lived in Minnetonka for 40+ years (all our married life). We love it here and have several thoughts:

- Because of Covid-19 and the shutdown of our communities, this new proposal is going way too fast. I've asked my neighbors if they've heard of this proposal and no one has. The community is not well informed about this.
- Additionally, it has been hard to keep up with the movement of the proposal through our Minnetonka system. First, I believe most of Minnetonka's residents have not had enough time to understand the Fair Vote Proposal. Additionally, Fair Vote is well-funded and organized and able to move this along quickly without Minnetonkans able to respond. We'd like to hear the other side. Lastly, the Fairvote organization is **pro**-Ranked Choice voting. Let's have more time to learn the "cons" on the issue.
- Ranked Choice voting (euphemistically called "Fair Vote") is strongly favored by small, less significant political parties, whose candidates have little chance of being elected. The math is great for these small parties. This system boosts their chances significantly, because of a mathematical "sleight of hand". The math is subtle, working to the advantage of these "out of the mainstream" candidates. If one of these candidates had to face a "major" party candidate, "one-on-one", they would lose decisively. We are happy to explain the math to anyone interested.

We love Minnetonka. Our neighbors and we need more time to study this issue. Due to the “lockdown” it would be **unjust** to put this proposal on this Fall’s ballot.

Sincerely,

Drake and Kari Lorence  
13555 Essex Place  
Minnetonka, MN 55305

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** JEANNE LUTGEN [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 5:47 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Rank Choice Voting

I am Jeanne Lutgen and live at 6085 Rowland Rd. Minnetonka.

I am 76 years old and an election judge in the city.

I am in favor of allowing Minnetonka citizens the chance to vote on adopting Rank Choice Voting for municipal elections.

Rank Choice Voting is being used in many communities to engage voters and candidates.

How does it do this? Candidates with perhaps less resources, and less name recognition will be more likely to enter a race that allows them to campaign during the months from September to November. These are the months when media and voters pay closer attention to an election.

If we continue with an August primary we lose many new voices.

If Rank Choice Voting is on our November ballot this year --- a year when interest in elections is high it will raise eyebrows and open eyes.

There will be questions and curiosity. It will afford us a chance to address the problem we all agree exists: low voter turnout.

Rank Choice Voting is one way to create more awareness, more candidates, more interest, and involvement in our community.

Please allow the issue to be put on this November's ballot. Let Minnetonka Citizens make the decision.

Thank you

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Scott Ode [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:28 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** RCV Support

Hello,

I called in to support RCV at the city council meeting but was not able to get on. I wrote up a bunch of stuff and didn't want it to go to waste so I pasted it below :)

RCV has many advantages, but for me the primary advantage is that it presents a solution to the spoiler effect which is an unavoidable result of first past the post voting. For example, in a first past the post system, 2 ideologically similar candidates that each get 30% of the vote each could and lose to a ideologically dissimilar candidate who only gets 40% of the vote. In this situation the candidate that won represents less than half of the people who voted.

- This dynamic inevitably results in a situation where 2 ideologies dominate the conversation because people stop voting for 3rd party candidates.
- Discourages innovation and new ideas because the conversation is controlled by a small number of voices and there is less incentive to introduce new ideas that might rock the boat
- Decreases the likelihood that those elected represent what the people really want
- There is less incentive to work together, and in some cases actively discourages cooperation

By moving to RCV, we will create more choice and give people the freedom to vote for those who they really agree with instead of the choice of either voting for the lesser of two evils or throwing their vote away.

- It breaks the monopoly on the marketplace of ideas and encourages a wider variety of ideas. If you have ever heard people complain about the two party system, RCV is the solution.
- It gives people more power to shape their government which should result in an elected body that is more nuanced and reflective of the electorate as a whole
- It should decrease partisanship and encourage cooperation
- Increase the likelihood that people will vote because they can vote for people they actually agree with.

These issues may not seem as problematic in local Minnetonka elections, but by adopting RCV, Minnetonka can take its place at the forefront of the evolution of American democracy. The political discourse in America is getting increasingly partisan, toxic, and divisive. Implementing RCV at a national scale will not be able to solve all of our problems, but it will create an atmosphere that is more conducive to political progress and cooperation. With any luck, adopting RVC in Minnetonka will represent one step toward a better, richer, and more representative American democracy.

Thanks

Scott Ode, Minnetonka resident for 9 years.

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** John Coatta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:34 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Ranked voting

John Coatta  
3519 Jidana Lane  
Minnetonka MN, 55345  
NO!

Sent from my iPhone

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Sarah Sanna [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2020 7:36 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** RCV

Please, please, PLEASE!! Let me as a voter decide for myself if Ranked Choice Voting is the best thing for ME. PUT IT ON THE BALLOT IN NOVEMBER!! Please don't let this committee be the deciding factor on if we the citizens of Minnetonka get to even have a CHOICE. It should be up to the voters to decide!

Let's work to bring the country back together starting at the grassroots level - our own back yard. Give us the choice in November!!

Thank you,  
Sarah Sanna



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Margaret S DONLEY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 11:24 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Ranked choice voting.

We do not have any interest in Ranked choice voting ever!

Charles and Margaret Donley

2939 Oak Lea Dr.  
Wayzata, MN 55391  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** Jay Sachetti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Councilman Kirk, thank you for the council's actions to date on Ranked Choice Voting in our city. I believe it is one very real and important step in the right direction towards increasing the voice of our citizens in this democracy. I fully support putting it on the ballot this fall and look forward to voting on the measure.

Thanks again,  
Jay Sachetti  
5926 Lone Lake Loop

Sent from my iPhone

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 4:06 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

Thank you for your progress on Ranked Choice Voting. I urge you to finalize the action and put Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot in November. I'll be voting yes!

Sincerely,  
Gay Russell-Dempsey  
15657 Woodgate Rd S Minnetonka, MN 55345-4538  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 4:07 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:19 PM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

Thank you for your progress on Ranked Choice Voting. I urge you to finalize the action and put Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot in November. I'll be voting yes!

Sincerely,  
Bill Sorem  
14301 Stewart Ln Apt 405 Minnetonka, MN 55345-5951  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 4:07 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Actually, it's long overdue...gerry mandering needs to end.

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 3:02 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Actually, it's long overdue...gerry mandering needs to end.

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

Thank you for your progress on Ranked Choice Voting. I urge you to finalize the action and put Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot in November. I'll be voting yes!

Sincerely,  
Gene Moore  
5645 Green Circle Dr Apt 110 Hopkins, MN 55343-9657  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Corrine Heine  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 18, 2020 4:08 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2020 5:29 AM  
**To:** Brian Kirk  
**Subject:** Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Council Member Brian Kirk,

Thank you for your progress on Ranked Choice Voting. I urge you to finalize the action and put Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot in November. I'll be voting yes!

Sincerely,  
Craig Alciati  
14414 Ferris Ln Minnetonka, MN 55345-5825  
[REDACTED]