



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

TO: Charter commission members
FROM: Corrine Heine, City Attorney
DATE: July 21, 2020
SUBJECT: Addendum No. 2 to July 21, 2020 charter agenda packet

This addendum contains the following information:

- Election data. After the packet was distributed, Commissioner Allendorf requested information on voter turnout for comparable cities that hold their elections in odd-numbered years, like Minnetonka. The elections staff contacted the comparable cities, and the information from those cities that responded is shown on the attached sheet.
- Public comments. Additional public comments that have been received are attached.

VOTER TURNOUT INFORMATION FOR COMPARABLE CITIES

	2011 General	2013 General	2015 General	2017 General	2019 General
Bloomington	21.6%	25.8%	14.7%	25.1%	31.7%
Golden Valley	28.88%	24.67%	27.06%	24.34%	28.92%
Hopkins	9.0%	17.0%	11.0%	21.0%	14.0%
Independence	31.2%	14.1%	24.0%	4.6%	17%
Minnetonka	13.4%	16.9%	14.0%	20.5%	15.1%
Minneapolis	-	33.4%	-	42.5%	-
St. Anthony	-	9.23%	5.76%	38.4%	45.9%
St. Louis Park (emailed)					

Corrine Heine

From: Jasbalken [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 5:32 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I am writing to express my Non-support of the idea of Ranked Choice Voting. The following is a list of some of my criticism's:

1. It is a complicated change that many voters will not understand.
2. It effectively gives you 2 votes and some will not understand this thus disenfranchising them. It also may be the case that a voter doesn't have 2 options to vote for.
3. It fundamentally changes the basic right and expectation of 'one person – one vote'.
4. It requires you to vote strategically which is impossible. You can't know what others are voting.

Given our current economic and covid lockdown situation, people can't participate in government as usual and this kind of fundamental and significant change to our election system requires more education and debate by the public which has not happened..

Please stop any attempts promoting Ranked Choice Voting by adding it to the upcoming election ballot.

NO to Ranked Choice Voting.

Jason Balken
5709 Rowland Rd #227
Minnetonka, MN
Jasbalken@comcast.net
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Kathrynne McCullum [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 7:20 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Charter Commission

Members of the Charter Commission,

I reviewed the packet for your commission meeting [on Tuesday evening](#) and I continue to be concerned about a few items.

The communication staff does a very good job and the Minnetonka staff could not be better. The “Summary of Communication Efforts” is good but it leaves out one critical point.

An ordinance that places a temporary mask mandate is not equivalent in any way to a permanent charter amendment that affects the city for years to come on a fundamental change to our election process. Even if the rules can be changed on the election procedures by any sitting council, the charter amendment remains in full force. There is certainly a substantial difference between the two actions with one being temporary and the other written in the city’s constitution.

Another item that is very concerning is that fact that two sentence template emails were sent to the commission by a company located in Washington DC on behalf of the residents.

Commissioner Anderson explained at the meeting that 30 emails were sent to the commission members and one person indicated that he/she didn’t send it. The explanation for this was that FairVote uses a tool in order to send emails and the only action that participants have to take is push a button to send the already composed, two sentence email.

That explanation may be understandable until you consider that one person said he/she “never saw this email” and “ I don’t know where it came from”.

Now, since a physical action must be made that requires a person to actually push a key on a keyboard or open an email on a cell phone, that means a person would have to have opened the email and taken physical actions to send the email. The point is, if that explanation is accurate, how would someone not know they sent an email and how many others did not know emails were being sent in their name. People who signed up for something in the past do have the option to change their minds.

The gentleman who is paid by FairVote said that the proposal is a “grassroots movement” and yet previously composed, two sentence emails are being sent by a preprogrammed computer from a company that is based in Washington DC. That’s not “grassroots”. That’s an organization outside of our city pushing to accelerate a decision that numerous residents know nothing about because of the lack of communication which is caused by the accelerated schedule.

The bottom line is that residents must be much better notified and educated on the amendment and what it means to each resident so they can make an informed decision.

I ask that you please keep these concerns in mind when you make your decision.

Respectfully,

Kathryne McCullum



Corrine Heine

From: Karen Anderson
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 7:37 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: Fw: "Fair Vote"

Please include in the Charter Commission packet or forward to commission members.
Thank you.

From: Janet Paul [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 6:08 PM
To: Karen Anderson
Subject: "Fair Vote"

Dear Karen Anderson,

My husband, John Paul and I, Janet Paul, have lived in Minnetonka for 41 years. Our address is 3030 Forest Lane. Our five children and their spouses have also chosen to live in Minnetonka. We have loved our experience here in our city.

Lately, however, we have become concerned about the push to change the charter to Ranked Choice Voting, for a number of reasons. It really concerns us that such a dramatic change is being considered during a pandemic which has turned our lives upside down to begin with. Not to have public discussion, face to face at a city council meeting is not a good policy. And then the way it is being characterized on Facebook is not balanced. My husband went on the Facebook site and is concerned that his name is in the "for" column as there turned out to be only one way to enter your opinion. If his name is one of the 30 names entered as for the "Fair Vote" please delete it.

Please consider delaying putting this on the ballot in November. It is too major a change to be considered at this time.

Thank you for your time.

Janet Paul

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Read for tonight's charter commission meeting tonight, July 21st

On Jul 21, 2020, at 10:36 AM, Kari Lorence <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Council Member,

You're receiving this email because you serve on the Charter Commission of Minnetonka. My husband Drake and I sent an email on July 14, 2020 to cheine@minnetonkamn.gov so it would be part of the meeting record last week. Did that actually happen? We don't know because no one has responded.

Which gets to the point of this email. In a time of a pandemic you are seriously working towards a change in our city constitution. We can't speak in person. We have to social distance. We have to be satisfied with sending emails that aren't returned. Most citizens in Minnetonka do not have a voice in this. How many citizens of Minnetonka even know the term "ranked choice voting"? We've asked our neighbors and family who live in Minnetonka. No one knows the term.

For a change to the constitution of our city to invent a new way to vote, you would think it would take a year or two to adequately inform our citizens. Knowledge precedes an informed vote.

Please halt the advancement of this proposed amendment. Table it for now. Wait for a time when citizens of Minnetonka can communicate easily in an open and unfettered manner with each other, their mayor and their council members.

Additionally, there has been a recent disclosure that the FairVote worker is paid and admits that some emails you have received were being sent by a programmed computer from a company that is based in Washington DC. Why should an organization outside of our city be allowed to push a decision that affects the citizens of Minnetonka? And who exactly is funding the FairVote community organizer?

These concerns should wave red flags all over the place!

We, and other citizens of Minnetonka demand answers to these red flag concerns, and we want a response to our emails and phone calls. We want the benefit of time to understand what ranked choice voting is. At this moment, the path you are choosing is anything but fair.

We look forward to your response today,

Drake and Kari Lorence
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:35 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:05 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,
Shawn CARLSON
5645 Green Circle Dr Apt 215 Hopkins, MN 55343-9661
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2020 9:29 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,
Shelley Knoblauch
5627 Green Circle Dr Apt 105 Minnetonka, MN 55343-9628
[REDACTED]

Corrine Heine

From: Corrine Heine
Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:36 PM
To: Corrine Heine
Subject: FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:34 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,
Wendell Ellis
12000 Marion Ln W Apt 1201 Minnetonka, MN 55305-1302
[REDACTED]