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**TO:** Charter Commission  
**FROM:** Corrine Heine, City Attorney  
**DATE:** July 28, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Addendum to July 28, 2020 charter commission agenda packet

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The addendum to the July 28, 2020 charter commission packet contains the information identified below.

- Item 3 – Minutes

A revised set of minutes are attached. The revisions include correction of typographical errors and revisions of incomplete sentences.

- Item 4 – Consider resolution to extend review period

The original resolution contained a typographical error in the adoption clause at the end of the resolution. A corrected copy is attached.

Commission member Anderson has requested an alternate resolution for the commission's consideration. The alternate resolution is attached.

- Public comments received

Additional public comments have been received and are attached.



UNAPPROVED  
DRAFT

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**MINUTES OF THE  
MINNETONKA CHARTER COMMISSION**

**July 21, 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. Wiersum joined the meeting at 6:33 p.m., prior to the approval of the minutes.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 14, 2020 MEETING

Northrup suggested a change at page 4, paragraph 5 by adding a clarifying phrase. Schneider moved, Anderson seconded, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2020 meeting. By roll call vote, all voted in favor.

4. DISCUSS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK AND COMMUNITY SURVEY

Northrup asked if there were any comments on the July 14 meeting or the survey. Schneider thought it was important to understand that there was some orchestration going on regarding the comments, which is fine, but it does weigh that end of the spectrum a little bit for the people who are trying to learn about this and have a dialogue. The city has used the community survey for a number of years. He gives it a lot of credibility, and he was surprised by the level of recognition of ranked choice voting reflected in the survey. His caveat would be that, because there is a history of community support for the council and the city, he believes that the fact that the council supported looking at ranked choice voting might have influenced the survey.

Allendorf said he had noted a number of misconceptions in the public comments. It was quoted from the previous meeting that rank choice voting will save the city money, but it will cost between \$60,000-\$120,000 more. Ranked choice voting is claimed to be more fair and just, but only three cities have adopted ranked choice voting. He has not seen research to support the claim that it helps marginalized communities, but he doesn't see how it works. The research on increased voter turnout is mixed and 43% was one year in Minneapolis where other issues played a major part in that turnout rate. With respect to promoting diversity, he noted that the city council has four women and a woman of

color with the current system. Allendorf expressed concern that FairVote has been working on ranked choice voting for two years and the commission has been asked to put the issue on the ballot less than four months from now. Allendorf thinks it deserves more time than four months for a change in the city charter.

Sodergren stated that four months may be a good time frame to educate the voters. Where ranked choice voting falls down is the cost. Voter education efforts would be critical if this is moved forward. The estimate for voter education was \$25,000 and she doesn't know where the city budget would accommodate that. She wondered how people would respond to various options for property tax increases to be used for items such as not laying off staff or cutting services, or paying for voter education. People should know that it will cost money. The public comments didn't indicate that people were aware that it would cost more money.

Anderson wanted to comment on community feedback outside and above of what occurred at the July 14 meeting. The commission has received lots of letters and emails from people in the community, which are open to the public to read. Several emails have come from everyactionadvocacy.com. That is a service from Washington, D.C. that is used to lobby public officials. One resident indicated that an email had been sent from that address using her email, and she knew nothing about it. Another resident had expressed concern that when he went to the FairVote website, the only way to get information was to express support for RCV. She was also concerned about amending the city charter without a single public forum where people could appear in a public setting to provide their input.

Larson said there were two individuals who spoke about the downsides of RCV. He felt their points were well taken. RCV is not better than the system the city has. He is concerned about exhausted ballots and votes not counting. He thinks there should be more time in terms of educating the public. St. Louis Park did not even take its ordinance to the public. He thinks it would be better to use RCV on a municipal election ballot rather than the state general election. He is concerned about a well-financed group advocating in favor of the amendment without an equal opportunity to hear opposing views.

Cheleen kept track of all the pros and cons in the public comments. If you take out all of the form letters, and look at people who have dug into the issue, the pros and cons are nearly evenly split. He's concerned about putting the issue on the ballot in November because there are a lot of other issues there. He's concerned that if the city puts it on the ballot, voters might approve without a lot of thought. He would like to see the issue on a municipal election year, because those voters are interested in municipal issues. He would like to recommend that the council put it on the ballot when it would have more of a municipal focus.

Tolliver is concerned about the time for educating voters and concerned about the senior population. Older people do not all use social media, and she is concerned about how they will get the information without the ability for in-person meetings. She is also concerned about ongoing costs for RCV. The council needs to prioritize costs. If a cost is added, something else has to be cut. The city can't continue to increase costs.

Schneider also looked at the issues. Negative campaigning and partisan gridlock are not problems that Minnetonka has. The claim about having a clear majority has been debunked because with regular voting you have a clear majority unless there's a tie and RCV questions that majority. FairVote has an organized passionate following, but the city will have to be neutral in educating the voters. That will be challenging to do in four months, especially during the pandemic. It may be true that more candidates will file, because FairVote will encourage candidates to get out. Historically, there have been only five times when there was at least one person running unopposed. Some might say that's proof that the system is rigged, and people aren't running against candidates that should be run against. His view is that the voters have regularly said they like stability and consistency and that so long as the council does a good job, they'll be re-elected. The real issue is to say, what is the right thing to do now? The commission's duty is to thoughtfully review this. If that means continuing it for 90 days in order to get further input, the commission should get as much resident input as possible.

Wiersum started with the community survey. He was surprised by the strength of support for RCV. He thought David Haeg did a nice job of explaining how he got involved with RCV. The survey showed how strongly people feel about the city and about how well it is run. FairVote is a national organization that is targeting charter cities that have their elections in odd-numbered years. There aren't many of those cities. He was appointed to the city council, but he wasn't well known or a local favorite. The argument that it will save money does not hold water. The voter education costs should not be totally allocated to RCV. Even without RCV, an investment could be made in voter outreach to improve civic engagement. New ways of voting and new ways of communicating work against senior voters. Seniors have less access to the various media, and they are at a disadvantage in a time of pandemic in getting information.

Northrup pointed out that the *Minnetonka Memo* is the primary communication vehicle for residents. All other media were at 12% or less in the survey. When you think about educating the public, there needs to be time to get pros and cons in the *Memo*. Absentee ballots become available Sept. 18, which means there is only a month and a half to communicate to residents.

**5. DISCUSS CANDIDATE PARTICIPATION**

Schneider said he had made his point that voters may be saying they like stability. Anderson said that during her years on the council she saw several years where there was no change at all and then years when there was great upheaval and change. She was concerned about the lack of women on the council for many years. Then there were three women on the council. The balance of women and men went back and forth. Now the council has a majority of women and a person of color. Minnetonka has shown a great deal of progressivity on a number of things. She isn't sure that changing the system of voting would be an advantage.

Schneider noted that a potential benefit could have been the idea of getting more people involved and getting more perspective. Having diversity is an important part of a healthy council. He thinks community discussion is the best way to get different perspectives into the decision-making process.

Allendorf said that what the commission needs to do is to lay out a well-thought out plan of communication. Four months is too short a time to do that, and the education needs to come before residents vote on it.

**6. DISCUSS COMMISSION ACTION AND NEXT STEPS**

Northrup noted that the commission's charge was to study RCV and provide a thoughtful and complete report to the council. He asked Larson to provide his perspective.

Larson said Minnetonka has good gender balance on the council. RCV is just another way of counting ballots. It is not appropriate to put something on the ballot because there is a strong lobbying group. It doesn't make sense to do this at this time, with the pandemic. RCV doesn't get you to a true majority. It doesn't make sense for the Minnetonka community. He believes the disadvantages of RCV outweigh the perceived advantages.

Northrup noted that the city has a proven system that reliably counts the votes. He thinks it is going backward to go to manual spreadsheets. David Maeda said there is no certified equipment to automate ballot counting. He is concerned about the city budget at a time when revenue is going to be shrinking.

In terms of next steps, the commission needs to decide whether it wants to extend the review period or make a report to the council.

Schneider said the question is whether presenting RCV to the voters in this accelerated time frame. Voters should have the ability to vote on it, but it should not be done in a

rushed fashion. Two choices are either to give a summary memo or tell the council that more time is needed. Next 90 days should be on summarizing pros and cons and lay out process to make sure it is handled right. Would like to make more informed and more thought out recommendation to the city council.

Anderson said she generally agrees. She thinks there is danger in that approach in terms of kicking the can down the road. It gives the lobbying effort another year, too. Her thought is that the council is under a great deal of pressure and she would like to add to the recommendation that if the issue goes on the ballot in November, it is important and necessary that the council do a number of things.

Schneider asked the city attorney to clarify what the extension of time would mean. Heine stated that the council cannot take action until the commission completes its review. If the review period is extended, the issue cannot go on the November 2020 ballot.

Allendorf agrees with Schneider and thinks that the citizens and the council have a right to know what the commission intends to study. Part of the resolution should state that the commission wants to study the academic writings and a plan for communication.

Wiersum said the commission needs to be clear about what it will do with the extra 90 days. Proponents might see the extension as a ploy to keep it off the 2020 ballot. With the pandemic still in place, what will the commission do with that time?

Northrup said there was a lot of discussion about community engagement. That was a troubling aspect of the meeting last week. He wasn't sure the commission succeeded in reaching seniors.

Sodergren said that when she looked at the number of people who commented, she was struck with the number of people who said they had lived in the city many years. She isn't concerned that seniors weren't being reached. She trusts that the communications staff will know how to reach seniors.

Schneider said the direction to staff should be to prepare a resolution with reasons for the extension. He would like to see a work session with council. He suggested that commissioners could send their proposed reasons to the attorney to include in the resolution.

Anderson said the commission needs to develop a robust communication plan. The commission needs time to list out the factual advantages and disadvantages of ranked choice voting in the studies received and testimony received. She would like to discuss and look at the issue of exhausted ballots as well as issues surrounding the tabulation of votes. She is concerned with the results not being clearly understood by the public

and whether RCV will make voting transparent enough. She would like more information on the politicization of ranked choice voting. She stressed the need for a public forum and events. She would like to look at the budget issues surrounding RCV.

Wiersum said that how we vote and the sanctity of the vote is very important. Being careful is part of the rationale. The commission wants to be well informed and have a good debate of the pros and cons.

Anderson seconded what Wiersum said. One of the most important aspects of voting is that people in the community trust the system. Some people don't trust the system. Will going to RCV throw off the trust in the community? She'd like to have a full public discussion.

Allendorf said that as he looked at last week's meeting, a public forum didn't truly happen in the last meeting. The commission should have two or three different forums. The lobbying group had people lined up to besiege the commission. A professor could give the pros and cons and experiences at a public forum. He would like to define the public input so that one viewpoint doesn't dominate and instead there is give-and-take.

Wiersum said he would like to see an intelligent debate of both sides of the issue. That would be valuable and would enable people to make a great decision.

Schneider mentioned that the council will have months to work on the issue. There is a better chance of making the discussion more robust rather than less robust.

Heine asked for an idea of the proposed schedule. Schneider said the commission needs time to lay out a work plan.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Anderson moved, 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

**Minnetonka Charter Commission  
Resolution No. 2020-\_\_**

**Resolution extending the time period for review of  
proposed charter amendment**

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Be it resolved by the Charter Commission of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota as follows:

Section 1. Background.

- 1.01. On June 8, 2020, the Minnetonka city council adopted Ordinance No. 2020-12, "An Ordinance amending sections 2.06 and 4.02 of the Minnetonka City Charter, regarding elections; requiring use of ranked choice voting; eliminating use of primary elections," and submitted the ordinance to the charter commission for review, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 410.12, subd. 5.
- 1.02. Under Minn. Stat. § 410.12, subd. 5, the commission has 60 days, or until Aug. 7, 2020, to review the proposed charter amendment and accept, reject, or propose an amendment to the city council.
- 1.03. The commission has the authority to extend the review period for up to an additional 90 days if the commission determines additional time is needed for review.
- 1.04. The commission has made a diligent effort to complete its review during the COVID-19 pandemic and within the 60-day review period, by meeting twice during the month of June and four times during the month of July.
- 1.05. Minnetonka has a long history of making major decisions after thoughtful evaluation of the pros and cons of the action and after a robust community engagement process. Accordingly, consideration of changes to the city charter should be thorough and thoughtful, not rushed.
- 1.06. The commission has identified several other areas that it would like to study before completing its report to the city council. Those areas include: academic research on the subject of ranked choice voting; further study and discussion of exhausted ballots; the process for vote tabulation; further study of unintended consequences of ranked choice voting; and the forecasted costs of ranked choice voting.
- 1.07. The commission would like to provide ample opportunity for robust public input. The commission has had only one meeting to receive public feedback, and the public was not able to attend in-person. The commission is interested in exploring a meeting in which the public is able to hear a debate, or another forum in which the public can receive information on ranked choice voting before providing feedback to the commission.
- 1.08. The commission is interested in holding a joint work study session with the city council as part of its review.
- 1.09. The commission would like to make a thoughtful and complete recommendation to the city council at the end of its review, which may include recommended changes to the proposed charter amendment.



Section 2. Commission Action.

- 2.01. The commission determines that additional time is needed for it to complete its review of the proposed charter amendment.
- 2.02 The commission hereby extends the review period by 90 days, to Nov. 5, 2020.
- 2.03 The city attorney is directed to file a copy of this resolution with the city clerk immediately.

Adopted by the Charter Commission of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on .

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Northrup, Chair

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
LuAnn Tolliver,

**Action on this resolution:**

- Motion for adoption:
- Seconded by:
- Voted in favor of:
- Voted against:
- Abstained:
- Absent:
- Resolution adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Minnetonka Charter Commission at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, the original of which was filed with the city clerk on \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Koosman, City Clerk

**Minnetonka Charter Commission  
Resolution No. 2020-\_\_**

**Resolution rejecting Ordinance No. 2020-12**

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Be it resolved by the Charter Commission of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota as follows:

Section 1. Background.

- 1.01. On June 8, 2020, the Minnetonka city council adopted Ordinance No. 2020-12, “An Ordinance amending sections 2.06 and 4.02 of the Minnetonka City Charter, regarding elections; requiring use of ranked choice voting; eliminating use of primary elections,” and submitted the ordinance to the charter commission for review, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 410.12, subd. 5.
- 1.02. Under Minn. Stat. § 410.12, subd. 5, the commission has 60 days, or until Aug. 7, 2020, to review the proposed charter amendment and accept, reject, or propose an amendment to the city council.
- 1.03. The commission has made extraordinary efforts to conduct its review during the COVID-19 pandemic and within the 60-day review period, by meeting twice during the month of June and four times during the month of July. As part of its review, the commission heard from: advocates and opponents of ranked choice voting; public elections officials from the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, St. Louis Park and Minneapolis; and numerous residents. The commission conducted a review of scholarly articles, surveys and hundreds of pages of information regarding ranked choice voting.
- 1.04. Minnetonka has a long history of making major decisions after thoughtful evaluation of the pros and cons of the action and after a robust community engagement process. Accordingly, consideration of changes to the city charter should be thorough and thoughtful, not rushed.

Section 2. Commission Findings.

2.01. As a result of its detailed study, the commission makes the following findings:

- a. The city, state and nation are under a state of emergency due to an international health pandemic. The health pandemic has prevented the commission from meeting in person and has prevented members of the public from attending commission meetings in person. The pandemic has prevented the commission from engaging in meaningful opportunities to engage residents in face-to-face conversations, either formally through public meetings or informally through encounters with residents in local gathering places or city events. To offer a charter amendment to the public without full public discussion and without a single in-person public meeting is not acceptable and has never occurred in Minnetonka.
- b. Ranked choice voting is relatively new to Minnesota. It is currently in use in only three cities – two of which (Minneapolis and St. Paul) are many times the size of Minnetonka and they often have contentious political election contests. St. Louis Park is comparable in size to Minnetonka, but it has only held one election using ranked choice voting; there is an inadequate track record to

show that choice voting would benefit a city of Minnetonka's size. Some cities, including Duluth, have rejected ranked choice voting.

- c. Even with the removal of primary elections, implementation of ranked choice voting will increase, not reduce, city election costs. According to conservative estimates by city staff, implementation of ranked choice voting is likely to increase annual election costs by \$ 67,853 to \$106,063, not including additional costs for voter outreach.
- d. There is no election equipment certified for use in Minnesota that will automatically tabulate the results of a ranked choice election beyond the initial round of voting. Unless a candidate wins a majority of votes cast in the initial round, votes must be tabulated manually by elections staff. Manual tabulation requires additional staff time, and therefore increases elections costs. Manual tabulation is time consuming and likely to result in delays in determining the winning candidate. Most importantly, manual tabulation of votes is not easily explained to voters. It is not a transparent process of counting votes.
- e. There is no credible evidence to support the claim that ranked choice voting consistently increases voter turnout. Voter turnout is more influenced by competitive races, voter communication and education, and particular issues of interest to voters, rather than the voting system in use.
- f. There is some evidence that ranked choice voting may result in a greater number of candidates for open seats. However, it is not certain if ranked choice voting is a major reason for this increase.
- g. Ranked choice voting encourages single issue candidates to run. The use of ranked choice voting has become politicized and may result in candidates who are more likely to be aligned with political parties, which runs counter to Minnetonka's long tradition of non-partisan elections.
- h. Ranked choice voting can result in exhausted ballots that are excluded from the final ballot count that results in the winning candidate. Any voter who elects to vote for only their preferred candidate risks having their ballot eliminated by ballot exhaustion. Similarly, even if a voter ranks three different candidates, the voter's ballot may be exhausted if there are more than three candidates running. This situation is not comparable to a voter whose candidate loses in a primary election: in ranked choice voting, the voter must predict what candidates may be eliminated and determine how the remaining candidates might compare; the voter is unable to decide between directly competing candidates with the knowledge of which candidates have been eliminated.
- i. If the city is going to make a fundamental change to its election system, the issue should be put to the voters, but only after an adequate opportunity to inform the voters of the issues and potential impacts of the change. This is not that time. As a result of the pandemic, the city communications efforts are heavily reliant on social media, but social media engages only a portion of the city's residents. The *Minnetonka Memo* is the single source upon which most residents rely for information about the city, but there has not been a single

article in the *Memo* to lay out the pros and cons of the proposed use of ranked choice voting.

Section 3. Commission Action.

- 3.01. The commission hereby rejects the charter amendment proposed by the Minnetonka City Council in Ordinance No. 2020-12.
- 3.02. The commission respectfully requests that the city council formally rescind Ordinance No. 2020-12.
- 3.03. The commission is willing to work with the city council in developing a schedule under which the issue of ranked choice voting could be submitted to the voters in the future, after voters have had multiple opportunities to participate in in-person meetings, to learn about ranked choice voting, and to cast their ballots without the chilling effect of a health pandemic.
- 3.04. The city attorney is directed to file a copy of this resolution with the city clerk immediately.

Adopted by the Charter Commission of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on .

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John Northrup, Chair

Attest:

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LuAnn Tolliver,

**Action on this resolution:**

- Motion for adoption:
- Seconded by:
- Voted in favor of:
- Voted against:
- Abstained:
- Absent:
- Resolution adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Minnetonka Charter Commission at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2020, the original of which was filed with the city clerk on \_\_\_\_\_ 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Becky Koosman, City Clerk

**Corrine Heine**

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**From:** Diana Klein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver; Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Commission on RCV - a request

Hello Charter Commission, and thank you for your service.  
I have become aware of something that concerned me about how the recommendation for placing RCV on the ballot in November is going.

My understanding is that despite many months of study, you are planning to postpone your decision for another 90 days.  
What is taking so long? Do you really not have what you need to make a decision?  
I urge you to vote and move on.

The way it's playing out now appears that the commission may be purposefully obstructing the issue. I don't want to believe this is the case.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Diana Klein  
3610 Druid Lane  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
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Thanks! \*´¨) ( ,.●,.,●\*´¨) ,.●\*´¨)  
Diana ( ,.\* \* [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 2:31 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

**Importance:** High

All Charter Commission Members, I believe that it is very irresponsible of all of you for not taking action to allow the City Council to vote on having the Ranked Choice Voting question on the November ballot. The number of meetings that you have held and the input that has come to you from city residents both in written form and participation at one of your meetings, should clearly have demonstrated that we, city residents want to be able to vote on this issue.

You all are not listening to the many voices of the residents...you all do not represent our voice!! On Tues, redeem yourselves and agree this goes to the City Council and then on to the ballot in November.....Sandy Johnson

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 3:41 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Cc:** Brad Wiersum  
**Subject:** Support RCV

Please allow the voters to decide in November whether or not they want Ranked Choice Voting. Support already strongly favors it. Minnetonka residents support it by a 3 to 1 margin. Speakers at the City Council meeting (when the council voted unanimously to forward the issue to the Charter Commotion) waited patiently through the meeting until about 10:30 to speak in support. Only two people opposed it, and their reasons were either incorrect or misleading. RCV will save money and will result in more voters having a say in who represents them.

Please do not ignore the overwhelming support of residents who favor this issue. And please do not let personal opinions influence the decision to move forward with a referendum vote. In these divisive times, democratic representation and wide voter participation is more important than ever Respectfully and with hope, Sharon Grimes

14301 Stewart Ln, #201  
Minnetonka 55345

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Jack Barbier [REDACTED] n [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 3:44 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** A message to the Charter Commission

Ms. Heine: Could you please see to it that everyone on the Charter Commission gets this message?:

To the Commission:

I am OUTRAGED.

Who do you think you are? Some kind of GODS?

What makes you so IMPERVIOUS to your community that you would find it necessary to COUNTER their LOUD, CLEAR MESSAGE that RCV deserves to be voted on in November?

What is this pedestal you stand on?

What are you are afraid of? That maybe your status quo will change? THAT'S EXACTLY THE POINT. People in this country are DISGUSTED with politics as usual.

This is NOT time to kick the can down the road.

SWALLOW HARD, PEOPLE, and do the right thing. Do your job! Represent and SUPPORT the community! Allow RCV to be put on the ballot in November!!! Don't play GOD with us! Let the people make the decision on implementing RCV.

Failure to do so will see Mayor Wiersum's support evaporate overnight....GUARANTEED.

Signed,

Your shocked and appalled resident, Jack Barbier, ChFC

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Wendy Holdman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 5:56 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Susan Carter; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Corrine Heine; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver  
**Subject:** Minnetonka: in support of Ranked Choice Voting!

Dear Minnetonka City Mayor, City Council Members, and Charter Commission Members,

I am writing to you today because I wholeheartedly support Ranked Choice Voting in Minnetonka. I believe it will help diversify our city (and our world!).

RCV is a legal, efficient, practical way to ensure that candidates with more than 50% of the vote get elected to office. It's used in many other communities (Bloomington and Rochester for example are working on it now too – SLP already has it). It eliminates the fear of voting for your favorite candidate because that vote may mean nothing and may even put your least favorite candidate in office. It eliminates the need to vote for the lesser of two evils. It eliminates the feeling that your voice meant nothing if your candidate didn't win. It means candidates can lobby voters as a second choice. It is easy to understand. It will mean an increase in voter turnout. It will enable our voting system to be more democratic. It eliminates the need for a Primary Election, saving the city money they could invest in something else.

Please put Ranked Choice Voting on the November ballot to allow the fine people in this city a voice on this important measure. I strongly believe that we the people should be able to vote on it.

With respect,  
Wendy Holdman

**Wendy Holdman**  
3416 Meadow Lane  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** David Haeg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 6:12 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Cc:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Re: Messages supporting RCV

Corrine and Karen -

The summary answers your questions:

- 1) The process is outlined below, and you can try it out yourself by using the link below the images.
- 2) The sender/supporter gets a confirmation sent to the email address they entered. Someone could NOT impersonate someone else, using their email address, without the owner of that email address seeing a confirmation email.
- 3) Users begin this process either by seeing an image on Facebook, as below, or within an email sent to our supporters - and then clicking on the Facebook image or the link within the email.
- 4) Yes, they do see the email message before it is sent.

Fortunately, it's easy to look at the information people have voluntarily submitted in using this platform to share their feelings with the council and the charter commission - like the specific case of Mr. Rheinhardt, I have all those details. He was on facebook, where we do a lot of organizing and advocacy - it's a pandemic after all, and we can't exactly go to events or knock on doors. In his facebook feed, he saw this image, and clicked on it, which is clearly "pro-RCV".



After clicking, he was redirected to this page, which has fields where he can enter his personal information.

**Contact the Minnetonka Mayor and City Council**

Help us make a difference by contacting your local leaders today!

Take future action with a single click.  
[Log in](#) or [Sign up for FastAction](#)

1 Details
2 Messages
3 Confirmation

First Name  Last Name

Street Address

Postal Code  City  State/Province

Email  Mobile Phone

By submitting your cell phone number you are agreeing to receive periodic text messages from this organization. Message and data rates may apply. Text HELP for more information. Text STOP to stop receiving messages.


Remember me so that I can use *FastAction* next time.

[Next](#)


After clicking next, it would have taken him to this page, which has a customizable subject line, but (in this specific case) some pre-set text, including the personal information he entered on the previous page. Then he clicked send.

**Message Recipients** [Send message](#)


Send the following message:



**Deb Calvert**  
Council Member  
Minnetonka



**Susan Carter**  
Council Member  
Minnetonka



**Kissy Coakley**  
Council Member  
Minnetonka

**Brian Kirk** Council Member, Minnetonka  
**Rebecca Schack** Council Member, Minnetonka  
**Bradley Schaeppi** Council Member, Minnetonka  
**Brad Wiersum** Mayor, Minnetonka  
[Hide recipients](#)

Personalize your subject

Dear [elected official],

Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.

Sincerely,  
 David Haeg  
 17056 Chiltern Hills Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-2505  
 david.haeg@fairvotemn.org

[Start Over](#) [Send message](#)

Finally, an email would be sent to the address he entered on his contact info page, and I am cc'd on those emails, as you can see below.

Thank you for your support Inbox x



RCV Minnetonka <info@fairvotemn.org>  
to scott.rheinhart

Dear Scott,

Thank you for contacting the city council to put Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot in Minnetonka! It is critical that our local leaders hear from voters about this key ele

If you would like to find out more about Ranked Choice Voting or how you can assist with the effort in Minnetonka, please contact David Haeg at [david.haeg@rcvminne](mailto:david.haeg@rcvminne)

Thank you,

Your FairVote MN Team

So, in summary, Mr. Rheinhart clicked on an image that was clearly intended to promote RCV, then provided his contact information and clicked "next", saw the message he was sending and who he was sending it to, and had the opportunity to add his own words, and received an email thanking him for his support. In this case, it was akin to signing a very long petition he didn't agree with. There were 3 steps plus a confirmation email, with no coercion and full transparency about the intent of the communication. This didn't happen by accident. He is clearly an opponent and used our communication tool to register his opposition, albeit in a confusing and contradictory way - he could have simply emailed the council, but I think he was knowingly trying to create the problem I'm dealing with now at 6pm on a Friday. I know there are other RCV opponents who use my system to more easily contact councilmembers to register their opposition, and that's fine! While I don't love the idea of people using my system to undermine this issue, I won't begrudge them for doing it. Make every voice heard, I say! Also, if people enter addresses outside Minnetonka, the system won't send the message - so it actively filters out non-residents if they try to use it.

As to the person who claimed they knew nothing about sending an email via Everyaction, that simply can't be true. If you give me their name, I can forward you the confirmation they received after sending it - I'm cc'd on all those confirmations, as I was on Mr. Rheinhart's, above.

If you want to complete this process yourself to see how it works, you can go through all the same above steps. Just imagine this link represents the Facebook image above: [https://secure.everyaction.com/ZYk9A-S1XUeLzPi\\_JPQ\\_Gw2](https://secure.everyaction.com/ZYk9A-S1XUeLzPi_JPQ_Gw2), just don't click "send message" on the final step, and you'd need to use a Minnetonka address, or it won't work.

As for "everyaction", it is simply an alternative to Salesforce or other Customer Relationship Management services. It allows small organizations to find, communicate with and coordinate their supporters, and is focused on nonprofits and advocacy clients instead of giant companies. I would think that a city would prefer a well-organized group to a disorganized one, and this tool enables it.

The broader point here is that "community organizing" is simply providing supporters of an issue with the information and tools to simplify the process to make their opinion heard. I'm sure back in the early 2000s, people had their reservations about email - because it's pretty simple to create a fake email account and send whatever you want with complete anonymity. And before that, people simply sent anonymous or forged paper letters. If anything, this process ensures more accountability from the senders and the receivers, since the data is

tracked and validated. And I would hope that the people you receive messages from, regardless of the format, all have their voices heard.

Commissioner Anderson, if these answers are sufficient, I hope that you will communicate that your concerns have been resolved during the next Charter Commission meeting. I have gone to rather extreme lengths to ensure that our supporters and the issue of RCV are not tainted by suspicion of inauthenticity. And I wish you or someone else would have asked this question directly several weeks ago, so I could have explained it as I have now, rather than confronting me during my public testimony, when I was ill-prepared to answer such a technical question.

If you have any other questions, please let me know.

Thanks and have a great weekend,  
-David

On Fri, Jul 24, 2020 at 3:43 PM Corrine Heine <[cheine@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:cheine@minnetonkamn.gov)> wrote:

David,

You must have received a call from council member Kirk. Here is the issue:

The issue has to do with the reliability of emails from [everyactionadvocacy.com](http://everyactionadvocacy.com). If you look at the charter commission packet for July 28, which will be posted later this afternoon, the public comments include an email sent to Brian Kirk by a Mr. Rheinhart from [everyactionadvocacy.com](http://everyactionadvocacy.com). The subject line of the email says DO NOT move forward with RCV, but the body of the email is the pre-formatted text that urges the council to move forward. As you know, one of the previous packets included an email from a resident who had supposedly sent an email from [everyactionadvocacy.com](http://everyactionadvocacy.com) but who reported that she knew nothing about the email and had not sent it.

The concern is that these discrepancies raise questions about the accuracy of every email sent from that email platform. How does the platform work? Can anyone insert anyone else's email to indicate that person's support, without that person knowing it? Does Mr. Rheinhart actually support or not support RCV? How is it that people are being directed to the everyactionadvocacy platform – do they have to go to the FairVote website first? What are they clicking on that directs them to the platform? Do they see the message that is going to be sent before it is sent? Those are the questions that the two emails raise.



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

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

**From:** David Haeg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 1:42 PM  
**To:** Karen Anderson <[kanderson@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:kanderson@minnetonkamn.gov)>; Corrine Heine <[cheine@minnetonkamn.gov](mailto:cheine@minnetonkamn.gov)>  
**Subject:** Messages supporting RCV

Commissioner Anderson and City Attorney Heine,

It sounds as if there are some ongoing concerns with the format of feedback to the council and charter commission. I am happy to explain exactly how these comments are being submitted by residents of Minnetonka.

Please call me directly or let me know how I can contact you.

Thank you,

-David  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:22 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Charter Amendment

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**From:** Kathryne McCullum [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 6:27 AM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Charter Amendment

Members of the Charter Commission:

I received the following -forwarded- email from a concerned and long time resident of our city. Because of the volatile environment right now, the resident did not want his/her name shared. I also debated on sending this on to the commission for the same reason.

The email is from FairVote to its supporters.

I believe I could provide a breakdown of points that are within the letter but the tone and inaccuracies in the letter speaks very clearly of the intentions of national organization - not necessarily the supporters.

There is one item I would like to specifically point out. The effort on the part of FairVote is not "grassroots" and the statement that the majority of residents support the proposal is not accurate. A vast majority of residents don't know about it.

Because of the environment, I'm am now working with numerous Minnetonka residents and the number of them who are becoming informed about this proposal is growing exponentially. This group of Minnetonka residents is an honest and straightforward grassroots group. Frankly, I'm just a resident of Minnetonka of over 50 years who understands the city processes. I'm not an organizer. I'm just a resident who, along with many others, sees how this proposal has been pushed through without the precedented city processes and procedures that are imperative to decision making.

With those items said, the email is below. Thank you for your time.

**From:** RCV Minnetonka <info@fairvotemn.org>  
**Date:** July 22, 2020 at 8:19:37 PM CDT  
**To:**  
**Subject:** Charter Commission to vote on stopping RCV — act now.  
**Reply-To:** david.haeg@[REDACTED]

<EA General Banner.png>





## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 8:20 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Email. I apologize for the error

Corrine, Here is the second part of Kathryn McCullum's email - David Haeg's instructions to supporters of RCV.

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:22 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Email. I apologize for the error

---

**From:** Kathryn McCullum [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 6:33 AM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Email. I apologize for the error

Dear Hxxxxx,

I don't have the words to adequately communicate how furious I am with the members of our Charter Commission. But, I'll do my best. The summary: a huge grassroots effort to improve our local voting process is being derailed by a small group of unelected commissioners who are planning to use a loophole to stop you from voting on RCV.

Last week, it seemed as if RCV was inevitable. An official city survey showed residents favored using RCV by a 3-to-1 margin. A public comment period was overwhelmed with RCV supporters. The charter commission was due to complete their study, which began last fall. Then it would go back to the city council, who could put RCV on the November ballot with a simple majority of 4 councilmembers supporting it. Then it would be up to you, the voters, to make the final decision.

But this wave of support made the commission realize that this movement wasn't just a few activists - it was an overwhelming majority of residents, who WOULD vote for RCV, if given the chance. Rather than recognizing the wishes of Minnetonka residents, they disputed the legitimacy of the community survey, served up mistruths, and found a procedural loophole that would keep RCV off the November ballot. Apparently they know what voters want better than voters do. Their actions are simply anti-democratic. At next Tuesday's meeting, they plan to formally vote to delay their process by 90 days, preventing the elected city council from taking any action, for the specific purpose of keeping RCV off the November ballot.

We must act now:

1) Contact Mayor Wiersum and the Council. The Mayor is on the charter commission, is directly responsible for allowing this to happen. The council listened to their residents and followed the process in good faith, only to have the charter commission obstruct the process.

2) Join us tomorrow (Thursday) at 5pm for a group photo shoot with LET THE VOTERS DECIDE signs in front of city hall (14600 Minnetonka Blvd) so we can show the charter commission and city council that Minnetonka voters want RCV on the ballot. We will be socially distanced and masked. We'll have a t-shirt for you when you arrive! We want EVERYONE there. Click here to let us know you can be there!

For those who can't be there in person, we'll be meeting on Zoom at noon the next day.

3) Call into the city council meeting on Monday and share why this is so horribly wrong. We have this chance early on the agenda during the agenda item called "Citizens Wishing to Discuss Matters Not on the Agenda." Call 952-939-8211 by Friday afternoon to

provide your name and phone number so they can provide instructions to participate.

Most of us have been pretty fed up with the anti-democratic behavior of our state and federal government for a while, but I never thought I would see such an undemocratic process in my own city. They know that, absent a pandemic, we could have easily collected enough signatures to put this on the ballot directly. This is a textbook example of insider politics and bureaucracy that disgusts so many people. In short, an obscure, unelected group of appointed insiders should not be preventing voters from deciding how they would like to run our local elections!

Please Contact the Mayor and City Council now. Make your voice heard. That's all any of us really have.

David Haeg, [REDACTED]  
Minnetonka Ranked Choice Voting Organizer



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Sandy Jambeck <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:23 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver  
**Cc:** Corrine Heine; GERALYN BARONE; Rebecca Schack; Kissy Coakley; Brian Kirk; Bradley Schaeppi; Deborah Calvert; Susan Carter  
**Subject:** Rank Choice Voting

Charter Commission Members:

I was very disheartened that the Charter Commission has chosen to use a loophole to avoid putting Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot this fall. By doing this you have demonstrated that you are not listening to and are unaccountable to the citizens of Minnetonka. It also shows you are operating in secrecy as opposed to being transparent. You are an unelected body and you are trying to wield power to influence an election. Mayor Wiersum, it is especially egregious for you as you are the sitting mayor and also on the Commission. You have an unfair influence on both groups. As you will be up for re-election next year I would expect that you would not like to have this kind of manipulation on your record. This commission has had nearly a year to study RCV. You've had many meetings and speakers both for and against. You do not need to wait another 90 days, which only serves to keep RCV off the ballot in 2020. The people of Minnetonka have been surveyed and have expressed an interest in it. Let the people vote.

As a voter you can express your opinion and vote your conscience, just like the rest of us. To keep it off the ballot for the general election is dishonorable. Most residents would be surprised to learn that this Commission is made up of former mayors and elected officials who perhaps are not willing to give up power and wield it in secret. I knew of someone who wanted to be on the commission and was told there were no openings. And then a few months later Dick Allendorf shows up at a meeting as a new member. It appears that this opening was never publicized in any way and there was no chance for anyone else to apply for the job. This is not how to involve the citizens of this community. It basically means that only the "good old boys and girls" with similar beliefs are allowed to participate. This commission then does not in any way represent the community. We need new ideas and people to be involved in government. Minnetonka used to be considered progressive and on the cutting edge. In my opinion this is no longer true. Mayor Wiersum, at a meeting that I attended, you were telling the story of a conversation that you had with Sen. David Durenberger. He was telling you that Republicans could and should be progressive. You indicated that you agreed with him. What I am seeing is the exact opposite. Change is very difficult and yet change is the one thing we can count on in every aspect of our lives.

You have studied RCV longer than any other government group. You know what you personally want. It is unacceptable that you have decided that because you don't like it that you are not going to put it to a public vote on the ballot in November. This is not democracy. It is abuse of power and trying to control something that is not in your jurisdiction.

Let the people of Minnetonka vote. You are a body that advises. Say yes or no but don't shelve it and do the dishonorable thing. This is the future of voting for a variety of obvious reasons. It will happen and it would be great if you would get on board and embrace the change.

Respectfully,  
Sandy Jambeck

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:24 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: RCV

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**From:** Sally Macut [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 2:09 PM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** RCV

I am asking you to support putting Rank Choice Voting on the ballot in November.

Any delay by the Charter Commission is a move against the wishes of the majority of Minnetonka citizens. No further study or delay is needed. It has already been proven to work well elsewhere. I previously lived in Mpls and Rank choice Voting was a spectacular success. Just put it on the ballot. As citizens, we want our voices heard in the democratic process.

Thanks for your consideration.  
Sally Macut

3259 Eldorado Trail E,  
Minnetonka  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:24 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Rank voting

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**From:** Deb Swenson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Rank voting

Ms. Anderson,

As a concerned citizen, I ask you NOT to put rank voting on the November ballot. This seems to be a rush to get it through without proper vetting. What's the rush?? And why are you listening to a group from Washington?? Sounds very shady to me. Please give it the proper time and listen to All the people of Minnetonka. During this time of Covid it looks like you are trying to get things through before we as citizens have a chance to let our voices heard. Please prove me wrong!!

Thank you,  
Deb Swenson

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:26 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: RCV

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**From:** Jeanne Lutgen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 3:43 PM  
**To:** Karen Anderson; Dick Allendorf; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; Brad Wiersum; LuAnn Tolliver  
**Subject:** RCV

Chamber Members:

I did not think that I would be sending you another email, but after listening to your last meeting I need to say a few more things. I would have thought that the things we said on your call-in meeting, and the results of the poll would have had an impact.

I fear you have missed the point. We are asking you to let the people choose. Put the issue of RCV on the ballot. You do not have to vote in favor of it. I do not have to vote in favor of it. No one has to vote for it.

But to deny us the right to choose does not seem to be your right.

Yes you can postpone the issue and wait for another election. Perhaps you should. In your own words “the well informed”, and “the right people will vote in that election”.

Trust me, the right people will vote, will be informed and will be able to vote “yes” or “no”. Why? Because they will do the research, they will ask questions, and they are the interested and involved voter.

They say wisdom comes with age. I’m old. I’m 76. All of you are old. Do not let yourself be the poster child for the typical “old” person. I don’t think we are too old to listen, to learn, to accept that the younger generations must be given the chance to design the world they want to live in.

Some of you used words that left me feeling stupid, incompetent and useless. Trust me, my faith, and trust in the people leading our city has gone way down. My desire to become involved in the future of the city is fast disappearing. It hurts me to say these things, but you have to know how deeply your apparent lack of interest, and your words hurt.

I challenge you to step up.

Jeanne Lutgen  
Minnetonka MN

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:43 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Status of Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** David Haeg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 6:25 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Rebecca Schack; Kissy Coakley; Brian Kirk; Bradley Schaeppi; GERALYN BARONE; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver; Susan Carter; Deborah Calvert  
**Cc:** Barb Westmoreland  
**Subject:** Status of Ranked Choice Voting

Mayor, Council Members, Charter Commissioners and Staff,

We are writing to you to express our grave concerns about the process underway by the City of Minnetonka to consider a ballot measure relating to Ranked Choice Voting.

Here is a summary of what has happened in the last week regarding this process:

- 1.
2. This past Tuesday, the Charter Commission was scheduled to finish its review of
3. Ranked Choice Voting at the request of the City Council. Following nearly two months of near-weekly meetings in which the body invited input from election administrators who have implemented RCV, advocates, academic scholars, opponents, and testimony from
4. more than 30 residents in favor of RCV by a 10-1 margin, the Commission was to make their recommendation to the city council. That didn't happen.
- 5.
- 6.
7. Instead, they unexpectedly proposed to take an extension to study the issue further,
8. even though it's clear there is an obvious consensus among Commissioners not to recommend RCV to the Council. Instead, they justified this with a desire to revisit all the same topics, as if it would result in a different outcome. This delaying maneuver, of
9. course, would end the process to add a RCV question to the 2020 ballot.
- 10.
- 11.
12. This "consensus" formed, despite the information provided to the charter commission
13. -- including hundreds of emails and phone calls -- that was overwhelmingly in favor of RCV, including the corroborating annual survey conducted by the City Minnetonka itself that showed that residents favored using RCV by a 3-to-1 margin.
- 14.

Prior to last week, everything indicated that the Charter Commission was planning on finishing their work within 60 days, likely with a recommendation against RCV. But the overwhelming community support for RCV made the Commission realize that residents would vote in favor of it - despite their strong dislike of it. So, even though the commission is clearly against RCV, under the guise of needing more time to study it, they're delaying the process.

**The Charter Commission is circumventing the will of the Council and the voters.** This kind of political maneuvering is not what Minnetonka is known for and we expect you will not allow it to happen. We hold our elected and appointed officials to the highest of standards that ensure the integrity and respect of public input when requested of them.

The Charter Commission and City Council have had ample information to consider the RCV proposal. In fact, they have spent more time in meetings to study this issue than any other city that we're aware of. We hope now that you will not want to ignore the overwhelming majority of the community and move urgently to put RCV on the ballot for an election when nearly all Minnetonka voters will participate - instead of the 15% that would likely participate in 2021.

We stand ready to assist in providing any additional information you may need.

David Haeg and Barb Westmoreland



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Barb Westmoreland <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 9:57 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; John Northrup; Karen Anderson; Terry Schneider; LuAnn Tolliver; Linnea Sodergren; David Larson; John Cheleen; Dick Allendorf; Kissy Coakley; Brian Kirk; Susan Carter; Bradley Schaeppi; Rebecca Schack; Deborah Calvert  
**Cc:** Geralyn Barone; Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** RCV - Let the Voters Decide!

Dear Mayor Wiersum, Charter Commission Members, and City Council Members,

**LET THE VOTERS DECIDE** about Ranked Choice Voting on the November 2020 ballot!

Thank you,  
Hundreds of Minnetonka Residents







## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Janice Bradburn <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Deborah Calvert; Susan Carter; Brian Kirk; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley; Corrine Heine; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Hey Council and Charter Member Peeps,

I strongly urge you to implement Ranked Choice Voting. It will facilitate more participation in our democracy. And, it will create a better outcome in our ever polarizing two party system.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Janice Bradburn  
5101 Kimberly Rd  
Minnetonka, MN 55345

[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** Karen Anderson <kanderson@minnetonkamn.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 10:35 AM

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

**Subject:** Fw: Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** Amy Morsman [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 1:25 AM

**To:** Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver

**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Minnetonka Charter Commission members:

Please move forward with the clear desire by the community of Minnetonka to place the Ranked choice Voting issue on the ballot this year, a presidential election year. We have been attending city council meetings and even a charter commission meeting starting in September 2019, so this issue has NOT been rushed. We believe everyone has had plenty of time to study how it would work, and by placing it on the ballot this year, you will get a high turnout of the community to weigh in on whether it is a change Minnetonka wants to make. Why would you wait until a lower turnout election where far fewer people will make the decision for all of us? There is really no reason to wait.

The community members who called into the meeting last week numbered 26 in favor and 2 against putting it on the ballot. The survey done by the city also showed a clear majority in favor of putting this question to the voters. What more would you be studying by waiting? Please do not give in to the the few angry people who have been bellyaching on Next Door. Some people have to politicize everything, and this issue is neither red nor blue. It is not even guaranteed to pass! There was plenty of notice given about this process as it was unfolding, which seems to be the only argument against voting on it this year.

Please allow us, the voters, to decide for ourselves if this is what we want. Do not delay this process further. To those of us who have been paying attention, it already seems like an overly slow process.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amy Morsman

Jeff Morsman

Thomas Morsman

(The voters at 3305 Hazelwood West, Minnetonka)

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Deborah Calvert  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 26, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ranked Choice Voting

FYI

Deb Calvert  
Minnetonka City Council At Large Seat A

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Linda & Michael Halley [REDACTED]  
**Date:** July 25, 2020 at 1:01:38 PM CDT  
**To:** Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject: Ranked Choice Voting**

Dear City Council Member Calvert,

We are deeply disturbed by the dismissive attitude recently taken by the Charter Commission on the issue of Ranked Choice Voting. We believe the best interests of the residents/voters of Minnetonka are not being well served on this issue.

We are not asking the Commission or the City Council to decide on Ranked Choice Voting, but simply to give our citizens the right to vote on this issue!

Below is the letter we have sent to the Commissioners outlining our reactions to their position:

Dear Commissioner...

I was so excited to exercise my right as a citizen to participate in the Charter Commission meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup> by calling in to register my and my husband's support for Ranked Choice Voting. We listened to the entire meeting ~ by our count approximately 26 people called in, 24 in support of RCV and 2 against. It was stated that emails also were sent with 82 in support and 35 against RCV. At the City Council meeting on July 13<sup>th</sup> the results of the Morris Leatherman survey commissioned by the City of Minnetonka showed that Minnetonka residents support RCV by a 3 to 1 margin.

Imagine our surprise when listening to the Charter Commission meeting on July 21st we heard the commissioners insulting RCV advocates (our own community members, including us) by suggesting among other things that we are not intelligent enough or too old to understand how RCV works and expressing their distrust of Minnetonka voters, even suggesting that not all of those who called in are residents. As Commissioners you should know the process of registering to call in requires filling out a form that asks for name, address, phone# etc. We are also asked to identify ourselves on the phone, so it is not possible to call in if one is not a resident.

Over the last two months, the Charter Commission has been reviewing the RCV proposal sent to you - by unanimous approval -- by the City Council. You have exhaustively studied every angle of this issue — implementation process and cost, proponents, opponents, and a robust public hearing and yet we heard you, the Charter Commission, discuss why you need more time to think about this and your intention to ask for a 90-day extension - thereby preventing the City Council and voters from deciding the issue this November.


We respectfully ask what more information could you possibly need?

Our understanding is that your role is to simply make a recommendation to the City Council.

Please consider... we have approximately 1000 residents involved in supporting RCV.

Please do not deny our fellow Minnetonka residents the opportunity to register their vote on this issue in November!

Respectfully,

Linda and Mike Halley  
18610 Clear View Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  




## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Kari Lorence [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 26, 2020 6:38 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Please enter this email into the public record

Dear City Council Member,

My husband and I have lived in Minnetonka for 40 some years. We love living here. Our two daughters and their families reside in Minnetonka. We have been honored and privileged to cast our ballots at Minnetonka polling places. Minnetonka has a reliable computer voting system. We have always trusted that our vote counted.

But now, our trusted voting procedures are being threatened. We have learned in recent weeks about an organization called FairVote. They are lobbying for something called Rank Choice Voting. Their desire is that the city constitution be amended and that residents would vote for this change [on November 3, 2020](#). That is a little over three months from now.

And what exactly is FairVote? Well, it has been revealed that the FairVote community organizer is a paid position. And he admits that some of the emails sent to Charter Commission members were generated by a programmed computer from a company that is based in the Washington DC area. More alarming, one supposed email sender declared to a Charter Commission member that their name was used but they never sent the email. But, why should an organization outside of our city be allowed to push a decision that affects the citizens of Minnetonka anyway? And who is funding FairVote? And if some of us question what FairVote is doing, are we then for an UnFairVote?! Their terminology puts us in a corner.

What is Ranked Choice Voting? Our neighbors and family members have never heard the term. Did we miss the public forums that were held to educate our citizens? Did we somehow miss the open discussions where the citizens of Minnetonka were given an opportunity to debate the pros and cons of RCV? Have there been cost analyses of implementing RCV? Have city staff been educated how to interpret the results of this way of voting? How do you know what something like this will cost when it is such a convoluted way of concluding who exactly won an election and never done before in Minnetonka?

Yes, you have asked the Charter Commission to study RCV. We are asking those members these same questions. But you passed this along to the CC. Our question is how did RCV ever get this far? We have taken it upon ourselves to dig into FairVote and who is funding it. It's alarming. We can send you the information. We can also share with you the findings of some organizations that have studied RCV in depth.

One of these organizations concluded three things:

1. RCV is a scheme to disconnect elections from issues and allow candidates with marginal support from voters to win.
2. RCV obscures true debates and issue-driven dialogs among candidates and eliminates genuine binary choices between two top-tiered candidates.
3. RCV disenfranchises voters, because ballots that do not include the two ultimate finalists are cast aside to manufacture a faux majority for the winner.

Does this sound like a sound democratic process? There is a growing group of us Minnetonka citizens who are concerned about FairVote and RCV. We are the true grassroots people in this discussion. We are urging the Charter Commission to table this proposal at this time. Wait for a time post Covid when citizens can get together and debate this issue. In no way should this reach the [November 3rd](#) ballot.

Sincerely,

Drake and Kari Lorence  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** clarence clarencerichard.com <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:08 AM

**To:** Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver; Brad Wiersum

**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Ladies and Gentlemen;

It's not going away. You can kick it down the road but you will see it again and again.

All so many benefits and the only downside I hear is what Mayor Brad told me yesterday on the phone about exhausted votes being as high as 30%. I'm not finding that stat anywhere, Mr. Mayor.

I am not going to go through the benefits again with you. You obviously don't want to hear them and you seem you wish this would go away. It almost seems like you wish 2 out of 3 citizens with an opinion, would go away.

You've been doing this research since last fall. And you want more time. This behavior is telling.

For those of you that volunteer. Thanks for your service and those elected, same thing.

I look for leaders at the polls, not procrastinators. Is procrastinating your only other motive for dragging your feet? Voters are asking that question.

Clarence Richard  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: RCV, Charter Commission & Democracy Derailment

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**From:** paula ramaley [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, July 23, 2020 9:18:06 AM

**To:** Brad Wiersum; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver

**Cc:** Brad Schaeppi; Susan Carter; Deborah Calvert; Brian Kirk; Kissy Coakley; Rebecca Schack

**Subject:** RCV, Charter Commission & Democracy Derailment

Mayor Wiersom and Commission Members:

News has reached me that the Charter Commission is planning to vote for a 90-day delay of its decision on placing Ranked Choice Voting on the ballot for this November's election - effectively eliminating any chance for it to be included due to administrative/logistical reasons (ballot printing deadline). This despite:

- The Commission has already had 9 months to review the issue.
- Overwhelming public support and far more reasoned/reasonable arguments presented in favor of RCV at the July 14 Charter Commission meeting.
- The City's own survey data showing that an overwhelming majority of residents would favor RCV.

Given this, some may well see such Commission (in)action as a cynical tactic to deny voters the opportunity to decide an important issue in a high-attention, high turnout year - perhaps in hopes that in 2021 the issue will be derailed, dissipate, or at least there will likely be far lower voter turnout and attention to it in an off-year and (hopefully) post-pandemic election.

Mayor, I understand that some, perhaps even most Commission members do not favor RCV. That, however, does not justify denying (through delay) the democratic process of having elected City Council members - not unelected officials - make the decision of whether to place RCV (or any other major issue) on the ballot, especially in the presence of the factors noted above. Therefore, I urge you and the Commission to do the right thing: allow the City Council to vote on this issue. If a majority votes to place RCV on the ballot, then present the facts, make your case and let the people decide in November. If they do not, then it will have been decided in an open, democratic process and constituent-voters will have recourse at the ballot box.

This issue will be covered in a new online newsletter/update that has been organized by and for reasonable, progressive-leaning residents that reaches people throughout Minnetonka. I am therefore including all council members as well as you and the commission in this communication.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

--

Paula Ramaley  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: 23 July WSJ Commentary on RCV

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**From:** Mark Francis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 24, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** John Northrup  
**Subject:** 23 July WSJ Commentary on RCV

Hi John,

There is a commentary entitled "Alaska's Election Initiative is Rank" by Mark Begich and Sean Parnell that appeared in yesterday's Wall Street Journal. I do not subscribe to the journal and am sensitive to copyright issues so I wanted to run it by you. The piece addresses some of the issues that the Commission has been discussing so I thought it would be informative. Is there a way to have the commission members view this?

Mark Francis

# Alaska's Election Initiative Is Rank

MARK BEGICH AND SEAN PARNELL JULY 23, 2020

The voting process in Alaska, as in most states, is simple: Voters pick one candidate for each office, and the candidate with the most votes wins. The initiative would introduce a confusing new system called ranked-choice voting. Voters would receive a grid to rank multiple candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of “first place” votes, the lowest-ranked candidate would be eliminated. Votes would be retabulated based on second choices—then third and fourth ones until a “majority” emerges.

Jason McDaniel, a political scientist at San Francisco State University, [found](#) that ranked-choice voting decreased turnout by 3 to 5 percentage points on average in cities that implemented it. Mr. McDaniel was blunt in his conclusion, [telling](#) the [New York Times](#): “My research shows that when you make things more complicated, which this does, there’s going to be lower turnout.”

Voters may also be discouraged to learn their ballots may not count at all in the final vote. If you pick only one candidate and decline to rank the others, and your candidate is eliminated, your ballot is thrown out under what’s called “ballot exhaustion.” A [2014 study](#) of four cities’ ranked-choice elections, published in the journal *Electoral Studies*, found that up to 27% of ballots were “exhausted” and thus excluded from the final vote total.

The system also encourages political trickery. In the 2018 San Francisco mayoral race, two progressive candidates campaigned jointly—even cutting a television ad together—to try to game the system against a more moderate rival. The gambit failed but drew harsh condemnation from the San Francisco Chronicle editorial board, which noted that “theories of elevating turnout and producing more positive, issue-oriented campaigns are not playing out in reality.”

Not surprisingly, several states and locales that experimented with ranked-choice voting—including Ann Arbor, Mich.; Aspen, Colo.; Pierce County, Wash.; and the state of North Carolina—have since repealed it.

Opposition to ranked-choice voting is bipartisan. In New York City, the state NAACP opposed it, and three Democratic members of the City Council’s Black, Latino and Asian Caucus said it hurts “immigrants and communities of color.” Minnesota state Sen. Mark Koran, a Republican, co-sponsored legislation to outlaw ranked-choice voting in his state: “Every vote should count, and every vote should be as simple as ‘I picked my top candidate.’ ”

As former elected officials from different parties, we’ve had our share of disagreements. But we are united in our belief that the Better Elections initiative would be bad for our state. Alaskans shouldn’t have to doubt that their votes count.

*Mr. Begich, a Democrat, served as a U.S. Senator from Alaska, 2009-15. Mr. Parnell, a Republican, served as Alaska’s governor, 2009-14.*

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** Janet Paul [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:34:57 PM  
**To:** John Northrup  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Mr. Northrup,

I just wanted to weigh in on RCV. I watched the Commission meeting last week and was relieved to hear you say, after listening to concerns, that you felt people were against RCV. We are, very much against the idea and would just like it to go away, but delaying a decision for 90 days would at least keep it off the ballot. This is not the time to be making any changes to our charter.

Thank you for hearing us,

Janet Paul  
Sent from my iPhone

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Mary Kirchhof <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 26, 2020 9:50 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Rank Choice Voting

To the Charter Commission,

Rank Choice Voting is not complicated, nor is it new to discussion in Minnetonka. The community survey showed Rank Choice Voting has generated positive interest in the community. Speakers addressing both you and the city council have shown it has support to go to a vote in November.

Please don't use your position as the charter commission to stall out the citizens ability to vote in November on this issue.

Tactics which delay citizen involvement is not healthy for our community.

Democracy is not about getting our own way. It's about working with our neighbors, communicating, compromising and voting.

Sincerely,

Mary Kirchhof

Minnetonka Resident who wants to vote in November regarding Rank Choice Voting in Minnetonka



## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Ranked Choice Voting

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**From:** BRUCE DE JONG [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, July 26, 2020 11:01 PM

**To:** Karen Anderson; Dick Allendorf; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver; Brad Wiersum

**Cc:** Deborah Calvert; Brian Kirk; Susan Carter; Rebecca Schack; Bradley Schaeppi; Kissy Coakley

**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Minnetonka Charter Commission,

I am a long-time resident of Minnetonka and have skeptically followed the debate regarding a change in our voting method. This change seems like a solution in search of a problem, and I would urge you to report to the City Council recommending that we do not implement ranked choice voting.

The proponents of changing the vote seem to have three different focuses. The first is low turnout. If we find that low turnout is the problem to be solved, then as Mayor Wiersum stated at the May 26 meeting, we should move to even year elections. That would certainly bring in more voters.

The second is that primary elections are too expensive. We don't have primary elections every time there is a city election. Quite frankly, the cost of a primary election once every four years is rounding error in a city general fund budget of over \$39 million. Even if the cost is \$60,000 extra, that pales in comparison of total expenditures approaching \$160 million over the same time period. If the problem to be solved is expense, we really should want to go to even year elections and eliminate city election costs altogether.

The third focus is on keeping elections positive and not having candidates attack a primary opponent. I may have missed some slight animosity, but I have not seen this as a regular problem in our elections.

While ranked choice voting is legal for home-rule charter cities it is not yet available to statutory cities. To that end, the voting machines and processes don't seem to be certified by the state. This means a city special election can't take place on the same ballot as a state primary or general election. With ballot security as a concern, I think we should wait until the technology is more mature prior to recommending something as drastic as the proposed charter change.

Lastly, while it may not happen frequently, the possibility exists in ranked choice voting for a candidate who finishes third or lower in the first round to be elected. This is a poor outcome in my opinion. Our current system allows for a wide open primary and a two candidate race in the general election. This assures us that the strongest candidates are able to be vetted and one receive majority support in the general election.

I believe our current system works well as shown by the confidence and support of our residents in their city's governance and management.

Sincerely,

Bruce DeJong  
18420 Old Excelsior Blvd  
Minnetonka, MN 55345  
612-554-9651

cc: City Council

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Legit messages from Mtka residents (even though Charter is suspicious)

> On Jul 25, 2020, at 10:16 AM, Barb Westmoreland <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.

>

> Sincerely,

> Barb Westmoreland

> 4713 Caribou Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-3903 [REDACTED]

**Corrine Heine**

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**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 24, 2020, at 7:58 PM, Rickey Brown <[REDACTED]>  
>  
> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,  
>  
> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Rickey Brown  
> 12600 Marion Ln W Minnetonka, MN 55305-1378 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 24, 2020, at 6:58 PM, Annika Graif <[REDACTED]>:  
>  
> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,  
>  
> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Annika Graif  
> 3910 Skyview Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-2062 [REDACTED]

**Corrine Heine**

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**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 25, 2020, at 5:52 PM, Kathleen Kaysinger [REDACTED]:  
>  
> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,  
>  
> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Kathleen Kaysinger  
> 4754 Winterset Dr Minnetonka, MN 55343-8722 [REDACTED]

**Corrine Heine**

---

**Subject:**

FW: I'm a Minnetonka voter who would like to weigh in

> On Jul 24, 2020, at 5:46 PM, Tommy Morsman [REDACTED]:  
>  
> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,  
>  
> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Tommy Morsman  
> 3305 Hazelwood W Wayzata, MN 55391-2555 a [REDACTED]

**Corrine Heine**

---

**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 24, 2020, at 2:16 PM, Lu Bjornoy <[REDACTED]>  
>  
> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,  
>  
> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Lu Bjornoy  
> 4289 Lindsey Ln Minnetonka, MN 55345-4579 [REDACTED]



## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 22, 2020, at 8:34 PM, Marc Jaffe <[REDACTED]> m [REDACTED]

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Thank you for your service to our community. As a Minnetonka resident and registered voter I urge you to follow the will of the voters and implement RCV in November. I was on the call of the Charter Commission and the residents who testified were overwhelmingly in favor of RCV. The survey also clearly showed that the majority of Minnetonka residents support RCV. Only 4% of Minnetonka residents vote in the primaries and only 15% vote in the general election. Right now there is not only a majority of residents who support RCV but a motivated group of citizen voters in favor of RCV.

>

> Sincerely,

> Marc Jaffe

> 5069 Westmill Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-3343 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 22, 2020, at 9:03 PM, Diana Klein [REDACTED]  
>  
> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,  
>  
> Hello City Council,  
> Thank you for representing us in Minnetonka.  
> I am very surprised and frustrated to hear the word that the RCV Charter Commission is postponing a recommendation to enable the voters weigh in on Ranked Choice Voting in November. The vast majority of people who spoke to the commission were in favor and have facts and statistics to back this up as a High quality and Best Practice voting methodology. I am not sure why they are obstructing this, it has been debated, surveyed, and debated again. Why is it taking so long? This is a very popular idea in Minnetonka.  
>  
> Getting people to the polls is important. Giving candidates the opportunity to influence 2nd, 3rd choice votes is important. It's important that voters no longer avoid voting for a candidate that fits their values and opinions on policy best because of the fear "they can't win." It is critically important that voters do not have to settle for the lesser of two evils in an election and walk away feeling as though their voice doesn't count if their candidate doesn't win. And It's important that our democracy grow and change as our society does.  
>  
> Please do what you can to enable a fair vote on this in November 2020!  
>  
> Thank you for listening.  
> Diana Klein  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Diana Klein  
> 3610 Druid Ln Minnetonka, MN 55345-1119 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: I support Rank Choice voting and want my voice to count

> On Jul 23, 2020, at 9:44 AM, Judy Melinat <[REDACTED]>:  
>  
> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,  
>  
> To the Mayor and members of the city council,  
>  
> I have been testifying at the council meetings about rank choice voting in good faith this summer. I was shocked to find out that this issue is being obstructed by the Charter commission who is not a body of citizens elected by me. You are my elected representatives and I want you to know that I am upset, because this is not representative government by the people.  
>  
> I have learned that Minnetonka Mayor is a member of the charter commission and I see that as an obvious conflict of interest.  
>  
> The documented evidence of support for rank choice voting in Minnetonka is obvious.  
>  
> I again state in the strongest terms that I support putting Rank Choice Voting on the Ballot in November so voters have the power that we are entitled to.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Judy Melinat  
> 5211 Kimberly Rd Minnetonka, MN 55345-4430 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Obstructing Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 23, 2020, at 4:36 PM, Ben Wilinski [REDACTED] > wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Members of the council:

>

> I'm very concerned that after the long process of the charter commission on ranked choice voting, the good faith efforts of this community are being side-stepped by unknown unelected persons to delay the referendum on ranked choice voting in Minnetonka this November.

> Please don't let this happen on your watch. The people of this community want this, and those of us actively work toward RCV have played by the rules.

>

> Your constituents need you to take a stand.

>

> Thank you for your leadership.

>

>

> Sincerely,

> Ben Wilinski

> 5727 High Park Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-5224 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 23, 2020, at 9:26 AM, Jennifer Johnson <m[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> 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,

> Jennifer Johnson

> 18810 Kingswood Ter Minnetonka, MN 55345-5023 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 23, 2020, at 9:32 AM, Terry Mulhern [REDACTED] > wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> .Ranked choice voting is a common sense more effective method of electing public servants which most represent the will of the electorate. Please re-consider this option for improving the electoral process.

>

> Sincerely,

> Terry Mulhern

> 5900 Stoneybrook Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-6435 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 23, 2020, at 11:16 AM, Kristine Falk [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> I want ranked choice voting on the ballot in November. The residents of Minnetonka should be the ones to decide if we have ranked choice voting not the commission. The unelected commission and you the mayor have no right to delay having rcv on the ballot so that the people you serve have their voice and choice heard. I wasn't even aware of the commission's existence and I think it might be time to let the citizens of Minnetonka know that there is a commission that can overrule our elected officials. Please put ranked choice voting on the ballot in November.

>

> Sincerely,

> Kristine Falk

> 17560 Hampton Ct Minnetonka, MN 55345-2522 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**Subject:** FW: Please Move Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 23, 2020, at 12:12 PM, Christopher Carlson [REDACTED] > wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> I think it is time to move forward on the Ranked Choice Voting, surveys show a vast majority (3 to 1) of Minnetonka citizens are in favor of this cost saving measure. This also enables more participation in the voting process. I think the commission is unnecessarily delaying the process to add RCV to the ballot.

>

> We need RCV on this Novembers ballot!

>

> Thank You

>

> Christopher Carlson

> 16025 Boulder Creek Drive

> Minnetonka, Mn 55345

>

> Sincerely,

> Christopher Carlson

> 16025 Boulder Creek Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-6413 [REDACTED]



## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 24, 2020, at 7:25 AM, Cornell and Patricia Anderson [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.

>

> Sincerely,

> Cornell and Patricia Anderson

> 5731 High Park Dr Minnetonka, MN 55345-5224 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Thank you for Moving Forward on Ranked Choice Voting

> On Jul 24, 2020, at 8:48 AM, Jenna Powers-Page <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> 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,

> Jenna Powers-Page

> 10101 Cedar Lake Rd Apt 113 Minnetonka, MN 55305-3220  
[REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 24, 2020, at 9:14 AM, Greg Johnson <m[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.

>

> Sincerely,

> Greg Johnson

> 18810 Kingswood Ter Minnetonka, MN 55345-5023 [REDACTED]

**Corrine Heine**

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**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka decide, City Council. IThank you.

> On Jul 26, 2020, at 12:16 PM, Chris Barry <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.

>

> Sincerely,

> Chris Barry

> 15404 Highland Lawns Ct Minnetonka, MN 55345-5502

> [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 26, 2020, at 12:49 PM, Noelle Cirisan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.

>

> Sincerely,

> Noelle Cirisan

> 18746 Clear View Ter Minnetonka, MN 55345-6083 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

---

**Subject:** FW: Let Minnetonka Voters Decide!

> On Jul 26, 2020, at 9:51 PM, Mary Kirchhof <[REDACTED]> wrote:

>

> Dear Council Member Rebecca Schack,

>

> Don't delay on Ranked Choice Voting! Please let Minnetonka voters decide whether to adopt RCV in the November election when voter turnout is highest and most representative of our city.

>

> Sincerely,

> Mary Kirchhof

> 5919 Wyngate Ln Minnetonka, MN 55345-6556 [REDACTED]

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Mary Pat Blake <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:53 PM  
**To:** John Northrup; Karen Anderson; Brad Wiersum; David Larson; Terry Schneider; LuAnn Tolliver; Linnea Sodergren; Dick Allendorf; John Cheleen  
**Cc:** Kissy Coakley; Brian Kirk; Bradley Schaeppi; Susan Carter; Deborah Calvert; Rebecca Schack; Geralyn Barone; Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Charter Commission Oversteps Its Authority with RCV - Voter Suppression Underway in Minnetonka  
**Importance:** High

Dear Charter Commission, City Council, and City Staff,

The Charter Commission is overstepping its authority in its proposed extension to further study Ranked Choice Voting. The Charter Commission has already studied RCV and it has already extended its work to almost a year. Their work is done. Further extension is capricious. Further extension is against the norms of Minnetonka. Voter suppression is the result, as voters are denied the right to vote on RCV in the November 2020 election, even as Minnetonka Memos have featured RCV in a cover story in August and raised expectations of a November 2020 ballot vote.

If the Charter Commission succeeds in its proposed “extension of 90 days to study RCV further,” this action will push out the timeframe for a City Council vote on putting RCV on the November ballot. It will be too late for the City Council to vote RCV onto the November 2020 ballot, since the ballot language has to be given to the County in August.

So the Charter Commission, a group of unelected people, are preventing the elected representatives on City Council from taking its vote on RCV in August as the City Council had planned to do. That’s wrong.

The voters of Minnetonka have told the city it is in favor of RCV by a margin of 3 to 1 in favor. 66% of respondents to the city’s 2020 survey of a large, randomly selected group of 400 Minnetonka homes said they favor Ranked Choice Voting. Charter Commission and City Council, you have the clear voice of the people here from your own city survey.

A review of the Charter Commission meeting on July 21, 2020 will show the Commission was ready to take its vote on RCV, but was stopped by a group of Commissioners who are intentionally stalling the Commission’s vote and searching for reasons why they should extend the study, to back-fill their story so it doesn’t seem as bad as it really is: voter suppression in Minnetonka. I respectfully ask the City Council and Staff to watch this 7/21/20 Charter Commission meeting.

The voter suppression is at the hands of the Charter Commission.

November 2020 will be a big year with a high voter turnout for a Presidential election. It’s a great time to learn how extensive the voter support for RCV is in Minnetonka.

But it’s not going to happen unless someone stands up on the Charter Commission this week on Tuesday night and says, “Stop. We must take the Charter Commission vote on RVC now. Our work is done here. Send this issue back to the City Council so the City Council can do its job for the people.”

The optics of this situation are incredibly bad.

Please do the right thing for the people, Charter Commission. The majority of people in Minnetonka have already expressed they favor RCV. If the Charter Commission can't do the right thing, maybe the City Council can step in and persuade you.

Thank you,  
Mary Pat Blake

14800 Wychewood Road  
Minnetonka, MN 55345



## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Geralyn Barone  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 2:21 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fwd: Charter Commission and RCV

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jennifer Rutz <j[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** July 27, 2020 at 1:24:31 PM CDT  
**To:** Brad Wiersum <bwiersum@minnetonkamn.gov>, Rebecca Schack <rschack@minnetonkamn.gov>, Kissy Coakley <kcoakley@minnetonkamn.gov>, Brian Kirk <bkirk@minnetonkamn.gov>, Bradley Schaeppi <bschaeppi@minnetonkamn.gov>, Geralyn Barone <gbarone@minnetonkamn.gov>, Dick Allendorf <dallendorf@minnetonkamn.gov>, Karen Anderson <kanderson@minnetonkamn.gov>, John Cheleen <jcheleen@minnetonkamn.gov>, David Larson <dlarson@minnetonkamn.gov>, John Northrup <jnorthrup@minnetonkamn.gov>, Terry Schneider <tschneider@minnetonkamn.gov>, Linnea Sodergren <lsodergren@minnetonkamn.gov>, LuAnn Tolliver <ltolliver@minnetonkamn.gov>, Susan Carter <scarter@minnetonkamn.gov>, Deborah Calvert <dcalvert@minnetonkamn.gov>  
**Subject:** Charter Commission and RCV

Hello Mayor, Council Members, Charter Commissioners and Staff,

My name is Jennifer Rutz and I have lived at 14401 Orchard Rd, Minnetonka MN for 2 years. Some of you may remember me as a spokesperson of the Orchard Rd area neighborhood with respect to the Highcroft Meadows development last summer.

I heard about how the Charter Commission meeting last week went into “delay tactics” to avoid putting the RCV question on the 2020 ballot for Minnetonka voters. It is disappointing on many levels to think that my local government is circumventing the obvious support of residents and research regarding RCV.

Ask yourselves why: why would the Charter Commission be so against something like this when the community seems to support it and they’ve spent months researching the positive outcomes in many other cities. The only thing I can come up with is either fear of change or fear of losing future elections. Either way, it’s unacceptable and I’d like the city council to use their objective lens to review the research carefully and do something about it.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Rutz

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Thank you

Another message in opposition to RCV.

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**From:** Kari Lorence [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 1:12 PM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Thank you

Dear Karen Anderson,

Drake and I want to express our thanks to you for your thoughtful concerns and insights you raised in last Tuesday's Charter Commission Meeting. We have always trusted that our vote counted in the past 40 some years we have cast our ballots at a polling place in Minnetonka. If RCV is implemented, we will no longer trust the process. There is the issue of exhausted ballots. There is the issue of the tabulation of votes. There is the issue of votes not counting. And RCV will not save money, it will cost more money. We do not want our property taxes raised! And certainly not to offset the costs of RCV!

We are in our 60's. We do not readily communicate electronically. We don't like virtual meetings. We want to talk face to face with people or in

an open forum where the pros and cons of RCV can be debated fairly.

We don't like the practices of FairVote that have come to light. We don't like the tone and lies and accusations that were sent out in an email to their supporters after last week's meeting. They have been lobbying for two years. And yet, our neighbors and family members who live in Minnetonka have never heard the term RCV. And our grown children are in their 30's! Who exactly has FairVote been talking to?! How did the City Council get the proposal so far along that FairVote's supporters were so surprised by the recent roadblock in their way?

As you said, the constitution of Minnetonka has rarely been amended. Why is RCV so worthy of an amendment to our constitution?

We, who have lived in Minnetonka for decades are the true grassroots people who should be weighing in on this issue- not an organization that is well funded and is based in the Washington DC area.

We know you and others are under tremendous pressure right now. Please stand firm. We need more time to discuss openly the pros and cons of this potentially huge change in our voting process. There is absolutely no reason for RCV to be on the ballot in November.

Thank you for the work you are doing and the reasonable concerns and insights you are raising.

Sincerely,

Drake and Kari Lorence

Sent from my iPad

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Jay Sachetti [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Cc:** Brad Wiersum; Brian Kirk; Deborah Calvert; Susan Carter; Rebecca Sachetti  
**Subject:** Charter commission

Ms. Heine,

I would like to comment on the Charter Commission minutes and upcoming agenda:  
<https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/Home/ShowDocument?id=7303>

The Council, as elected representatives of the voters in this community, passed an ordinance. That action has significance and, under their statutory obligations, the commission has not demonstrated sufficient justification to delay putting this issue in front of voters this fall. I do not see any meaningful recommendations for amendment changes at this point in the commission's efforts nor see a need for it. \*Voters\* need to decide if RCV is better or not and the more of them the better. While I appreciate the commission's hard work and diligent efforts, I would like the commission to move forward with accepting or rejecting the amendment.

Issues such as cost and communication methods absolutely require a transparent and thorough action plan from the city. The city council will need to ensure that happens. I think the suggestion of continued review from the commission, joint work studies and public sessions can add value in the education process between now and election day.

As a highly respected city, Minnetonka needs to take the lead on ensuring that our collective voices are heard and acted on -- not wait to follow others. I am well aware that some costs and change management efforts are associated with that. I hope this is just one step in our process towards growth in this direction from the local level to the state and national level.

Thank you,  
Jay Sachetti  
5926 Lone Lake Loop

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Karen Anderson  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 5:37 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Ranked Choice Voting

another message

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**From:** Janet Paul <[REDACTED]> to [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 25, 2020 2:09 PM  
**To:** Karen Anderson  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Karen Anderson,

Thank you for raising concerns at last weeks Charter Commission meeting. I was encouraged to hear the way the commission members were responding to the issues that are part of RVC. And the fact that you raised, I believe, that there is diversity on the city council and that that happened without overhauling the way we vote.

I would like to see the whole idea dropped but at the very least not make it to the ballot this year for many reasons, the restrictive nature of our life right now being paramount. Our charter should not be changed or be voted on when we cannot discuss and challenge ideas in person.

Thank you for your courage.

Janet Paul

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Bruce Honnigford <br[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 4:27 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Rank Choice voting realities

Rank Choice Voting also known as Instant-Runoff Voting and is one of many alternative voting schemes being shopped around municipalities with the aim of achieving substantial social change in the interest of special interest groups funded in part by various philanthropists. Some wealthy, influential donors are acting to radically transform the landscape of our society based on their own idealistic global vision which has little regard for the U.S. Constitution and as such, buys a lot of influence with which to manipulate the democratic process.

Supporters of RCV would have you believe that there are no downsides to their process, but in reality, it is highly controversial.

One should pay close attention to and be highly skeptical of anyone who wants to tinker with long standing established electoral institutions particularly during times of crisis.

So-called reformers want to change process rules so they can manipulate elections to obtain power and not what may be best for the American People and preserving our great republic.

Sincerely,

Bruce Honnigford  
Minnetonka Mills

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Gabriela Brose <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 5:17 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine; Brad Wiersum; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting> ABSOLUTELY NOT!!!!!!

Plesae stop this madness! Enogh is enough!!

"Ranked Choice Voting **has been a disaster!**

Part of the problem is the way the counting works. As each round of RCV tabulation proceeds, some ballots are declared "exhausted," as some voters' remaining choices do not include candidates "still standing" as voters' other choices are being re-allocated. In some races, the percentage of "exhausted ballots" ranged from 9.6% up to 27.1%. That positively disenfranchises "exhausted" voters, excluding them in final rounds of an RCV election.

Look at how the process worked in a 2010 race for San Francisco Board of Supervisors (City Council). After 20 rounds of tabulation, there were 9,608 exhausted (discarded) ballots, whereas the winner garnered only 4,321 votes. The victor took fewer than 25% of the votes.

A Pew Research survey found that 34% of Republican voters and 32.5% of Democrats couldn't even name their own party's nominee for Congress; now voters are expected to have five informed choices, in order of preference? FairVote, which supports ranked-choice, found that under RCV, the "...prevalence of ranking three candidates was lowest among African-Americans, Hispanics, voters with less education and those whose first language was not English."

Seniors vote in higher proportions than others. However, in RCV jurisdictions with greater percentages of older voters, more ballot-marking errors occur. Improperly marked ballots are discarded. That means RCV is likely to disproportionately disenfranchise senior voters.

Some jurisdictions have repealed their ranked-choice voting laws following negative experiences. After an unpopular mayor of Burlington was re-elected with only 29% of the first place votes, voters repealed the system. The North Carolina legislature repealed their RCV laws in 2013, and the voters of Ann Arbor, Mich., did the same.

In Pierce County, Wash., voters repealed Ranked Choice by a thumping 71%. Aspen, Colo., rescinded RCV in 2009 by 65%.

After the California legislature passed a ranked-choice voting system, then-Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed the bill, explaining it was "overly complicated and confusing, depriv(ing) voters of genuinely informed choice."

In 17% of the cases studied, RCV systems produced a different winner from the one chosen by voters on election day. That's just unacceptable."

Absolutely NOT!!!

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** John Northrup  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 6:17 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: Next Steps on Ranked Choice Voting - Petition and Special Election

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**From:** David Haeg [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 5:20:15 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Rebecca Schack; Kissy Coakley; Brian Kirk; Bradley Schaeppi; Geralyn Barone; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver; Susan Carter; Deborah Calvert  
**Cc:** Barb Westmoreland  
**Subject:** Next Steps on Ranked Choice Voting - Petition and Special Election

Mayor, Council, Charter Commissioners and Staff,

The movement to bring Ranked Choice Voting to Minnetonka city council elections started 2 years ago, and grows stronger by the day. You've likely heard, and will continue to hear, from supporters of this issue. These people are the pillars of our community - they're election judges, community volunteers, parents who have raised families here and young people who will be the next generation of leaders. They care deeply about our community and are determined to find ways to make it better, and with all the various issues out there, they've decided that local election reform is the most important. And these people are just the tip of the iceberg. As your own research shows, residents overwhelmingly support using RCV - most of whom have never felt compelled to write to you in support. This silent majority just assumed that the Charter Commission and City Council would do the right thing, because that's what they've come to expect. And giving the most voters the chance to decide whether or not to use RCV, in November 2020, is the least that you could do.

The Charter Commission has met weekly for two months, meticulously laying out a set of questions they wanted to explore at the onset of its study process and successfully completed that review. With the skillful assistance of Attorney Heine and other staff, the Commission has:

- 
- Met with elections administrators
- in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park, and former Minnetonka Elections Clerk David Maeda
- 
- 
- Invited opponents to share
- their perspective for an entire meeting
- 
- 
- Received projected 5-year
- cost estimates from city staff
- 
- 
- Held a public hearing with
- more than 30 community members testifying for and against RCV
- 
- 
- Discussed at length at their
- last meeting the variety of input they have received



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In addition to all of this was the study session, review and public hearing on RCV held by the City Council prior to asking the Charter Commission to review the RCV proposal. Given the exhaustive review, we expected the Commission to put forward their recommendation at the last meeting. Instead, they said they wanted more time! With hundreds of pages of information already in hand, it is impossible to conceive what might be missing that they can obtain by extending the review period. We were in disbelief. Watching the process, it was clear to us that the Commission members didn't favor RCV. Given the preponderance of information and testimony in favor of RCV, we hoped they would have made a favorable recommendation, but it is their prerogative to recommend as they wish. They should do just that and conclude their process -- and not waste any more staff time redoing the study. There is nothing new they will uncover to help them decide one way or the other and it should now be in the hands of the City Council to decide to put RCV on the ballot. An extension will preclude that option this year.

One key point that many seem to misunderstand: there are two separate tasks that the Charter Commission is completing, with different expectations and deadlines.

1) First, the Commission was asked by the city council in 2019 to study RCV and provide feedback - i.e. "pros and cons, do you think this is a good idea or not". This process is admittedly much more expansive and subjective, and there is no deadline.

2) Second, the Charter Commission is required to have an opportunity to review the draft ordinance approved by the city Council in June. This process is far more specific and has a deadline and urgency. It requires the Charter Commission to review a few paragraphs of text that affect the document they manage - the city charter. And they must complete this process by August 10th in order for the city council to have the opportunity to add it to the November 2020 ballot.

It would be simple for the Charter Commission to comment on the draft ordinance, which would allow the council to continue their work. This would still allow the Commission to continue their study of RCV right up to election day if they like, and this information would be available to the voters. There simply is no reason to delay the simple task of the draft ordinance review in order to continue to study the subjective pros/cons of RCV. They are two separate tasks. You can confirm this with Attorney Heine.

From the outset, our group has prided itself on being inclusive, positive and fully transparent about our plans. So should the Charter Commission decide to extend the review process, we have other paths available to pursue our goal. As afforded in state law, we will immediately begin a petition drive and put RCV on the ballot in a special election next year.

We should also say that this is not our preferred process. A November 2020 ballot question would make the most sense, because of the high turnout already outlined by the Council. But our supporters have been very vocal about their frustration with the Charter Commission's likely decision on Tuesday, and (based on the recent survey) they know the community supports RCV. They feel like they're on the right side of a winning issue, and thanks to the long and ongoing effort we've made to build a network of RCV advocates, we have enough support to gather the signatures and win.

We hope the Commission does the right thing and finishes their review of the draft ordinance within the 60 day period, but if it does not, we are fired up and ready to move democracy forward in Minnetonka. Let the voters decide.

David Haeg and Barb Westmoreland

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** John Northrup  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 6:18 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Fw: RCV

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**From:** jessy olson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 6:04:40 PM  
**To:** Brad Wiersum; Dick Allendorf; Karen Anderson; John Cheleen; David Larson; John Northrup; Terry Schneider; Linnea Sodergren; LuAnn Tolliver  
**Subject:** RCV

Dear Charter Committee Members,

I wanted to write and express my thoughts regarding ranked choice voting. I am not for it, and here is why. I listened to the council meeting where public opinions were called in and voiced, and I really wondered if people fully understood all that this complicated process involves. I heard a lot about how simple it is to cast your vote, about how we want to keep up with the times and be progressive, about it encouraging more people to vote, about how it encourages diversity, about eliminating a primary....and whether all that is true is debatable - but there is so much more to it than that. When I looked on the city's website for an explanation of RCV, there was a very limited and minimal definition, and so I am wondering if it has ever fully been explained in a forum where questions can be answered and public debate can occur? I think rather than rush this onto the ballot this fall, there should be a lot more dialogue about it, so that people fully understand what they are voting for or against. When I bring up the topic to friends and neighbors, most of those I talk to have never heard of it. When you read the definition on your webpage it sounds very simple and noncontroversial. But there are a lot of concerns and things about it that are not positive!

When I cast my vote, I want it to count for the exact person I am voting for! With RCV I can end up having my vote go towards someone of my opposite choice. Because I have to rank the available choices - if I understand this correctly - my #1 choice could end up being the lowest majority vote and that candidate would then get thrown out and my vote redistributed. If there is still no majority, the process could be repeated until my vote is now being put towards my least wanted candidate -who I actually DON'T want at all!! How can that be fair - or even make sense?? It isn't, and doesn't!

I am wondering why we are trying to fix something that isn't broken? I am wondering who or what is behind this change to a system that really has served us just fine! I am thinking we should wait til our covid crisis is over and we can gather face to face to debate and discuss the pros and cons of this before adding it to our ballot. What is the rush? A change this momentous deserves proper and adequate consideration. Please, before quickly placing this on the ballot, let's talk more, discuss more, hear both sides and make sure the Minnetonka citizens understand fully what is at stake.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jessy Olson  
25+ year Minnetonka resident

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Lori Anderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 6:41 PM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Ranked choice voting - AGAINST

Hi,

We would like to comment that we are totally AGAINST ranked choice voting.

Thank you,

Lori Anderson  
Chuck Koeplin  
4553 Saddlewood Drive  
MInnetonka 55345

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** George May [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 6:16 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** RE: Rank Choice Voting Objection

Good Morning,

My name is George May and I live at 6030 Clarion Circle in Minnetonka. I am writing to voice my objection to Rank Choice Voting, I say "no" to this proposal, so please pass this on to the Charter Commission. Thank you.

Regards,  
George May

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Kris Rose [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 8:19 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** RCV

Just want to let you know I am NOT in favor of rank choice voting.

Regards,

Kris Rose

Sent from my iPhone

## Corrine Heine

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**From:** Andrew Korando [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 10:42 AM  
**To:** Corrine Heine  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting

Hi,

I am a Minnetonka resident. I moved here about two years ago and love living in this city. I am writing to voice my support for putting ranked choice voting on the ballot this November.

Ranked choice voting can help to ensure that the candidate with the broadest support can win. It ensures that candidates who are opposed by most voters cannot win. Ranked-choice voting effectively allows voters to vote their preferences instead of having to vote strategically. They can rank their choices so that their vote still "counts". This will allow more voices to be heard in our elections.

Ranked choice voting has wide support in the community as found by the 2020 Community Survey. 66% of respondents supported RCV with only 22% opposed.

There has been some concern about confusing residents by changing the way we vote. I don't believe that Minnetonka residents cannot learn to vote by ranking their top choices nor do I think this is a good reason to not switch. Any change will be confusing to some, that does not mean that we should never make change -- especially for the better.

Thank you for taking the time to read this,

Andrew Korando

--AMLK