ITEM 4: Report on Nov. 2, 2021 election using ranked choice voting

A report from Acting Assistant City Manager Moranda Dammann is attached.

TO: Minnetonka Charter Commission

FROM: Moranda Dammann, Acting Assistant City Manager

DATE: Nov. 9, 2021

SUBJECT: Update regarding ranked choice voting.

This memo provides an update on the use of ranked choice voting in Minnetonka, since the date of the charter commission's last meeting in November 2020.

As the commission is aware, on Nov. 3, 2020, Minnetonka voters approved an amendment to the city charter, adopting ranked choice voting (RCV) for municipal elections. The charter amendment required that the city council "provide by ordinance the ballot format and the rules for counting the votes and breaking a tie." An ordinance, similar in content to those adopted in Minneapolis and St. Louis Park, was introduced at the city council meeting on Feb. 22, 2021 and adopted at the March 8, 2021 regular city council meeting. The ordinance allows voters to rank up to three candidates for each municipal office.

Following the adoption of the ordinance, the city's elections staff began the process of implementation. This included hiring a deputy city clerk, collaborating with the communications division on an education campaign and creating a roadmap to adjust all internal documentation and procedures to align with the use of RCV.

City staff utilized all forms of communication in its education and outreach efforts in order to reach the widest possible audience. The on-line efforts included the creation of videos and social media notifications. City staff also used traditional means of reaching voters, including information in the *Minnetonka Memo,* informational mailers that went to all Minnetonka households, as well as in-person presentations. City staff gave presentations at the senior center and in various co-ops and senior living facilities and also staffed booths at all July farmer's markets and the October open house. The staff conducted two very successful outdoor mock elections. The deputy city clerk, under the direction of the city clerk, spearheaded the educational campaign, which is outlined in the attached memo.

The elections specialist led the city's work to establish internal procedures and training. These efforts were focused on navigating the post tabulation process, providing an in-person designated RCV training session to all election judges, and updating forms and documentation to reflect the change in voting process.

The elections staff also partnered with other communities that use ranked choice voting by participating in a monthly workgroup meeting. The group consisted of representatives from Minnetonka Minneapolis, St. Louis Park, Bloomington, Hennepin County, Ramsey County and the Minnesota Secretary of State's office. This collaboration allowed Minnetonka staff to learn

from our surrounding communities and share resources as we entered our first election with RCV.

The municipal general election was held on Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021 for the offices of Mayor, Council Member At Large Seat A and Council Member At Large Seat B. Absentee voting for this election began on Sept. 18, 2021. Two candidates competed for the mayoral seat, and five candidates each filed for the two at-large council seats. It seems likely that the use of ranked choice voting influenced the number of candidates competing for office. Brad Wiersum (Mayor) and Deb Calvert (At Large Seat A) both won a majority (50%+1) of first choice votes at the first round of tabulation. Kimberly Wilburn (At Large Seat B) won a majority (50% +1) of votes after four rounds of tabulation.

There was an increase of voter turnout both in absentee voters and on Election Day. A total of 11,350 persons voted in the municipal election --2,795 during absentee voting and 8,555 on Election Day, resulting in a 28.5% voter turnout. This is the highest voter turnout the city has seen for a municipal election. The municipal election was conducted in conjunction with school district elections, and voter turnout for the three school district elections was similarly high. At this time, it is not possible to determine the extent to which ranked choice voting affected voter turnout; additional elections will need to occur in order to identify trends in voting.

Elections results were canvassed by resolution at the Nov. 8, 2021 regular city council meeting. The council also set the date, time and place for the post-election review that is required by City Code section 107.070. The post-election review will be held on Nov. 10, 2021 at 9 a.m. in the Minnetonka Council Chambers and is open to the public. Election judges will hand count the ballots from two precincts, for only the mayor's office, in order to verify the accuracy of the voting systems and tabulation.

Minnetonka elections staff plans to conduct a survey of the community to learn about the voter experience during this last election. At a study session in 2022, staff will present to the city council the survey results, a report on the education, outreach and election costs, and a forecast of expected future costs, based upon the city's successful completion of its first ranked choice voting election.

Attachments:
1. Memo summarizing education campaign
2. Resolution 2021-119 certifying the results of the November 2, 2021 Municipal General Election
3. Ranked choice voting summary statements

SUBJECT: 2021 Communications/Education Campaign Timeline and Election Dates

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The schedule below will serve as a guide and staff will be adapting the schedule as needed. Staff is preparing alternate methods of reaching the public if the pandemic prevents city events from occurring in 2021.

2021 Communications/Education Campaign Timeline

- **February/March**
  - Revamp ranked choice voting page on website to focus on voter education, include timeline, update as-needed through Election day; transition current page to an archive about RCV adoption
  - Begin working on print materials (brochure, postcard), video, etc.

- **April 25** – May Memo delivered
  - Article about candidate filing moving later due to RCV, include basic RCV voter education
  - Order swag
  - FAQs

- **May 25** – June Memo delivered
  - Article encouraging people to visit RCV booth at Farmers Market, Summerfest
  - Internal Mock election with Hennepin County (May 20)
  - FAQs

- **Early June** – Develop materials for community engagement (Farmers Market, Summerfest, etc.)
  - Informational brochure
  - Video(s)
  - Promotions toolkit
  - SWAG
  - Sample ballot
  - Signage for booths

- **July/August – Candidate filing**
  - Article in July and August Memo about candidate filing and RCV education
  - Digital communications about filing with RCV education reminders
  - National Night Out – Aug 3
  - Mock elections (July 13, Aug. 17)

- o RCV education for senior services
- o RCV videos
- o Candidate Information Session w/ City Manager Geralyn Barone (Aug. 11)

- **Aug. 25** – September Memo delivered
  - o Article about absentee voting and RCV education

- **Early September**
  - o Direct mail to each resident with RCV voter education and sample ballot
  - o Digital billboards throughout Minnetonka
  - o Posters/flyers for apartments, businesses, city facilities

- **Mid-September**
  - o Absentee voting begins
  - o Digital Communications about absentee voting, RCV voter education

- **Sept. 25** – October Memo delivered
  - o Article with absentee voting and RCV reminders
  - o Polling place changes

- **October** – Digital communications and reminders as-needed

- **October 25** – November Memo delivered
  - o Article with Election Day details and RCV education
  - o Open house RCV booth

- **Nov. 2** – Election Day
  - o Digital Communications – Where/how to vote on Election Day, RCV education

2021 Election Dates

- **July 27**   Candidate filing opens
- **Aug. 10**   Candidate filing closes at 5 p.m.
- **Aug. 11**   Candidate information session at 3 p.m.
- **Aug. 12**   Candidate withdrawal deadline at 5 p.m.
- **Sept. 17**   Absentee voting begins
- **Oct. 26**   Direct balloting period begins
- **Oct. 30**   Open Saturday for absentee voting from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- **Nov. 2**   General Election Day
- **Nov. 8**   Canvass Election results at regular City Council Meeting
- **Nov. 10**   Post election audit

Resolution certifying the results of the Nov. 2, 2021 municipal general election

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

Section 1.   Background.

1.01.   The Minnetonka municipal general election was held on Nov. 2, 2021 in accordance with applicable laws.

1.02   The votes received for each candidate are as follows:

Mayor		
Candidate	**Number of Votes**	**Percent of Votes**
John Kuhl	4100	36.12%
Brad Wiersum	6897	60.77%
Undeclared Write-in (UWI)	19	0.17%
Overvote	5	0.04%
Undervote	329	2.90%
Total votes cast for this office	11350	

Maximum possible threshold to win: 5676
Declared Winner: Brad Wiersum

"Maximum possible threshold" means the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected under a first ranked choice tabulation. In any given election, the maximum possible threshold equals the total ballots cast that include votes, undervotes, skipped rankings, and overvotes for the office, divided by the sum of one (1) plus the number of offices to be filled, then adding one (1).

*Maximum Possible Threshold = ((Total ballots cast that include votes, undervotes, skipped rankings, and overvotes for the office)/(Seats to be elected + 1)) + 1.

At Large Seat A		
Candidate	**Number of Votes**	**Percent of Votes**
Karen Ahlbrecht	1014	8.93%
Deb Calvert	5881	51.81%
Marshall Glynn	654	5.76%
Iola Kostrzewski	1084	9.55%
Wyn Ray	2138	18.84%
Write-ins	18	0.16%
Overvotes	19	0.17%
Undervotes	542	4.78%
Total votes cast for this office	11350	

Maximum possible threshold to win: 5676
Declared Winner: Deb Calvert

"Maximum possible threshold" means the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected under a first ranked choice tabulation. In any given election, the maximum possible threshold equals the total ballots cast that include votes, undervotes, skipped rankings, and overvotes for the office, divided by the sum of one (1) plus the number of offices to be filled, then adding one (1).

*Maximum Possible Threshold = ((Total ballots cast that include votes, undervotes, skipped rankings, and overvotes for the office)/(Seats to be elected + 1)) + 1.

At Large Seat B								
Candidate	Number of Votes Round 1	Vote Change	Number of Votes Round 2	Vote Change	Number of Votes Round 3	Vote Change	Number of Votes Round 4	Final Round Percentages
Stacy Cranbrook	2222	232	2454	147	2601	690	3291	32.30%
Jim Hadley	1334	327	1661	137	1798	-1798	0	0.00%
Daniel Kral	1137	-1137	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Ash Patel	1330	83	1413	-1413	0	0	0	0.00%
Kimberly Wilburn	4139	119	4258	658	4916	289	5205	51.08%
Undeclared Write-ins	28	-28	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Total votes continuing	10190		9786		9315		8496	
Total votes cast for this office	10190		10190		10190		10190	
Totally Blank	1149		1149		1149		1149	
Partially defective	11		11		11		11	
Exhausted ballots			404		875		1694	16.62%

Threshold to win: 5096
Declared Winner: Kimberly Wilburn

*Threshold = ((Total votes cast)/(Seats to be elected + 1)) + 1

"Threshold" means the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected. In any given election, the threshold equals the total votes counted in the first round, after removing partially defective ballots, divided by the sum of one (1) plus the number of offices to be filled, then adding one (1).

Round by round summary:

1. *Kimberly Wilburn received the most first preference votes (4139), but did not meet the threshold (5096) to be declared the winner.*

2. *The lowest votes including undeclared write-ins (UWI) and the candidate with the lowest first choice preferences (Daniel Kral) was eliminated. Those votes are reallocated to the voters second choice preference.*

3. *Kimberly Wilburn continued with the highest vote total (4258), but did not meet the threshold (5096) to be declared the winner. Jim Hadley received the highest number of reallocated votes (327) in this round. Ash Patel is eliminated in this round.*

4. *Kimberly Wilburn continued with the highest vote total (4916), but did not meet the threshold (5096) to be declared the winner. Kimberly Wilburn received the highest number of reallocated votes (658) in this round. Jim Hadley is eliminated in this round.*

5. *Kimberly Wilburn continued with the highest vote total (5205), which is above the threshold (5096).* ***Kimberly Wilburn was declared the winner in the fourth round.***

Section 2.   Council Action.

2.01.   The Minnetonka City Council declares that the following candidates were elected to the Minnetonka City Council:

Mayor: Brad Wiersum
Council Member At Large Seat A: Deb Calvert
Council Member At Large Seat B: Kimberly Wilburn

Section 3.   Authorization

3.01   The City Clerk is authorized to certify the results of the Nov. 2, 2021 municipal general election.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on Nov. 8, 2021.

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Brad Wiersum, Mayor

Attest:

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Becky Koosman, City Clerk

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 City Council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on Nov. 8, 2021.

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Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Ranked-Choice Voting Tabulation Center Summary Statement

November 2, 2021 Municipal Election   *Mayor*

Total Votes Cast:	11350	** Total number of ballots cast, including undervotes, overvotes, and defective ballots **
Undervotes:	317	** Voter did not rank any candidates for this office **
Defective Ballots:	1	** Unable to determine voter's intent with respect to the office being counted **
Spoiled Ballots:	321	
Number of Seats:	1	
Maximum Possible Threshold:	5676	** Half of total ballots cast for office + 1, disregarding fractions/decimals **

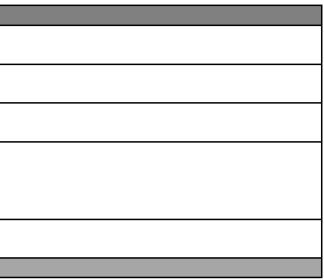| Candidate	*Round 1* Total Number of 1st Choice Votes	*Final Percentage* *Declared Winner: Brad Wiersum*
John Kuhl	4100	36.12
Brad Wiersum	6897	60.77
Undeclared Write-Ins (UWI)	19	0.17
Over-Votes	5	0.04
Undervotes	329	2.90
TOTAL:	11350	100.00

Ranked-Choice Voting Tabulation Center Summary Statement

November 2, 2021 Municipal Election — *At-Large Councilmember, Seat A*

Total Votes Cast:	11350	** Total number of ballots cast, including undervotes, overvotes, and defective ballots **
Undervotes:	533	** Voter did not rank any candidates for this office **
Defective Ballots:	13	** Unable to determine voter's intent with respect to the office being counted **
Spoiled Ballots:	321	
Number of Seats:	1	
Maximum Possible Threshold:	5676	** Half of total ballots cast for office + 1, disregarding fractions/decimals **

Candidate	Round 1 — Total Number of 1st Choice Votes	Final Percentage — Declared Winner: Deb Calvert
Karen Ahlbrecht	1014	8.93
Deb Calvert	5881	51.81
Marshall Glynn	654	5.76
Iola Kostrzewski	1084	9.55
Wyn Ray	2138	18.84
Undeclared Write-ins (UWI)	18	0.16
Overvotes	19	0.17
Undervotes	542	4.78
TOTAL:	11350	100.00

Ranked-Choice Voting Tabulation Center Summary Statement

November 2, 2021 Municipal Election *At-Large Councilmember, Seat B*

Total Votes Cast:	10190	** Total votes counted in the first round, not including undervotes, defective, or spoiled ballots **
Undervotes:	1149	** Voter did not rank any candidates for this office **
Defective Ballots:	11	** Unable to determine voter's intent with respect to the office being counted **
Spoiled Ballots:	321	
Number of Seats:	1	
Threshold:	5096	** Half of total votes cast for office + 1, disregarding fractions/decimals **

Candidate	Round 1 — Total Number of 1st Choice Votes	Defeated: UWI, Daniel Kral — Vote Transfer	Round 2 — Total Votes	Defeated: Ash Patel — Vote Transfer	Round 3 — Total Votes	Defeated: Jim Hadley — Vote Transfer	Round 4 — Total Votes	Final Percentage — Declared Winner: Kimberly Wilburn
Stacy Cranbrook	2222	232	2454	147	2601	690	3291	32.30
Jim Hadley	1334	327	1661	137	1798	-1798	0	0.00
Daniel Kral	1137	-1137	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Ash Patel	1330	83	1413	0	0	0	0	0.00
Kimberly Wilburn	4139	119	4258	-1413	4916	289	5205	51.08
Undeclared Write-ins (UWI)	28	-28	0	658	0	0	0	0.00
Exhausted Ballots	0	404	404	471	875	819	1694	16.62
TOTAL:	10190		10190		10190		10190	100.00