

S.F. No. 749 – Rotation of Candidate Names on Ballots

Author: Senator Bonnie S. Westlin

Prepared by: Alexis C. Stangl, Director (651/296-4397)

Date: February 20, 2023

S.F. 749 amends how partisan offices are rotated on the state general election ballot. Under current law, candidate's names are placed on the general election ballot so that the candidate of the major party that received the smallest average number of votes at the state general election appears at the top. The candidate from the party that received the next smallest vote appears second, and so on. **Section 3** repeals this provision. **Section 2** provides for a different method of rotation which requires names of candidates for partisan offices to be rotated so that each candidate's name appears roughly the same number of times in each position for that office on the ballot.

The change in **section 1** is not substantive. The cross-reference in this section is repealed so the bill replaces the cross-reference with the language from the repealed section.