

To: Chair Carlson and the Senate Elections Committee

From: George Beck – Board of Directors, Clean Elections Minnesota

Re: S. F. 2270 – Ranked Choice Voting

Clean Elections Minnesota is a non-partisan non-profit that works to protect democracy in our state. Adoption of Senator Morrison's S. F. 2270 will mean a significant advancement in elections in Minnesota.

RCV is simple. Voters rank their choices, 1-2-3, with the last candidate dropping out and its second-place and third-place votes then being reassigned to the leading candidates. This system is used in Minneapolis and four other Minnesota cities based on the choice of their residents and has proved to be efficient and popular.

This method, which is used on a statewide basis in Maine and Alaska, means that a candidate will always have majority support from the electorate to win. No more plurality winners. Voters will not need to feel that they must vote for the "lesser of two evils" but can vote for the candidate they most favor.

This process discourages negative campaigning, (which discourages voting), because candidates need to be mindful of offending those voting for others. The bill applies to state and federal elections but also authorizes local adoption where voters decide to do so.

Please approve this valuable addition to Minnesota election procedure that will encourage voting and strengthen our democracy.