

**Letter of support for ranked choice voting**  
**Anika Bowie**  
**Saint Paul City Council Ward 1 Candidate**  
**Former DFL political director**

Minnesota is poised to pass one of the most significant reforms for a more inclusive and representative democracy in our history. Passing Ranked Choice Voting statewide is key to ensuring that our elected officials better reflect the diversity of backgrounds and political preferences of all our citizens.

As a candidate running for office in St. Paul, I am excited to run under RCV and see how this change accelerates women and candidates of color in office. I'm excited we have the chance to expand this opportunity at the local level and statewide. RCV enables voters to rank their candidate preferences, leading to the formation of broader coalitions, particularly beneficial for underrepresented communities such as women, Black, and Brown communities. RCV opens the process to more candidates, eliminating the risk of vote-splitting between candidates with similar platforms or from the same community.

Studies indicate that women and people of color are more likely to run and win in higher numbers, an encouraging sign for the future of our democracy. The election of Congresswoman Mary Peltola, the first Native Alaskan to be elected to Congress in Alaska, exemplified the potential of RCV to facilitate this outcome.

RCV is a powerful tool that promotes greater representation and addresses systemic barriers that prevent women and people of color from participating in our political system. I strongly urge you to support measures that expand RCV statewide and locally in Minnesota. Such a measure will bring a more inclusive democracy for all Minnesotans.