



C3. Support Equitable And Inclusive Elections

City Position

The City of Golden Valley supports expansive and accessible voting rights. Providing consistent statewide standards, allowing local decision-making control of certain aspects in city elections, and expanding voting rights are vital to improving access to voting and the efficiency of election administration.

Issue

Current law limits the ability for some residents of Golden Valley to use voting as their voice. Many Golden Valley residents are unable to vote due to:

- burdensome rules and inconsistent information about when voting rights are restored to those convicted of a felony
- restrictions prohibiting taxpaying, lawful, noncitizens from participating in selecting their local representatives
- state laws that do not allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections

Furthermore, local decision-making control to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in city elections is currently only available to charter cities. RCV allows voters to rank candidates by preference, which leads to a more representative government because the winning candidate in an RCV election has the broadest support of all voters in the community.

Actions

The City of Golden Valley supports:

- restoring voting rights for those convicted of a felony who have served the entirety of their sentence and are not incarcerated
- giving cities the authority to consider and adopt regulations that would allow all lawful residents over age 18 to vote in city elections, regardless of US citizenship status
- creating consistency in absentee voter outreach opportunities, including legislation to allow online absentee ballot requests for local elections
- allowing statutory cities to consider and adopt RCV
- enacting state-level standards and equipment for RCV