

Testimony for Minnesota Senate Elections Committee

From: Commissioner Dave Mills, Cook County, MN

Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023

RE: SF 2270

Greetings!

I am writing today in support of SF 2270 for statewide and local options for Ranked Choice Voting in Minnesota.

The rate at which and to what extent our country, state, and communities are dividing is extremely troubling. For the sake of our democracy, significant steps must be taken towards building consensus on who our public leaders are and should be. Most people are not radical, by definition, yet more and more radical leaders are being elected which divides us all even further.

Ranked Choice Voting is designed to build consensus and ensure our leaders are indeed representative of our populations.

Ranked Choice Voting makes negative campaigning much more difficult. There would be too many targets for negative ads to work, and positive ads are much more effective at sharing visions, values, and strategies – and we need solutions!

Ranked Choice Voting will also increase voter participation as it brings voter disenchantment down.

Thank you for your service and please support SF 2270!

Sincerely,

Commissioner Dave Mills

Cook County, MN