

April 2, 2023

Common Cause MN is a nonpartisan grassroots organization working to create open, honest, and accountable government, more information about our work at www.commoncause.org.

Minnesota is home to over 18,000 multipartisan members across the state and despite belonging to various MN party affiliations, or not being affiliated, the one thing they've come together to do is support our work ensuring our Republic's democracy is safeguarded, our elections continue to reflect the will of Minnesotans and everyone's vote counts.

We believe democracy is how a free society resolves its differences. And to do that well, we must all agree the process is fair, produces equitable outcomes, and reflects our communities, our values, and our priorities. Nobody wins all the time, but if the process is fair, at least we can trust it.

Members we urge you not to support the provisions in the [A24 Amendment](#) proposing changes to the RCV task force that 1) increases the task force by nine(9) more political appointees, and 2) shifts power over who leads the space to politicians, and their direct appointees.

We ask members of the committee, to consider the following and take action to correct:

- Increasing representation from impacted communities and less politicians skewing parity in power among members. Remove the nine(9) political appointees and replace them with 9 more representatives from impacted communities, election administrators, election officials and election stakeholders.
- There is no language regarding who the political appointees by the ranking majority and minority leaders can be. This language allows for appointment of party hacks and special interest who may work to push a partisan agenda and not be community centered. Please include language that expressly disqualifies party chairs, party employees, family members of elected officials, and others directly connected to party machine – to name a few.
- The appointment process for “members of the public” should be an open competitive application process by qualified members of the public with experience as election judges, voter engagement from impacted communities, election administration to name a few - not a hyper-politicized process with direct appointments from the ranking majority leader, minority leader and the governor.
- Co-chair appointments for subcommittees should not come from the ranking majority leader and minority leader's handpicked partisan picks. Again, this amendment allows for the selection of party chairs, party employees, family members of elected officials, and others directly connected to party machine as “members of the public” AND get appointed to co-chair positions of each subcommittee.
- Power within the subcommittees is controlled by handpicked partisan appointments by the ranking majority and minority leaders NOT the other members with actual hands-on experience running, administering and managing our elections. Subcommittee co-chairs should not be partisan appointees but rather folks with hands-on experience with our elections administration and voter engagement.

Key factors we consider when assessing proposed RCV reforms are:

- whether there is equitable representation that is meaningful in the composition of **who is making the decisions.**

- whether there is **parity in power among those decision makers**,
- are members appointed relevant to the process and/or matter they are leading; do they have special knowledge.
- whether the process **maximizes opportunity for transparency**, and does the public have access to information, voting and other relevant information.
- **does the public have opportunity to participate, interact with the task force** so their recommendations or concerns are acted upon.

The proposed changes in the A24 Amendment regarding the composition of the RCV Task Force turns what should be a nonpartisan space into a hyperpartisan one. It warps the parity in power among its appointees and has no language that expressly disqualifies party chairs, party employees, family members of elected officials, and others directly connected to party machine from being appointed or even becoming co-chairs of subcommittees.

We respectfully ask members to drop the provisions that call for appointment of nine(9) additional partisan appointees and replace them with additional folks that have hands-on experience with our elections administration and voter engagement. We also ask that co-chair positions be reserved for individuals who also have hands-on experience with our elections administration and voter engagement, and not partisan appointees by the ranking majority and minority leaders.

The application process should be an open, transparent and competitive process by qualified members of the public with experience as election judges, voter engagement from impacted communities, election administration - to name a few - not a hyper-politicized process with direct appointments from the ranking majority leader, minority leader and the governor.

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Holding Power Accountable for 52yrs.

