



April 3, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Senator Jim Carlson, Chair
Senate Elections Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Carlson and Members of the Committee,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) represents 80 percent of all active bedside hospital nurses in Minnesota and is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state. We are a leader in nursing, labor, health care and social justice communities and a voice for nurses and patients on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Nurses Association, I write to express concern about the A24 Amendment that will be offered today to the Senate Elections Budget Omnibus bill.

As you may know, MNA is a proud supporter of Ranked Choice Voting. We believe allowing voters to rank their choices is good for democracy and allows candidates to lead with ideas rather than political party. There are also strong connections with better health outcomes for those who have access to voting and feel their voice matters in the democratic process. We support ranked choice voting in elections and commend the work to create better access for this system.

However, we are very surprised to see that the A24 amendment would remove the option for local governments with odd-year elections to adopt it. Allowing local units of government to use ranked choice voting in odd-year elections makes perfect sense, will allow for better discussions of local issues, benefit local candidates who are able to build bridges, and will continue to build proof of concept for statewide ranked choice adoption.

Please consider withdrawing or changing the A24 amendment to allow for a local ranked choice option.

Shannon Cunningham

Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association

345 Randolph Avenue
Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651.414.2800
800.536.4662
Fax: 651.695.7000
Email: mnnurses@mnnurses.org
Web: www.mnnurses.org



AFL-CIO