March 17, 2023

Chair Erin Murphy
Minnesota Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee

**Re: Senate File 2270**

State and Local Government and Veterans Committee Members,

We represent three of the five cities in Minnesota that currently use Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for conducting municipal elections – Minneapolis, Bloomington, and Minnetonka. We are writing to highlight our support for the provision included in SF 2270 that allows for municipalities to implement the use of automatic tabulation equipment for the purpose of tabulating results in local Ranked Choice Voting elections. We thank the authors for including this section in the bill.

Minnesota cities have used Ranked Choice Voting for more than a decade, and one persistent challenge throughout the years has been efficiency in results tabulation. Cities have generally conducted the round-by-round tabulation required in some RCV races through one of two methods: manual hand counts and spreadsheet-based systems. Each of these approaches are labor intensive, taking anywhere from many hours to many days. Although there are now federally tested automatic tabulation options available, we have not been able to adopt them due to the lack of a certification process for automatic tabulation equipment within the state.

There is a great benefit to the public to have election results that are accurate, timely, and transparent. Automated tabulation equipment that is compatible with our existing voting systems is currently available. Giving cities the option to implement these systems will both modernize our administration of RCV elections and expedite when election results are able to be announced.

We strongly encourage you to support this specific provision of SF 2270 to allow municipalities that use Ranked Choice Voting to produce and share election results more efficiently.


**Katie Smith**
*Director of Elections*
Minneapolis

**Jamie Verbrugge**
*City Manager*
Bloomington

**Mike Funk**
*City Manager*
Minnetonka