

Lynn C. Eaton, PE

3500 Sherman Drive NE; Bemidji, MN 56601 | (218) 766-4722 | Eaton.Lynn@Mail.com

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Dear Minnesota Senate Member:

It is with great pleasure and anticipation that I write in support of legislation that would enable school districts, cities, counties, and other statewide offices the use of ranked choice voting (RCV) to fill vacant offices.

To me RCV offers a low cost, expedient, and fair approach to electing those who represent communities throughout the state. I am happy to learn that voting equipment currently in use throughout the state can be used for RCV if the potential legislation is passed into law. Further, this approach to filling vacant seats would help lead our communities and the nation away from bitter political rhetoric, partisanship, and legislative gridlock toward candidates supported by a broad base of the electorate.

I have been a public servant my entire career. I have worked 30 years in service as a state employee, retired and worked as an engineering consultant since then (2014). I currently hold a nonpolitical office as Ward 5 Councilor for the City of Bemidji. My service includes volunteering for professional and public organizations, leading civic organizations, as well as leadership roles with my faith community. Our state citizens deserve the service and respect that broadly supported elected officials can provide.

I have discussed the idea of RCV with my fellow council members, others in my constituency, my family and my family's friends and acquaintances from across the nation. All these conversations have noted the positive potential outcomes from the opportunity to vote my RCV.

Please give the people of this state, this nation, the opportunity for a more positive future.

If I can be of further assistance or provide you with further information, I am very happy to do so.

Sincerely,



Lynn C. Eaton