



February 22, 2024

Senator Jim Carlson, Chair
Minnesota Senate Elections Committee
Room 1200 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Carlson and Members,

I write today to express my personal support for SF 3868, relating to the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) for federal and state elections and the option for local jurisdictions to use RCV.

I'm proud that our city is among the earliest adopters of this method of voting. The City of Bloomington successfully used Ranked Choice Voting in its municipal election for the first time in 2021. Our 2021 election process was implemented smoothly, efficiently, and enhanced our election transparency. We experienced higher levels of voter understanding and satisfaction, greater diversity of candidates and elected officials, and more civil campaigns. In addition, the city saved over \$75,000 by eliminating a costly local primary. We had a similarly smooth election with higher turnout in 2023.

In 2021 and 2023, we used the hand count method for tabulation, but look forward to the provision of the bill that allows for municipalities to approve tabulation software to provide even faster results.

As more cities around the state adopt RCV and demonstrate the benefits to fostering civility, and a more representative democracy, we know that this is a proven step to take and this bill furthers that effort.

I encourage your support and would be happy to provide additional information if necessary.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Busse".

Tim Busse
Mayor