

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 am writing as a resident of Bloomington who strongly opposes SF3868 based on experience and collecting information from residents. Today you will be hearing a well-orchestrated collection of supporters and lobbyists who don't necessarily represent the average voter like me. While Ranked Choice Voting is being pushed by a well-funded lobbying group, what is happening in the real world voting booth has been and continues to be mass confusion. It is especially confusing for the very residents for which we are supposed to be providing unencumbered opportunities to vote and make sure their vote counts in the end; Elderly, disenfranchised, minority groups etc.

Bloomington has had two RCV elections. The first RCV election confused many when multiple candidates were presented on a ballot. The second RCV election confused even more residents when presented with only two candidates and three rounds of ranking on their ballots. This frustrated the election process for many and while we saw only 36% of all registered voters vote in the last election, up about 6%, it was not due to voters clambering to vote because of the opportunity to vote by ranking. I contend there were all seats up for re-election with three tax questions on the ballot and a larger GOTV that accounted for the increase of 6%.

Regardless, 36% is still a pretty pathetic participation in our elections and Ranked Choice Voting is not accomplishing that. My solution to greater voter turnout and saving money in my municipality as Mayor Busse mentions is to have all elections on even numbered years. Those who have odd-numbered year municipal elections run the real risk of voter fatigue which may account for some of the low numbers seen everywhere. Then add RCV process confusion. Staggering of terms can still be accomplished.

My ask today is that you take more time and listen to many residents on both sides of this issue after you present the testimony of the interested organizations. After all, isn't it us you represent?

I appreciate your consideration and the opportunity to listen to my testimony.

Kathy Kranz
Bloomington Resident and Registered Voter