



February 21, 2024

Chair & Senator Jim Carlson  
Senate Elections Committee  
c/o Beth Fraser, Committee Administrator  
Room 1200, Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W  
St Paul, MN 55103

**Re: Testimony in Support of SF 3868**

Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the Senate Elections Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. Together, we envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate, and our elections are conducted free of threats and intimidation to voters and election officials.

**LWV Minnesota supports SF 3868, Ranked Choice Voting for local offices:**

The League of Women Voters supports policies that promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We encourage the adoption of electoral methods that provide the broadest voter representation possible and are expressive of voter choices. Local government is frequently a place where electoral innovation occurs which can inform decisions at a broader level about the conduct of elections. We specifically support providing local governments the option to adopt ranked choice voting for use in local elections for single seat contests.

While current state law does not prohibit the use of ranked choice voting in local elections, it does not include the provisions needed to make ranked choice voting an option for all local elections. This effectively limits ranked choice voting to cities which conduct their local elections outside of state general elections. In addition, the lack of statutory guidance on how ranked choice voting would be conducted creates the potential for inconsistency in implementation, and for questions about how elections are conducted. Providing definitions and requirements for ranked choice voting within Minnesota Statute will provide a framework for the consistent performance of ranked choice voting by those local governments choosing to implement it. Including requirements for the conduct of ranked choice voting in statute will also increase transparency and can provide confidence to voters and candidates regarding the conduct and results of their elections involving ranked choice voting.

SF 3868 provides the framework for local governments to choose the electoral process that works best for them to assure proportional representation in their community, and provides requirements and support to do this in a consistent, efficient manner. Experience both within Minnesota and nationally has shown that ranked choice voting can be implemented effectively, and can be a valuable approach to providing election results that reflect the preferences of voters.

**LWV Minnesota urges you to vote YES on SF 3868.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Huffman', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Huffman, Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator  
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

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