

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-11

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' RIGHT TO EXPLORE AND USE RANKED CHOICE VOTING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, all townships and school districts, 86 of 87 counties, and 85 percent of cities fall under statutory rule for the conduct of local elections, and must ask permission of the Legislature to make changes to these rules; and

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) consolidates two elections into one, so that in local nonpartisan elections, we can eliminate primaries that a shrinking number of voters participate in; and

WHEREAS, in cities with odd-year local elections, we can save the cost of primaries altogether; and

WHEREAS, RCV ensures a majority winner, working like a runoff (or like a primary-general election) but with a single election; and voters rank their preferences on the ballot, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on; and in a single-seat election, if no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the least popular candidate is defeated and their ballots are reassigned to those voters' second choices; and this process is repeated until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots; and

WHEREAS, RCV is successfully used in Minneapolis and St. Paul (and St. Louis Park in 2019), with more than 87 percent of voters saying that RCV is simple to use; and

WHEREAS, a local options measure would contain no mandates, but simply provides us with the permission and tools we need to consider and implement RCV if we wish; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of Minnesota jurisdictions have indicated an interest in RCV; and

WHEREAS, for charter cities that may adopt RCV without legislative permission, they need the guidelines such a measure would provide to ensure consistent implementation across Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, RCV has demonstrated that it improves voter turnout and participation; and

WHEREAS, RCV makes voting easier for deployed military members and other citizens abroad by requiring one less election for them to receive and return their ballots on time; and

WHEREAS, voters appreciate the civil and positive campaigning that RCV encourages; and

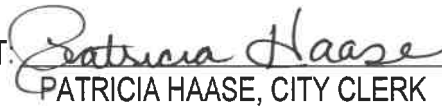
WHEREAS, having the local option is a significant opportunity to improve elections in cities, counties, townships, and school districts throughout the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVE BY THE UNDERSIGNED, we support removing government barriers and giving all local jurisdictions in Minnesota the option in state law to use Ranked Choice Voting if we decide it is right for our communities.

Adopted this 17th day of January 2019 by the City Council of the City of Melrose.



JOE FINKEN, MAYOR

ATTEST: 

PATRICIA HAASE, CITY CLERK