



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICERS

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February 22, 2024

Chair, Sen. Jim Carlson
Senate Elections Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF3868 (Morrison) Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the Senate Elections Committee:

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) is comprised of and represents County Auditors, Treasurers, Financial Officers, and county election administrators from all 87 Minnesota Counties. The integrity of Minnesota's elections process is MACO's main guiding principle in election administration, and we recognize local partnerships and collaboration are critical to success.

MACO is supportive of local authorization of ranked-choice voting (RCV) in stand-alone, nonconcurrent elections, so we appreciate the language in SF3868 that only allows for RCV to be used not in conjunction with a state general election; however the current language would allow for the possibility of races that do not use RCV to be on the same ballot and we believe there are still significant procedural and technical items that need to be addressed. For example, ballot layout when RCV contests are on the same ballot as non-ranked choice contests; the interaction of county election officials' administration of absentee voting for a jurisdiction that has selected RCV for their local contest; and equipment certification.

We strongly recommend that any legislation related to the implementation of RCV for elections conducted in conjunction with a non-ranked choice contest is not considered until the administrative complexity of concurrent elections is thoroughly reviewed and procedures determined by a group of stakeholders including local election administrators.

MACO appreciates the addition of language in SF3868 that requires cities and schools who use RCV who do not administer elections to enter into an agreement with the county responsible for administering elections before adopting RCV as we believe these local partnerships are critical to the success of any voting process and especially RCV.

Sincerely,

Deborah Erickson

Crow Wing County Administrative Services Director
President, Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO)