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April 15, 2024  
Senator Kari Dziedzic, Chair  
State and Local Government and Veterans Committee

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The work of the African American Leadership Forum ('The Forum') is rooted in shifting systems and the people that lead them towards a more just future. We partner with communities, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and governments to co-create solutions focused on many social and economic concerns. For over 15 years, The Forum has harnessed the collective power of Black communities to solve complex social problems. Our goal is to build a just and healthy society that works equally well for everyone.

**The African American Leadership Forum expresses its strong support for SF 3638, which would allow any municipality in Minnesota to adopt ranked choice voting (RCV) if they so choose.** One of the most critical issues facing our democracy nationwide is voter participation. Opinion polls have long illustrated that people are dismayed by the polarization of politics, partly because they believe the rosters of candidates are too narrow.

Minnesota is known nationwide for its high voter turnout, but it would be even higher if more voters felt their preferred candidate had a real chance of making it through a primary or general election. Ranked choice voting can help reinvigorate people's belief that their vote matters. Research shows that RCV voting systems result in many benefits, including:

- A reduction in partisan polarization
- More coalition-building and collaboration among candidates
- More diversity in the candidate pool
- Voters can cast their ballot for their preferred candidate without fear of wasting their vote
- Elimination of costly run-off elections--run-offs take place instantly in the RCV system

Thank you for considering this bill, and we ask for your support of SF 3638.

Sincerely,

Amber Jones  
Managing Director | Policy Impact  
African American Leadership Forum

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Senior Fellow in Residence  
African American Leadership Forum

