

April 16, 2024

Chair Dziedzic and members of the Committee on State and Local Government and Veterans;

My name is Edwin Torres and I am a Dreamer and a DACA recipient. Although I cannot vote, I am highly involved in the political process because I understand the importance of electing leaders who will best serve the people they represent.

I believe in the power of people and the power of the vote.

Cities that have adopted ranked-choice voting have seen an increase in voter turnout and in the diversity of their candidates and elected officials. Ranked-choice voting has given a voice to people who normally don't feel part of the process. It has provided voters with more choices, led to greater participation in the political process, and resulted in outcomes that better reflect the community.

Yet, fewer than 1% of cities are currently able to consider using ranked-choice voting. It's time to give all local jurisdictions the power to decide if ranked-choice voting is right for them.

Many voters, especially young people, are disillusioned with a political system they feel does not offer them enough choices on the ballot and does not incentivize leaders to work together to solve the pressing problems of our time—problems that young people will have to deal with in the coming decades.

For our democracy to progress, we need to engage more people, and we need leaders who can meet the needs of the moment and work together to find solutions. Ranked-choice voting is a significant step in that direction.

Please support SF 3868 so that all cities, counties, and school districts can have the opportunity to adopt ranked-choice voting, which Bloomington, Minnetonka, St. Louis Park, Minneapolis, and St. Paul have used with great success.

Sincerely,

Edwin Torres DeSantiago
Minnetonka, MN