

January 29, 2025

Testimony opposing [SF 634](#)

Senate Elections Committee Chair Carlson and Members:

As Bloomington voters who appreciate odd-year city elections and as leaders in the grassroots local movement to adopt ranked-choice voting in our city, we write in opposition to SF 634 to mandate all Minnesota cities conduct their elections in even years.

We believe each city should have the power to determine for itself whether it is best for their municipality to conduct their elections in even- or odd-numbered years.

In our city, holding odd-year elections ensures voters and the local media are focused on local issues. It reinforces the nonpartisan nature of city council and mayoral races by not conflating state and national campaign issues with local issues.

Furthermore, Minnesota cities that conduct elections in even years are not currently permitted to use ranked-choice voting (RCV). Twice in the last five years, a majority of Bloomington voters have voted to use RCV in our local elections. As leaders of the efforts to adopt RCV in our city, we believe our voters' wishes should be respected. Many residents voted for RCV specifically because they want to see less partisanship, polarization, and negative campaigning in elections. We fear that moving our city elections to even years would have the opposite effect.

Please vote against SF 634.

Sincerely,

Laura Calbone & Marcia Wattson
Bloomington, MN residents