



Dear Members of the House Elections and Finance Policy Committee:

I am writing to share my strong support for SF 1071, which provides the option for all local jurisdictions to adopt Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) if they wish. As the CEO of LatinoLEAD, I work with Latine leaders across all sectors to create innovative strategies that drive and define policies and perceptions to advance the Latine community's collective influence, success, and power. And, RCV is a critical vehicle for electoral empowerment.

Minnesota cities that have adopted RCV have seen greater diversity in representation. As a Latina Minnesotan, I know firsthand the power that representation has in shaping and strengthening our democracy. RCV is proven to promote more inclusive representation and higher turnout elections, enabling more people's voices to be heard.

With our top-in-the-nation turnout and local experience with RCV, Minnesota is in a strong position to lead on this pro-voter initiative. That being said, our state has a ways to go in making sure that diverse voices have a seat at the table. The recent municipal election in St. Paul serves as a prime example of how RCV accelerates this process by enabling the structural reform that generates meaningful change.

Leading is what Minnesota does best, and now is the moment for us to continue to show the rest of the nation how to advance a democracy that is inclusive, participatory, representative, and responsive for all.

Sincerely,

Irma Márquez Trapero

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Chief Executive Officer
LatinoLEAD