



February 12, 2025

Dear Chairperson Carlson and Committee Members,

I am testifying on behalf of RepresentWomen to support the passage of SF 1071, legislation that would expand local authority to conduct Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) elections. The organization that I founded and lead, [RepresentWomen](#), tracks electoral outcomes for women in jurisdictions with RCV. Our overall mission is to increase gender balance in elected office and address the barriers women face in politics. **Ranked choice voting is a proven strategy that enables more women to seek and win elected office. Women hold 52% of seats in jurisdictions with ranked choice voting – almost twice the norm in places without RCV.**

In both theory and practice, ranked choice voting eliminates the barriers women face in plurality aka winner-take-all elections, which creates more opportunities for women to run successfully. Our research finds that women have better opportunities to run in and win RCV elections because split votes among like candidates are eliminated. RCV elections also provide an incentive for candidates to find common ground, because candidates are looking for votes from their opponents' supporters which in turn can lead to more civil campaigns. We also find that when voters have the ability to express their true preferences rather than vote strategically, more women win as a result.

RepresentWomen creates an annual Gender Parity Index (GPI) that awards each state a grade in accordance with how they are faring on electing women to office at the local, state, and federal levels. Minnesota has sustained a strong performance on our GPI since 2018. Having RCV in Minneapolis, St. Paul and St. Louis Park has been the driver in this strong showing. Allowing more municipalities to have the option of RCV implementation would continue to move the needle towards gender balance in your state.

Here are a few of our resources that may be of interest:

- a [memo](#) on ranked choice voting & women's representation
- a [dashboard](#) on ranked choice voting and women's representation stats
- a [toolkit](#) with additional RCV and representation materials



I ask you to consider RepresentWomen's testimony and vote YES on SF 1071 to allow RCV to be utilized in local elections. It casts a wider net and creates a more inclusive and robust election process that can lead to better governance.

This legislation would also equip the Minnesota Board of Elections to provide standards for reviewing any necessary equipment and technology to successfully facilitate and execute the RCV election results.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely Yours,

Cynthia Richie Terrell  
Founder and Executive Director