

From: mschwarz [<mailto:mschwarz@multitool.net>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 9:13 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Subject: Do not repeal ranked choice voting

My wife and I recently moved back to the Twin Cities from Washington DC. We chose to settle in Saint Paul.

We are both strong believers in ranked choice voting, and we hope to see it expand in Minnesota. We urge all levels of local government to support this improved system of democracy and fair elections. We will be watching who supports and who opposes this.

Respectfully,

Michael Schwarz

From: Jeff Zaayer [mailto:jeffzaayer@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:14 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission; *CI-StPaul_CityClerk
Subject: Support RCV

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The efforts of commissioner Roepke to put forward a ballot measure to eliminate RCV doesn't stand with the democratic choice that St. Paul voters made in 2011.

RCV is good for St. Paul and for our democracy, it eliminates low voter turnout primaries and gives an equal voice to historically underrepresented communities. RCV has been shown to reduce attack adds and bring civility to Elections in addition to saving communities the costs of a second election.

The data that commissioner Roepke is attempting to use to support a repeal is too insufficient and attempts to make inferences of voter intent/comprehension based on ballots. Contrarily polling from the 2015 race in ward 2 showed that 83% of voters found RCV simple to use. Additionally 82% of voters were familiar with RCV before voting and 70% said they want to continue to use it and 61% wanted to see it go statewide. Also of note is that the 2015 race in ward 2 had the largest municipal election turnout in a decade up 6% from 2011.

RCV is working in St. Paul. The voters already decided that they want RCV in St.Paul when they voted to adopt it in 2009. This will be the first time that RCV will be used in a citywide election with a competitive race. One needs to only look across the river to Minneapolis to see the successes of RCV.

Thank you for your consideration and please reject Commissioner Roebke's attempt to undermine the community based effort that brought RCV to St. Paul.

Sincerely
Jeff Zaayer
17xx Saunders Ave
St. Paul, MN

From: Nick Carlson [mailto:maximcarlson@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 1:15 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: Ranked Choice Voting Support

Good afternoon,

I am a St Paul resident emailing to express my support for protecting ranked choice voting.

Thank you,

Nick Carlson

From: MaryMargaret Sullivan [mailto:marymar_s@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 03, 2017 4:56 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Rank choice voting

I support Rank Choice voting and think it would be a mistake to put it to a vote again. If folks don't understand how it works, let's find a way to educate them. How about civic classes in high school. I urge the Commission members to vote "no" on any ballot measure to rescind Rank Choice Voting. Thank you. Mary Margaret Sullivan

From: Matthew Cooper [<mailto:matthew.frank.cooper@gmail.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:28 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council
Cc: info@fairvotemn.org
Subject: Please keep Ranked-Choice Voting in Saint Paul

Greetings, Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

My name is Matthew Cooper; I'm a data analyst and resident of Highland neighbourhood.

I heard the Saint Paul Charter Commission recently heard a proposal to repeal the ranked-choice voting system adopted by the city government in 2009, and then wisely delayed action on this proposal. Thank you for taking the time to consider carefully; I believe this proposal to be ill-considered and ultimately condescending to the people of Saint Paul.

I have a deep appreciation for both the aims and the results achieved under ranked-choice voting systems. This country has a long tradition of common law, and Minnesota in particular has a long history of respect for the intelligence and capacity of common people to determine their political destinies. Far more so than the plurality/first-past-the-post system, ranked-choice and alternative voting structures afford a greater degree of choice to the electorate, eases barriers to access for other points of view to be heard, and ultimately moderates and elevates political discourse.

In addition, Saint Paul has seen high levels of turnout in municipal elections since the adoption of ranked-choice voting. In the 2015 Ward 2 race, five out of six voters found the voting system easy to use, and when asked, over sixty percent of voters said they want to see ranked-choice used in statewide elections.

I hope and trust that the Charter Commission will choose wisely, and keep the ranked-choice voting system in use in the city of Saint Paul.

With kind regards,
Matthew Cooper

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject: Stop RCV Repeal!

Date: Sun, 26 Feb 2017 13:17:08 -0600

From: Lori Brostrom <lbrostrom@comcast.net>

To: rjfkramer@aol.com, debmontgomery@comcast.com, bridget@bridgetfaricy.com,
amy.filice@ci.stpaul.mn.us, leenegeolela@gmail.com, Jack Kirr <jpkirr@gmail.com>,
Joycea0805@gmail.com, DEMAEDA@msn.com, gladysmort@aol.com, vrybin@infionline.net,
brian@mcclay-alton.com

CC: Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul) <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Dear Commissioners;

I am writing to urge you to stop this misguided effort to repeal ranked-choice voting! To repeal it would be a step backward for democracy in St. Paul and open the door back up to special interests.

If this last election demonstrated anything, the caucus and primary system in Minnesota is broken and more than that, anti-democratic. Structurally, it leaves large numbers of citizens disenfranchised when they can't caucus--or don't understand how this very arcane process works. Thus, candidates end up being chosen by a small number of people who may not represent the broader interests of the electorate. And, the caucuses this past year were chaos--many people simply could not get into their precinct room, and the whole process is very vulnerable to fraud.

RCV is more fair, more efficient and more inclusive. It has proven itself by increasing voter engagement and turnout. It has worked well in St. Paul so far, and given what needed to happen to get it passed, clearly is the will of the people. Please vote against this repeal effort!

Thank you,
Lori Brostrom
7xx Summit Avenue Apt. 1

From: Matthew Cooper <matthew.frank.cooper@gmail.com>
Subject: Please keep Ranked-Choice Voting in Saint Paul
Date: March 2, 2017 at 9:28:20 PM CST
To: Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Cc: info@fairvotemn.org

Greetings, Members of the Saint Paul City Council:

My name is Matthew Cooper; I'm a data analyst and resident of Highland neighbourhood.

I heard the Saint Paul Charter Commission recently heard a proposal to repeal the ranked-choice voting system adopted by the city government in 2009, and then wisely delayed action on this proposal. Thank you for taking the time to consider carefully; I believe this proposal to be ill-considered and ultimately condescending to the people of Saint Paul.

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I hope and trust that the Charter Commission will choose wisely, and keep the ranked-choice voting system in use in the city of Saint Paul.

With kind regards,
Matthew Cooper

From: Jeremy Lostetter <jeremylostetter@gmail.com>
Subject: Fwd: Vote No on RCV Repeal Ballot Measure
Date: March 7, 2017 at 8:10:31 AM CST
To: info@fairvotemn.org

Please see the email I sent Debbi Montgomery below -

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Jeremy Lostetter" <jeremylostetter@gmail.com>
Date: Feb 26, 2017 10:57 AM
Subject: Vote No on RCV Repeal Ballot Measure
To: <deborah.montgomery@minneapolis.edu>
Cc:

Dear Debbi Montgomery,

Hi, I'm a Saint Paul resident and voter. It is my understanding the Saint Paul Charter Commission's Charter Review Committee is voting Monday on a ballot measure that would ask voters whether they want to repeal ranked choice voting (RCV) in Saint Paul. While I am not sure whether you serve on this particular committee, I ask that you please VOTE NO on this measure whether it comes to you in committee or as a member of the full Charter Commission.

RCV was approved by a majority of voters in 2009, and since then, RCV has worked well in Saint Paul. RCV is important for our elections because it ensures the winning candidate is supported by a majority, rather than a plurality, of voters. It also reduces negative campaigning as candidates are incentivized to go after 2nd and 3rd choice votes. In short, RCV is a step forward, and a repeal would be a step backward.

Please respond to let me know how you plan to vote on this measure.

Thank you,
Jeremy Lostetter