

RANKED CHOICE VOTING BY THE NUMBERS: 2013 Key Minneapolis Election Findings

- Turnout in Minneapolis was over 80,000 – **the highest for a municipal election in 12 years.**
- Voters demonstrated a deep and thorough understanding of Ranked Choice Voting: 88% ranked a second choice, and **a full 78% ranked all three of their available choices in the mayoral race.** Mayor-elect Betsy Hodges, who won by building a broad coalition of first, second and third choice support, was present on 63% percent of all ballots.
- High rates of ranking consistently occurred across the competitive, multi-candidate City Council and Park Board races as well, including in the lower-income and highly diverse Wards 5 and 9.

	<u>Ranked 2 candidates</u>	<u>Ranked 3 candidates</u>
Park Board At-Large	76%	61%
Ward 5 City Council	75%	63%
Ward 9 City Council	81%	61%
Ward 13 City Council	83%	63%

- Minneapolis leadership is more diverse than ever:
 - A gender-balanced city council and the second female mayor in Minneapolis history.
 - The first Somali-American, Latina, and Hmong city council candidates elected in Minneapolis history, resulting in the city's most diversely represented city council.
- Just half of one percent (0.5%) of all ballots cast in the mayoral race had errors, such as an over-vote or skipped ranking. Ninety percent of these were correctable errors, resulting in a 99.94% valid ballot rate.
- In the city's most ethnically diverse ward, Ward 5, voters proved that they understood and appreciated RCV:
 - Turnout in the council race was 3,622 (24%) – the highest since 2005 when Don Samuels and Natalie Lee first ran against each other.
 - 75% of voters ranked two choices, and 63% ranked all three available choices in the council race. In the mayoral race, 84% ranked two candidates and 76% ranked three candidates.
 - The winner of the city council race, Blong Yang, was elected with 52% of voter support, a higher share than in both the mayoral race and the competitive council races.
 - Less than 1% of ballots had errors, and there were *zero* defective ballots in the council race.

- **A whopping 85% of polled voters found RCV very or somewhat simple to use, according to an exit poll conducted by Edison Research.**
 - While younger voters aged 18-34 (91%) found RCV simplest to use, 81% of voters aged 65 and older found it simple as well.
 - Income and education did not significantly impact ease of RCV use:
 - **88% of voters *with* a college education and 81% of voters *without* found RCV to be simple.**
 - 87% of voters with an income above \$100,000 and 83% of voters with an income under \$100,000 found RCV to be easy.
 - **82% of voters of color found RCV to be simple**, finally putting to rest the concern that communities of color would find RCV difficult.
- More than two-thirds – 67% to 80% – of polled **voters across all age, income, education and ethnic groups said they were familiar with RCV before going to the polls**, demonstrating the importance and success of the outreach and education efforts undertaken by FairVote MN, the City of Minneapolis, and others to prepare voters for Election Day.
- Last, but not least, voters *like* it: **More than two-thirds (68%) of all voters want to continue to use RCV in future municipal elections and 61 percent would like to see it used for state elections.**
 - High levels of support for RCV in Minneapolis exists among older, nonwhite, lower income and less educated voters, who critics thought wouldn't understand or like RCV: 62% of those aged 65 and older, 59% of people of color, 63% of those without a college degree and 68% of those earning under \$50,000 all want to see RCV continue in future city elections.

Sources:

- Election Results provided by the City of Minneapolis Elections Department at <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov>.
- Exit Poll conducted by Edison Research. The poll was conducted in-person at 18 randomly selected voting precincts among 2,453 Minneapolis voters, using a weighted design to ensure an accurate representation of all voters. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for the full Minneapolis sample of 2,453 voters is ± 2.9 .