

From: anne connolly [mailto:anneconnollyf@yahoo.com]

Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 2:27 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: (repeal) Rank Choice Voting

Members:

Simply said, the public voted FOR Rank Choice Voting.

RCV has proven popular among voters.

Many voters were confused why RCV was NOT available in the last Presidential Election - which had a large turnout of voters!

Do not let the voices of the well-connected individuals who want to repeal RCV undo what the majority of citizens selected, Rank Choice Voting.

Thank you,

Anne Connolly

2173 Marshall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55104

651-646-4513

From: Kristina Mattson [mailto:kristinagac@hotmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 1:14 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: Do NOT REPEAL Ranked Choice Voting

To Charter Commission Member Check Repke,

Please do not repeal Ranked Choice voting. It is out of your scope of practice and role to work to repeal this law.

If your commission wishes to have this on the ballot, please go out and door knock to obtain the over 7K signatures Fair Vote obtained to get it on the Ballot and passed in 2009.

What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

I am encouraging my friends and colleagues to email you to NOT repeal RCV.

What your group is proposing to do is the antithesis of democracy.

Sincerely,

Kristina Mattson

[Kristinagac@hotmail.com](mailto:kristinagac@hotmail.com)

651-249-8587

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Waking up this morning, I smile.

Twenty-four brand new hours are before me.

I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with eyes of compassion.

Thich Nhat Hanh

From: Steve Cohen [mailto:steve.cohen@comcast.net]

Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 8:27 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: Please leave RCV in place

I am a St. Paul resident (Ward 4). I write to register my voice in support of RCV, and ask you to leave it alone. It has yet to be fully tested in St. Paul, so there is no good reason to redebate the issue at this time.

Thank you,
Steve Cohen

Sent from my iPhone. Please excuse the brevity.

From: Jessi Larrison [mailto:jlloctopus13@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 9:07 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: RCV

To Charter Commission Member Chuck Repke,

Please do not repeal Ranked Choice voting. It is out of your scope of practice and role to work to repeal this law.

If your commission wishes to have this on the ballot, please go out and door knock to obtain the over 7K signatures Fair Vote obtained to get it on the Ballot and passed in 2009.
What is good for the goose is good for the gander.

I am encouraging my friends and colleagues to email you to NOT repeal RCV.

What your group is proposing to do is the antithesis of democracy.

Sincerely,
Jessica Campana

From: Don Arnosti [mailto:donarnosti@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 1:05 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Charter Commission Members,

We are about to embark on an election for Mayor using Ranked Choice Voting. As a person who always votes and participates in the process of endorsement and campaigning, I voted FOR Ranked Choice Voting because I think it opens up the selection process of elected officials to more candidates and involves more people in the final selection, versus party-insider endorsement.

Please do not do anything to change our system at this time. Leave Ranked Choice Voting alone.

Don Arnosti
1722 Princeton Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55105

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Join me April 19th at Water Action Day = Rally and legislative visits

Register for this free event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/minnesota-water-action-day-registration-31483505011>

From: Edwin Strout [mailto:edwinstrout@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 1:08 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Do NOT Repeal Ranked Choice Voting!

Ranked Choice Voting is working in St. Paul. This is the first year RCV will be used citywide in an open mayoral race. We need to give it a chance and evaluate it after the election is over, not while it's happening!

The Charter Commission didn't put RCV on the ballot in 2009 and it shouldn't have the power to put a question on the ballot to take it away. If opponents want to repeal and replace RCV, tell them they will need to go out and collect the 7,011 signatures needed to demonstrate voters want to reconsider it — the same way RCV was put on the ballot in 2009.

Edwin Strout
A Home-Owner In St. Paul

Upcoming Productions:

Goodbye, Cruel World - March 11-26 - Theatre Pro Rata - theatreprorata.org

The Ghost Train - March 31 - April 16 - Wayward & Mission Theatre Companies - waywardtheatre.org/missiontheatrecompany.com

Turn of the Screw - May 4-13 - Hero Now Theatre - heronowtheatre.org

Edwin's Amazon Storefront: <http://www.amazon.com/shops/edwinstrout2>

From: Margie Anderson [mailto:margieonly@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 3:02 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Commissioners,

I am asking you not to add to this fall's ballot a proposal to repeal ranked choice voting.

I want you to know I am a Democrat who always attends my precinct caucus, and often conventions.

In St. Paul the endorsed candidate is almost always elected. That means the endorsed candidate is chosen by a very small percentage of the population and elected. I live in SD 67. We have the smallest voter turnout in the state. I believe one of the many reasons for this is that most candidates have no opposition and people feel no need to vote. I also believe ranked choice will go a long way to correct this situation.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Margaret Anderson

2171 Powers Ave.
St. Paul 55119

From: robert.zalaznik@gmail.com [mailto:robert.zalaznik@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 4:54 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Please give RCV more time before proposing its repeal

Good day-

I'd like to see Ranked Choice Voting be used in St Paul for several elections before proposing its repeal. I believe it'll be good for democracy, and like most changes it'll take some time and experience before we can really evaluate if it's a good match for our city.

I don't want to see the Charter Commission put it on the fall ballot. RCV has earned its right and our vote already. Let it be used for several elections before putting it up for a repeal vote.

Respectfully,

Robert Zalaznik
2121 Doswell Ave
St Paul, 55108

From: Sally Donovan [mailto:sallydonovan1@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 5:02 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Ranked Choice Voting is working in St. Paul!

Dear St. Paul Charter Commission,

Ranked Choice Voting is working in St. Paul. This is the first year RCV will be used citywide in an open mayoral race. We need to give it a change and evaluate it after the election is over, not while it is happening!

The Charter Commission didn't put RCH on the ballot in 2009 and it shouldn't have the power to put a question on the ballot to take it away. If opponents want to repeal and replace RCV, tell them they will need to go out and collect 7,011 signatures needed to demonstrate voters want to reconsider it-- the same way RCV was put on the ballot in 2009.

Thank you,
Sally Donovan

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Carleton College, 2016
B.A., Geology
[612-709-2367](tel:612-709-2367) | sallydonovan1@gmail.com

From: Ayron Edwards [mailto:silvermane987@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 7:52 PM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Please vote NO on Commission member Chuck Repke's repeal and replace

Please vote NO on Commission member Chuck Repke's repeal and replace proposal.

- Ranked Choice Voting is working in St. Paul. This is the first year RCV will be used citywide in an open mayoral race. We need to give it a chance and evaluate it after the election is over, not while it's happening!
- The Charter Commission didn't put RCV on the ballot in 2009 and it shouldn't have the power to put a question on the ballot to take it away. If opponents want to repeal and replace RCV, tell them they will need to go out and collect the 7,011 signatures needed to demonstrate voters want to reconsider it — the same way RCV was put on the ballot in 2009.

Thank you

Ayron Edwards

1199 Charles Ave

Saint Paul, MN 55104

From: Jim McCorkell [mailto:jim@collegepossible.org]

Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 8:14 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: Please keep RCV

I'm writing to encourage you to keep ranked choice voting. Thank you.

Jim McCorkell | CEO

College Possible™ National

Phone: [651.288.9455](tel:651.288.9455)

[Donate](#) to help make College Possible!

Sign on for the year of service that lasts a lifetime. [Apply to serve](#) with College Possible!

Begin forwarded message:

From: <jim@collegepossible.org>

Date: March 26, 2017 at 8:00:43 PM CDT

To: <chartercommssion@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

Subject: Please keep RCV

I'm writing to encourage you to keep ranked choice voting. Thank you.

Jim McCorkell | CEO

College Possible™ National

Phone: [651.288.9455](tel:651.288.9455)

[Donate](#) to help make College Possible!

Sign on for the year of service that lasts a lifetime. [Apply to serve](#) with College Possible!

From: EJ Coolidge [mailto:ecoolidg@macalester.edu]

Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 8:43 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: Keep Ranked Choice Voting

Dear Charter Commission,

I am writing to urge you to give Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) a chance. Ranked Choice Voting is working in St. Paul. This is the first year RCV will be used citywide in an open mayoral race. We need to give it a chance and evaluate it after the election is over, not while it's happening!

The Charter Commission didn't put RCV on the ballot in 2009 and therefore it should not have the power to put a question on the ballot to take it away. If opponents want to repeal and replace RCV, tell them they will need to go out and collect the 7,011 signatures needed to demonstrate voters want to reconsider it — the same way RCV was put on the ballot in 2009.

I urge you to vote "No" on the RCV repeal and replace proposal.

Thank you,

EJ Coolidge
St. Paul Resident

From: David Weiss [mailto:drw59mn@gmail.com]

Sent: Sunday, March 26, 2017 11:02 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: Ranked Choice Voting

I am writing to oppose the proposed ballot measure to repeal Ranked Choice Voting.

Any genuine evaluation of its usefulness to St. Paul should begin AFTER the mayoral election, NOT on the same ballot.

And if it's going to be placed on the ballot in the future, those wishing to do so should be required to meet the same threshold of signatures as those who put it on the ballot in 2009. **That's just fair play.**

I believe ranked choice voting — especially with the 500 signature plus \$500 filing fee to avoid frivolous candidates — works very well. It increases choice — exactly as intended — and helps democracy thrive by bringing more legitimate voices into real consideration ... and forcing “establishment” voices to directly debate issues raised by lesser known but equally qualified and committed candidates.

Please vote NO on any measure to put repeal and replace of ranked choice voting on the ballot this year.

Thank you,
David Weiss
Saint Paul 55104
drw59mn@gmail.com

From: Meredith Rodriguez (Wardlaw) [mailto:mereward07@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:40 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: St. Paul voter concerned about Charter Commission repeal measure

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to oppose the proposed ballot measure to repeal Ranked Choice Voting.

Any genuine evaluation of its usefulness to St. Paul should begin AFTER the mayoral election, NOT on the same ballot.

And if it's going to be placed on the ballot in the future, those wishing to dose should be required to meet the same threshold of signatures as those who put it on the ballot in 2009. Please vote NO on any measure to put repeal and replace of ranked choice voting on the ballot this year.

Thank you,
Meredith

From: Angela Stehr [mailto:stehr002@umn.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:53 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting this evening

Dear Charter Commission Members:

I am writing in support of Ranked Choice Voting. I worked to get this onto the ballot and to get it passed initially. I am happy with Ranked Choice Voting because IT IS WORKING! This will be the first time it will be used city wide in an open race and we need to give it a chance and see how it works city wide. We should not take a step to repeal it before it has even been given a chance to perform on this scale!

Secondly, the voters put this onto the ballot and passed it. The Commission should not go against the will of the voters. If RCV is to be repealed, the repeal should go through the same process and demonstrate the same level of support that RCV did. If opponents believe RCV is such a bad idea, they should educate the voters on that, and persuade them through the same process that supports did in 2009.

I intend to be at the meeting this evening in support of RCV.

Angie Stehr
1656 Burns Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106
stehr002@umn.edu

From: Alan Muller [mailto:amuller@dca.net]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:44 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: leave RCV alone

Dear Charter Commission members:

The "experiment" of RCV is being closely watched. Many of us are hoping it will contribute to more open and "democratic" elections. Please don't mess with RCV.

Respectfully,

Alan Muller
alanmuller.com

Alan Muller
Energy & Environmental Consulting
302.299.6783
alan@greendel.org

From: Ben Zamora-Weiss [mailto:benweiss87@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:43 AM
To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission
Subject: KEEP Ranked Choice Voting

I am writing to oppose the proposed ballot measure to repeal Ranked Choice Voting.

Any genuine and *major* evaluation of its usefulness to St. Paul should begin AFTER the mayoral election, *not* on the same ballot.

And if it's going to be placed on the ballot in the future, those wishing to do so should be required to meet the same threshold of signatures as those who put it on the ballot in 2009. **That's just fair play.**

I believe ranked choice voting — especially with the 500 signature plus \$500 filing fee to avoid frivolous candidates — works well. It increases choice — exactly as intended — and helps democracy thrive by bringing more legitimate voices into real consideration...and forcing “establishment” voices to directly debate issues raised by lesser known but equally qualified and committed candidates.

Please vote NO on any measure to put repeal and replace of ranked choice voting on the ballot this year.

Thank you,
Ben Zamora-Weiss
Saint Paul 55104
benweiss87@gmail.com

Dear Charter Commission;

I've been a member of the Saint Paul Planning Commission for five years and in my time there, I've been reminded many times of how important it is to make transparency and democracy key values of our city government. A lot depends on engaging with and listening to our citizens.

I am urging you to keep Ranked Choice Voting a settled fact in Saint Paul. As a Ward 2 resident, I felt RCV worked well in the recent City Council election. I believe that RCV reflects the will of the people and continues a trajectory aimed at making city government more inclusive, participatory, and meaningful for as many people as possible in our diverse city.

Here are some reasons why I support RCV:

- a) I support RCV because I believe the system allows for better democratic outcomes, more inclusive for multiple candidates
- b) I greatly dislike the legacy “lesser of two evils” elections in our country
- c) I believe RCV is simple and easy to use. People rank things all the time, and thinking that Saint Paulites can't understand simple rankings is condescending
- d) I believe RCV will allow for more people to run for office, and increase the diversity of our local elections
- e) We had a referendum in 2009 and the matter should be settled by the people

The existence of democracy is not a simple matter-of-fact, but a process that can be designed to work in many different ways. I'm proud of how Saint Paul is experimenting with ways to better engage with its people. RCV is only one of many transparency initiatives that could increase participation in our local elections. Especially in an era of anti-urban Federal and State politics, we desperately need more people to get involved locally and believe in their local governance structures.

Finally, with so many excellent candidates on the Mayoral ballot this year, I want to be able to rank my choices. We owe it to the citizens of Saint Paul – and especially to honor the results of the 2009 referendum – to keep the RCV system in place for another four years. A back-room decision by a body that few Saint Paulites have even heard would be a disaster for trust in local government.

Sincerely,

William Lindeke, PhD

Transportation Committee Chair, Saint Paul Planning Commission

From: RJFKramer@aol.com [mailto:RJFKramer@aol.com]

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:18 AM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: Fwd: Information from St Paul Votes Smarter for the St Paul Charter Commission

From: info@stpaulvotesmarter.com

To: rjfkramer@aol.com

Sent: 3/27/2017 10:13:58 A.M. Central Daylight Time

Subj: Information from St Paul Votes Smarter for the St Paul Charter Commission

Dear Commissioner Kramer,

Please read the following, and communicate the information with your colleagues on the St Paul Charter Commission. I know you are not accepting public testimony at this time, and I agree this is appropriate for a committee, but I feel strongly, this matter should be advanced to the full commission for their discussion and public testimony. I see Ellen Brown of the Better Ballots Campaign has forwarded you her thoughts and I would like to do the same. I am including a statistical analysis from a member of the Duluth Charter Commission, who is familiar with the issue and took time to render information I believe is worth consideration. Additionally, I have include a 10-point rational for why the matter warrants inclusion on the November 2017 ballot.

I am readily available to answer any questions you may have and will be present at tonight's proceedings. I feel it is incumbent upon you as a member of the St Paul Charter Commission, to make a decision in the best interests of the St Paul Charter and the citizen's of the city of St Paul. The election results in 2009, the ruling and the resulting fine against the Better Ballots campaign, of which current City Councilor **Jane Prince** was an attorney for the Respondents, and the opportunity this election presents, are all reasons for this issue once again come before the voters. If this item makes the ballot, only now, can voters make a more informed decision.

Sincerely,

Shawn Towle

Executive Director; St Paul Votes Smarter

763-703-0077

From: Mitra Nelson [mailto:mitrajalali@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:26 PM

To: *CI-StPaul_CharterCommission

Subject: public comment regarding RCV

Hello,

I am a Saint Paul resident who was thrilled to have RCV finally come to our city, and I strongly oppose its repeal. RCV helps expand the electorate and promote civic engagement and democracy through allowing people to vote their true preferences. It hasn't even been given a chance yet to succeed in the 2017 electoral races - any discussion of its repeal is premature at best, particularly when you consider the success of RCV in the neighboring city of Minneapolis. We should be supporting any and all forms of democratic innovation in this day and age - not taking steps backward. I request that the commission listen to the full spectrum of community input regarding this issue, and discourage its repeal.

Best,
Mitra

Mitra Jalali Nelson
55114