

Subj: **Fwd: support for IRV from a Ward 2 election judge**
Date: 3/27/2017 12:57:48 P.M. Central Daylight Time
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Subj: support for IRV from a Ward 2 election judge

Mr Kirr, I've heard of your specific interest in helping support Instant Runoff Voting. Me too! So I want to share my experience in precinct 2-12 as an election judge in two elections during which IRV was used.

In both elections I served as a roster judge (we are the people with the big books who get already-registered voters signed in). The two elections were the last mayoral election and the last council election, which in Ward 2 had six candidates and was hard-fought. The mayoral election had the incumbent facing weak opposition from a handful of candidates who were not well known.

Ward 2-12 is the incumbent's own ward and photographers hung around waiting for a shot of the Coleman family coming to vote. But even with that excitement, turnout was weak. I worked only a half-day and when I left at 2 p.m. only about 199 voters had shown up to vote. Of the 199, two voters made mistakes, and each of them made one of the few very predictable errors: one ranked all the candidates in one column, and the other ranked her first choice as first choice in every column. The scanner worked as it was designed to and both erroneous ballots were rejected.

The nearest ballot judge--the folks who actually hand the voter the empty ballot--checked the rejected ballots, explained the errors to the individual voters, and handed them new ballots. On their second try their ballots were accepted. Both of them told us that they understood their errors and how to do it correctly in the future. I saved the memory because of the neatness of the 1% error rate and because I was so impressed with how the system really worked.

From that experience as well as the smooth running of the 2015 Ward 2 election, and from working at the Fair Vote Minnesota table at the state fair for the last two years, I've come to understand that "ranking your vote" is truly a simple concept. Kids get it; older folks get it with a little demonstration; and people whose English is a little shaky get it. Someone, somewhere, doesn't get it--that's always true with any system you design for any purpose. Since it's clear to me that a very high percentage of people who make one error quickly learn not to make it again, or another, I believe that long-term experience with IRV will show that it lives up to its supporters' billing.

I state my LWV history below to indicate my passion for fair voting and do not speak for the League in this email.

Diggitt McLaughlin (pronounced DIG-it)

Election judge in St Paul since 2011

Election judge in Westchester County, NY, 1995-2009

League of Women Voters, St Paul, Secretary since 2016

TriState LWV (NY-NJ-CT) President, 1993-94

Westchester County, NY, LWV, Director, 1991-93, 1995-98;

First Vice President, 1993-94

Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, LWV, President, 1989-1993;

Secretary, 1988-89

Westchester County, NY, Fair Campaign Practices Committee,

Joint founder and administrator, four years in the early 90s

Have been voting since legally permitted in elections in

Mahoning County, OH; San Francisco; New York City;

Boston, MA; Westchester County, NY; and St Paul