



# City of Saint Paul

City Hall and Court House  
15 West Kellogg Boulevard  
Room 220 City Hall

Rachel Tierney  
Deputy City Attorney

## Meeting Agenda

### Charter Commission

*Chair Richard Kramer*  
*Vice-Chair Deborah Montgomery*  
*Commissioner Brian Alton*  
*Commissioner Kathy Donnelly-Cohen*  
*Commissioner Bridget Faricy*  
*Commissioner Amy Filice*  
*Commissioner George E. Johnson*  
*Commissioner John Paul Kirr*  
*Commissioner Joyce Maddox*  
*Commissioner David Maeda*  
*Commissioner Gladys P. Morton*  
*Commissioner Charles Repke*  
*Commissioner Virginia Rybin*  
*Commissioner Rick Varco*  
*Commissioner Carrie J. Wasley*

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Monday, March 27, 2017

4:30 PM

Room 40 A&B, City Hall

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**This is a meeting of the Charter Review Committee. A full quorum of the Charter Commission may or may not be present.**

#### ROLL CALL

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- 1      [CCI 17-5](#)      Approving the minutes of the February 27, 2017 Charter Review Committee meeting.

**Attachments:** [Minutes 2.27.2017 charter review committee](#)

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 2      [CCI 17-6](#)      Proposed Amendment to Chapter 7 of the Charter.

**Attachments:** [CCI 17-3 Complete File \(Feb. 27 Committee Meeting\)](#)

[RCV Email correspondence received](#)

[RCV by the numbers Mpls 2013](#)

[Mpls 2013 mayoral race ranking by precinct](#)

[MN DFL FAIRVOTE LETTER](#)

[ETB letter to CC 032217](#)

[RCV Correspondence received 2](#)

[Charter Commission e-mails](#)

[Jack Kirr Report - Final](#)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**For More Information**

**CharterCommission@ci.stpaul.mn.us or 651-266-8560.**



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## Legislation Details (With Text)

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**File #:** CCI 17-5      **Version:** 1      **Name:**  
**Type:** Charter Commission Items      **Status:** Agenda Ready  
**In control:** Charter Commission  
**Final action:**  
**Title:** Approving the minutes of the February 27, 2017 Charter Review Committee meeting.  
**Sponsors:**  
**Indexes:**  
**Code sections:**  
**Attachments:** [Minutes 2.27.2017 charter review committee](#)

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Approving the minutes of the February 27, 2017 Charter Review Committee meeting.

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## Minutes - Final

### Charter Commission

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Monday, February 27, 2017

4:30 PM

Room 220, City Hall

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**This is a meeting of the Charter Review Committee. A full quorum of the Charter Commission may or may not be present.**

#### Call to Order

*Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM*

*Members Present:*

*Chair Brian Alton*  
*Commissioner Kathy Donnelly-Cohen*  
*Commissioner Amy Filice*  
*Commissioner George E Johnson*  
*Commissioner John Paul Kirr*  
*Commissioner Charles Repke*  
*Commissioner Virginia Rybin*  
*Commissioner Rick Varco*

1 [CCI 17-1](#)

Selection of Charter Review Committee chair.

*Commissioner Donnelley-Cohen motioned to make Brian Alton chair, second by Commissioner Johnson, elected by unanimous vote.*

2      [CCI 17-2](#)      Review of the committee role.

*Chair Alton explained that the Charter Commission has two standing committees, the Charter Review Committee and the Communication Committee. The role of the committee is to consider any business that has come before the committee today. At the last meeting we heard comments about potential changes to the charter that might be of interest so therefore we called this meeting, which was properly noticed. Members here today were appointed by the chair of the committee to proceed with a committee meeting. This is a public meeting, not a public forum and will not be taking any testimony from the public.*

*In the event the public has any interest in communicating, No action will be taken today will be a final action of the Charter Commission, but will be the committee's recommendation and referred to the Charter Commission for a meeting at a further date.*

**3**      [CCI 17-3](#)

Charter amendments raised at the December 27, 2016 Charter Commission meeting.

*Open for discussion of potential Charter Amendments raised at the last Charter Commission meeting*

*Commissioner Kirr stated that he is a new member, this is his second meeting related to the Charter Commission, and he is eager to serve St. Paul.*

*Commissioner Kirr read a resolution that he authored, (attached to this item of the minutes), which motioned to amend agenda to delete discussion of charter amendments.*

*Chair Alton asked for seconds to that motion  
Repke seconds for purpose of discussion*

*Commissioner Repke noted that he has heard from Commissioner Kirr and internet concerns about the process. Would like to explain the process. Has not problem not taking formal action today, but thinks it would be a waste of time to not discuss issues today*

*Committees are working groups, there is nothing that comes out of this committee meeting that couldn't be proposed at the next charter commission without having committee work done in advance. At the Charter commission meeting, ask to put something to be put out for public hearing.*

*This is the time where we mock up, play with language, and decide if we will bring it to the Charter Commission. This is a place for discussion*

*Commissioner Kirr does not object to discussion charter amendments, but is concerned about discussing things that were not assigned to this committee, and things that seem to get into the record that didn't seem to be on the record. He does not know how the letter from the councilmembers, Repke response to the letter and Mr. Butler's proposed amendments did not seem like they were on the record from that meeting to this meeting. If these items should not be discussed, and that is why he asked them to be removed from the agenda.*

*Commissioner Alton stated that the prerequisites are not prerequisites for us having a consideration of any issues regarding the St. Paul charter at this meeting today. If you wanted to discuss amending some other section of the charter, we would welcome that opportunity to have that discussion.*

*The fact that a letter may not have been entered on the record doesn't invalidate the ability of the committee to discuss. We are a working group/committee to discuss issues that might be up for consideration.*

*Commissioner Kirr was uncertain about why there is an attachment of the 12/27/2016 meeting minutes to today's agenda.*

*Commissioner Alton stated it was a clerical effort to include as much information as possible. The minutes are not approved or official.*

*Commissioner Kirr moves to the question:*

*All those in favor of Commissioner Kirr's motion signify by saying aye.*

*Commissioners Repke, Johnson, Kohen voted nay.*

*Motion failed.*

Chair Alton stated that at the December Charter Commission meeting a few things were discussed as potential amendments to the charter:  
Amend filing fees and dates for filing, contained in chapter 8. He asked if any committee members want to discuss.

Chair Alton thinks that the county election office believes that changed in fees or signature requirements are not necessary at this point. Minneapolis recently changed their charter so their fees match St. Paul, and they were recently changed this, does not think there is a strong interest.

Commissioner Varco asked what changes were proposed.

Chair Alton responded that decreasing the fees and decreasing the number to get a candidate on the ballot was proposed. Appears there is interest to discuss at this time, we can always discuss at a later date.

Next item is a potential amendment to our charter regarding ranked choice voting.

Commissioner Repke passed out language of charter before ranked choice voting was passed in 2009. He was fine with not taking any formal action today, due to the concerns Commissioner Kirr had about notification. There will be at least 2 public hearings about ranked choice voting if it is decided to propose something. Charter commission will hold public hearing on these issues.

Old language Section 705 – primary election was held on the First Tuesday after the Second Monday in September. His understanding is that the state has changed those to August. If we were going to look for this type of change of doing a primary, we would need feedback about what the best date would be to do it on. He thinks it would be the first Tuesday after the second Monday in August, when the State holds its primaries. He would be interesting in hearing peoples' discussions about the best time to do a primary election.

Would like commissioners to look over the language to see if there are any other places where we should raise those concerns to make those changes.

Commissioner Repke shared his rationale for concern, including the changes and when it occurred, rational for why he believes the committee should explore it.

Commissioner Repke handed out a document to all members of the committee and read hand out (attached). The attached document includes an order from administrative law judge and highlighted relevant comments on the order.

Chair Alton asked for clarification of the relevance of the order

Commissioner Repke stated that it explains what happened in the 2009 election, how it passed. It was deemed to have been a violation of MN State Statute 211B.02

Commissioner Repke's document includes the reallocation summary of the three races; the Ward 2, 2011 and the Ward 2 turn-out. 2007-2011 are the only two where the races are identical. In 2013, redistricting occurred. The document also includes the 2013 reallocation summary statement for the Ward 1 race, and the Ward 2 2015 reallocation. These are the summary of arguments on why he thinks it's appropriate for the charter commission to look at the issue and why he would like it in front of the Charter Review Committee and a recommendation to Charter Commission at the next meeting.

Commissioner Kirr applauds Commissioner Repke's detail and research, he is wondering what is the ultimate goal of proposing changing back to the old way.

Commissioner Repke stated that he has viewed RCV as a poll test. If you have to explain on election how it works to voters, it is unfair. Some are better informed than others, and they will be more likely to be able to rank their ballot. If explained on Election Day, thousands of people haven't had time to think about how to rank their ballots. Those who know what is going on have an advantage. The reason he provided these numbers is because you will hear that people ranked their ballots, but he and Mr. Varco have observed the counting of ranked choice ballots and have seen that numerous people put the same candidate 7 times, and do not rank their votes. Because it slides into the ballot and works, it counts. He encouraged committee members to go to Ramsey County and look at results. If you look at records, Dan Bostrom was highest for 1st and 2nd vote. Thousands of people don't understand and don't realize that they don't understand.

Chair Alton invited people in the hallway to come in and stand in the room.

Commissioner Kirr would love to look through data, wonders if the issue for Commissioner Repke is that it is an education issue, because the system is so complicated that we need to explain it to people, or something else? Commissioner Repke believes that the problem in the United States has low voter turnout is long, complicated ballots. Most systems ask people allow people to fill out one dot and it pre-ranks their ballot based on the political party they are choosing. We don't have they type of system. We ask people to vote six times to rank councilmembers. This is not the norm. We keep seeing voter turnout get lower. For example if you look at the results from Ward 1, 25% of the people didn't get to choose between Dai Thao and Noel Nix. Something is wrong if 25% of people who show up to vote didn't cast their vote but believe that they did.

Commissioner Varco asked if the run-off voting only applies to Mayor and City Council elections. It is his understanding that there is a primary for school board, except it keeps getting waived because there aren't enough candidates. He wondered what would be the circumstances where we might be forced to have a school board primary.

Commissioner Repke responded that the school district has its own elections. We don't control what the school board does; they have been deciding not to have a primary.

Commissioner Varco's second question in regards to the draft that was handed out: page 11, Sec. 706 which says if the law that prescribes that the election of mayor and councilmember be by party designation; Is that state law or local ordinance? Could the City of St. Paul choose to have a party primary for mayor and city council?

Commissioner Alton and Repke said it is up to the commission

Commissioner Varco If Minneapolis still has primaries. They don't do multiple school board candidates; it's all single-seat running?

Commissioner Repke believes that is true.

Commissioner Filice doesn't understand why we need to do this quickly. She applauds idea of analyzing voter data. She would like to see the voter data on the three previous elections without ranked choice voting. She would like more time to hear from community of why it works or doesn't work. She commented that it would be very confusing at the polls to vote on mayor and at the same time voting on an amendment on why you did or didn't like it. Could this sort of analysis be postponed to another year that isn't an election year, and the commission could spend more



*time figuring out what direction they want to go?*

*Commissioner Repke stated that the reason to do it this year is because we do have a mayor's race so people would use see the ranked choice ballot, use the ranked choice ballot, then would decide if they like it or not. If they like it they would say they don't want to change to a primary. Every time we do this, and since we have have gotten a letter from the majority of city council saying they have no intention of passing the charter amendment. What the Charter Commission would do, is pass a charter amendment, let's say we pass to do a primary. Then the city council decides to accept that it would go to a primary or reject it, and that forces it to a ballot. We have already heard from five councilmembers that they won't approve it. That means that it will be forced to a ballot. In my mind, this makes it easier to decide since people would actually know what they would be doing. The problem with an even number year, few people would know what ranked choice voting is. If done on a year of an even number year, is people wouldn't know what ranked choice voting. It is unfair to do it during a year with council races, some wards would have higher voter turnout, depending on whether or not there is a contested race. The only fair time to do put it in front of voters would be when the mayors up, there is no confusion, I vote for the mayor, rank the ballot, then ask the voters, did they understand, would I prefer to have two people, or 9 or 10 candidates and then rank them?*

*Commissioner Filice stated that she does not agree, doesn't think there is enough analysis or time to do enough analysis. She thinks it's important to see what happens in a contested mayor race with this form of voting before we decide. It feels rushed. It is an important thing to be on the ballot, but it needs more analysis. She respectfully disagrees.*

*Commissioner Alton pointed out other comments received pointed out that this will cost money to change. The original change to ranked choice voting was a result of a petition of several thousand people, and now we are being asked to disregard that, change our charter on the vote of the majority of the commissioners. Thinks this is not fair. He agrees with Commissioner Filice that a mayoral race without an incumbent running is a great opportunity to see how it works without jumping to risking changing it.*

*Commissioner Varco asked if this party has the power to put on an even year ballot?*

*Commissioner Alton said Yes*

*Commissioner Repke said that the reason it wasn't brought up since 2010 because it was unfair with an incumbent mayor. Now that they can see what they voted in, use the system and decide that they love the system and decide they can support the system and voters would have the opportunity to use it. If it is not done this year, then the next time it is fair would be the next time you don't have an incumbent mayor in the election, which could be in another 8 years. Which means you have city council races where 25% of the people don't vote for the city council candidate, their votes thrown in the garbage can.*

*Commissioner Kirr asked isn't it fairest for advocates against ranked choice to collect signatures, then have appeal the amendment to the charter commission and then have the city vote on it?*

*Commission Repke replied that we are the keeper of the charter, not just a random group of citizens. We are on this body because we believe in the charter of St. Paul and want it to be fair and equitable. He can't think of anything less fair than a voting system that we need to be educated on to be able to participate. And those that*

*propagated it know that people aren't educated in it and know that some people will do better than others.*

*Chair Alton asked for any other comments.*

*Commissioner Rybin thinks billboards in the audience are rude, but if Commissioner Repke didn't then she doesn't object.*

*Commissioner Repke stated that thinks they are being respectful.*

*Chair Alton asked if there is any further discussion or data the committee they would like gathered. No official action will be taken today, is there anything else that needs to be done to prepare for another meeting?*

*Commissioner Kirr stated that he is a data scientist by background and training. He would like to see lots of data, because he is unable to disentangle what the effects are and what the causes are and he doesn't know if the cause of low turnout that we get bad results in ranked choice, or is it some other combination. He is not sure if the data he is looking at here is enough to tell him if there is a relationship as Commissioner Repke is proposing. He thinks three elections is a small sample size to evaluate what the data is telling us. He would like to see raw data and analyze it himself; he recommends getting raw data and have it analyzed by a data scientist to see the cause & effect.*

*Chair Alton stated that we don't have the resources to hire a data scientist, so they are glad to have Commissioner Kirr's expertise. Asked what the source of the data would be. Noted that Ramsey county election office has records; asked if one month be enough time to work on data.*

*Commissioner Kirr stated that he was not sure how much time, since he doesn't know the details of the data; a lot of questions come to mind. If he could talk to someone in Ramsey County, he could come back to the committee and say whether or not it is doable.*

*Chair Alton said they will introduce him to Mr. Mansky before he leaves the meeting today.*

*Commissioner Repke stated that the committee sends language forward to charter commission. If there was a proposal to change back to a primary system, there would be 2 public hearings, where all resources and data would be presented. Repke can bring information from other cities.*

*Commissioner Johnson concurs with Commissioner Kirr and Commissioner Filice. He would like to see more data, both pro and con on advantages and disadvantages of the ranked choice system, and focus primarily on a local election and knows there are other examples. He thinks that additional data would help and realizes Commissioner Repke has done a lot of research and trusts his judgement but will still like to see other sources. This is a complex issue has emotional a rational statistical component we need to look at before a proposal is made. There are going to be multiple hearings, and a chance to accumulate and look at the data and allow public testimony would be valuable, many are interested and they may have information that could be of use to this body. Thinks we need to look further and get the facts and figures. To the extent that he has looked at the issue, thinks on the surface it seems obvious, but there are weaknesses and paradoxes built into it that should be carefully considered.*

*Commissioner Alton thanked the public for coming to this meeting; their presence is helpful, even though no testimony was made. There will be another meeting with an opportunity. He received many emails and suggested that in the future, the public should send emails to City staff as well so they can be entered in the record as testimony.*

*We will get an email address for comments, and post it on line.*

**4**      [CCI 17-4](#)

**Set future meeting date(s).**

*The next meeting could be one month from today, 3/27 here in 220 at 4:30. It will be a similar format as today's meeting; a public discussion and they will consider any information that has been submitted*

*Commissioner Kirr confirmed that he will speak to someone about the data, and they will allow the public to contribute data?*

*Rachel Tierney said they will get staff assigned to check the charter commission email, so that should be done before suggesting people send emails. As soon as a staff is assigned, and email will be posted on Commission's website.*

*Commissioner Kirr asked if one month is enough time, he will not likely get all of the work done under his action item by then.*

*Chair Alton said they will move forward with the meeting date and if he hasn't had enough time, can take that into consideration and decide how to act on the 27th.*

*City Councilmember Jane Prince, audience member, asked if the can the committee meeting include public comment?*

*Chair Alton mentioned that before any action is taken by the Charter Commission, there would be two meetings and at least one public hearing.*

*Commissioner Repke suggests two public hearings would be best, one downtown and one somewhere else.*

*Chair Alton thinks that a third in front of this committee would not be necessary, since they are not taking action on behalf of the Charter Commission. When we send out official notice of the meeting, that will be in that notice.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Meeting Adjourned at 5:16*

**For More Information**

**Rachel Tierney, Deputy City Attorney, [rachel.tierney@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:rachel.tierney@ci.stpaul.mn.us), 651-266-8710**





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## Legislation Details (With Text)

**File #:** CCI 17-6      **Version:** 1      **Name:**  
**Type:** Charter Commission Items      **Status:** Agenda Ready  
**In control:** Charter Commission  
**Final action:**

**Title:** Proposed Amendment to Chapter 7 of the Charter.

**Sponsors:**

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** [CCI 17-3 Complete File \(Feb. 27 Committee Meeting\)](#)  
[RCV Email correspondence received](#)  
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Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
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Proposed Amendment to Chapter 7 of the Charter.

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## Master

**File Number: CCI 17-3**

**File ID:** CCI 17-3

**Type:** Charter Commission Items

**Status:** Agenda Ready

**Version:** 1

**Contact  
Number:**

**In Control:** Charter  
Commission

**Department:**

**Cost:**

**File Created:** 02/21/2017

**File Name:**

**Final Action:**

**Title:** Charter amendments raised at the December 27, 2016 Charter Commission meeting.

**Notes:**

**Code Sections:**

**Agenda Date:**

**Indexes:**

**Agenda Number:** 3

**Sponsors:**

**Enactment Date:**

**Attachments:** 12-27-16 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes, Goldstein Email, Ellen Brown Letter, Take Action Minnesota, Kirr Resolution 2-27-2017, 2.27.2017 Repke document, 2.27.2017 Old language section 705

**Financials Included?:**

**Contact Name:**

**Hearing Date:**

**Entered by:**

**Ord Effective Date:**

## History of Legislative File

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Charter Commission	02/27/2017	<b>Notes:</b> Open for discussion of potential Charter Amendments raised at the last Charter Commission meeting  Commissioner Kirr stated that he is a new member, this is his second meeting related to the Charter Commission, and he is eager to serve St. Paul.  Commissioner Kirr read a resolution that he authored, (attached to this item of the minutes), which motioned to amend agenda to delete discussion of charter amendments.  Chair Alton asked for seconds to that motion				

*Repke seconds for purpose of discussion*

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Committees are working groups, there is nothing that comes out of this committee meeting that couldn't be proposed at the next charter commission without having committee work done in advance.  
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*All those in favor of Commissioner Kirr's motion signify by saying aye.*

*Commissioners Repke, Johnson, Kohen voted nay.*

*Motion failed.*

*Chair Alton stated that at the December Charter Commission meeting a few things were discussed as potential amendments to the charter:*

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*it's all single-seat running?*

*Commissioner Repke believes that is true.*

*Commissioner Filice doesn't understand why we need to do this quickly. She applauds idea of analyzing voter data. She would like to see the voter data on the three previous elections without ranked choice voting. She would like more time to hear from community of why it works or doesn't work. She commented that it would be very confusing at the polls to vote on mayor and at the same time voting on an amendment on why you did or didn't like it. Could this sort of analysis be postponed to another year that isn't an election year, and the commission could spend more time figuring out what direction they want to go?*

*Commissioner Repke stated that the reason to do it this year is because we do have a mayor's race so people would use see the ranked choice ballot, use the ranked choice ballot, then would decide if they like it or not. If they like it they would say they don't want to change to a primary. Every time we do this, and since we have have gotten a letter from the majority of city council saying they have no intention of passing the charter amendment. What the Charter Commission would do, is pass a charter amendment, let's say we pass to do a primary. Then the city council decides to accept that it would go to a primary or reject it, and that forces it to a ballot. We have already heard from five councilmembers that they won't approve it. That means that it will be forced to a ballot. In my mind, this makes it easier to decide since people would actually know what they would be doing. The problem with an even number year, few people would know what ranked choice voting is. If done on a year of an even number year, is people wouldn't know what ranked choice voting. It is unfair to do it during a year with council races, some wards would have higher voter turnout, depending on whether or not there is a contested race. The only fair time to do put it in front of voters would be when the mayors up, there is no confusion, I vote for the mayor, rank the ballot, then ask the voters, did they understand, would I prefer to have two people, or 9 or 10 candidates and then rank them?*

*Commissioner Filice stated that she does not agree, doesn't think there is enough analysis or time to do enough analysis. She thinks it's important to see what happens in a contested mayor race with this form of voting before we decide. It feels rushed. It is an important thing to be on the ballot, but it needs more analysis. She respectfully disagrees.*

*Commissioner Alton pointed out other comments received pointed out that this will cost money to change. The original change to ranked choice voting was a result of a petition of several thousand people, and now we are being asked to disregard that, change our charter on the vote of the majority of the commissioners. Thinks this is not fair. He agrees with Commissioner Filice that a mayoral race without an incumbent running is a great opportunity to see how it works without jumping to risking changing it.*

*Commissioner Varco asked if this party has the power to put on an even year ballot?*

*Commissioner Alton said Yes*

*Commissioner Repke said that the reason it wasn't brought up since 2010 because it was unfair with an incumbent mayor. Now that they can see what they voted in, use the system and decide that they love the system and decide they can support the system and voters would have the opportunity to use it. If it is not done this year, then the next time it is fair would be the next time you don't have an incumbent mayor in the election, which could be in another 8 years. Which means you have city council races where 25% of the people don't vote for the city council candidate, their votes thrown in the garbage can.*

*Commissioner Kirr asked isn't it fairest for advocates against ranked choice to collect signatures, then have appeal the amendment to the charter commission and then have the city vote on it?*

*Commission Repke replied that we are the keeper of the charter, not just a random group of citizens. We are on this body because we believe in the charter of St. Paul and want it to be fair and equitable. He can't think of anything less fair than a voting system that we need to be educated on to be able to participate. And those that propagated it know that people aren't educated in it and know that some people will do better than others.*

*Chair Alton asked for any other comments.*

*Commissioner Rybin thinks billboards in the audience are rude, but if Commissioner Repke didn't then*

*she doesn't object.*

*Commissioner Repke stated that thinks they are being respectful.*

*Chair Alton asked if there is any further discussion or data the committee they would like gathered. No official action will be taken today, is there anything else that needs to be done to prepare for another meeting?*

*Commissioner Kirr stated that he is a data scientist by background and training. He would like to see lots of data, because he is unable to disentangle what the effects are and what the causes are and he doesn't know if the cause of low turnout that we get bad results in ranked choice, or is it some other combination. He is not sure if the data he is looking at here is enough to tell him if there is a relationship as Commissioner Repke is proposing. He thinks three elections is a small sample size to evaluate what the data is telling us. He would like to see raw data and analyze it himself; he recommends getting raw data and have it analyzed by a data scientist to see the cause & effect.*

*Chair Alton stated that we don't have the resources to hire a data scientist, so they are glad to have Commissioner Kirr's expertise. Asked what the source of the data would be. Noted that Ramsey county election office has records; asked if one month be enough time to work on data.*

*Commissioner Kirr stated that he was not sure how much time, since he doesn't know the details of the data; a lot of questions come to mind. If he could talk to someone in Ramsey County, he could come back to the committee and say whether or not it is doable.*

*Chair Alton said they will introduce him to Mr. Mansky before he leaves the meeting today.*

*Commissioner Repke stated that the committee sends language forward to charter commission. If there was a proposal to change back to a primary system, there would be 2 public hearings, where all resources and data would be presented. Repke can bring information from other cities.*

*Commissioner Johnson concurs with Commissioner Kirr and Commissioner Filice. He would like to see more data, both pro and con on advantages and disadvantages of the ranked choice system, and focus primarily on a local election and knows there are other examples. He thinks that additional data would help and realizes*

*Commissioner Repke has done a lot of research and trusts his judgement but will still like to see other sources. This is a complex issue has emotional a rational statistical component we need to look at before a proposal is made. There are going to be multiple hearings, and a chance to accumulate and look at the data and allow public testimony would be valuable, many are interested and they may have information that could be of use to this body. Thinks we need to look further and get the facts and figures. To the extent that he has looked at the issue, thinks on the surface it seems obvious, but there are weaknesses and paradoxes built into it that should be carefully considered.*

*Commissioner Alton thanked the public for coming to this meeting; their presence is helpful, even though no testimony was made. There will be another meeting with an opportunity. He received many emails and suggested that in the future, the public should send emails to City staff as well so they can be entered in the record as testimony.*

*We will get an email address for comments, and post it on line.*

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### **Text of Legislative File CCI 17-3**

Charter amendments raised at the December 27, 2016 Charter Commission meeting.

## Charter Commission Meeting

**December 27, 2016**

Chair Richard Kramer called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m.

### ROLL CALL

Sign in sheet:

Chair Richard Kramer- Present

Vice-Chair Deborah Montgomery -Absent

Commissioner Brian Alton - Present

Commissioner Kathy Donnelly-Cohen - Present

Commissioner Bridget Faricy - Absent

Commissioner Amy Filice - Present

Commissioner George E. Johnson - Absent

Commissioner John Paul Kirr - Present

Commissioner Joyce Maddox - Absent

Commissioner David Maeda - Present

Commissioner Gladys P. Morton - Absent

Commissioner Charles Repke - Present

Commissioner Virginia Rybin - Absent

Commissioner Rick Varco - Absent

Commissioner Carrie J. Wasley - Present

Other Attendees:

Peter Butler

Chris Smith

Joe Mansky, Ramsey County

Adam Vetvick

William Moore

Fred Melo

### APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Approval of the agenda moved by Commissioner Charles Repke, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly-Cohen and adopted by unanimous vote.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Wasley moved to approve minutes of November 15, 2015, seconded by Commissioner Repke and adopted by unanimous vote.

### CITIZEN COMMENTS

Peter Butler, St. Paul resident

He would like suggest three changes to the city Charter. Two are in section 8 which are about initiative, referendum and recall.

*Sec 8.02.2 (part)*

*Each signer of the petition shall write thereon the petitioner's name and the street number and council ward or legislative district and precinct designation of the petitioner's residence.*

Most people probably don't know their ward or precinct designation. He recommends that if that is unnecessary for verifying that a person is a registered voter, that the language be deleted.

*Sec. 8.2.24 (part)*

*Any name appearing on any petition which does not comply with the foregoing requirements, except as to council ward or legislative district and precinct designation shall be stricken.*

If this information has no purpose, he thinks for simplicity of people collecting signatures, that information should be deleted

Second suggestion: Section 8.04 sets deadlines for the submission of a petition and it says that the last day for doing it is 120 days before the next election. State law requires the City Council to approve any language 74 days before the next election. This section also says that the City Council has up to sixty days to act or not act on it. So if I were to submit a petition on the 120<sup>th</sup> day, and the Council were to wait until the 60<sup>th</sup> day after that that's only 60 days for the election and we have missed the state deadline. So extending the 120 days to 134/35 days or delete the roll of the Council in there would ensure that people can meet the deadlines of the charter and state law.

Final recommendation: Section 7.04- Name on ballot suggests commission review filing fees for mayor \$500.00 and City Council which is \$250.00. I think this is excessive in comparison to the governor, which is \$300.00 to file in that race; U.S. senator is \$400,, State legislators are \$100, and attorney general is \$300. At least for mayor the amount is higher than most state offices or that the number of required signatures is reduced from 500 to make it easier for those that don't have the money to collect signatures. Nothing like that should be a barrier for any one running for office.  
Submitted notes.

Two letters, classified under citizen comments (attached)

## **ELECTION OF CHARTER COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Chair Kramer stated that the Charter Commission has been meeting once per year, and the officers elected today will be the 2017 officers. Chair, vice-chair, and secretary will be filled.

Chair: Commissioner Alton nominates Richard Kramer, Repke moves, Wasley seconds  
Richard Kramer elected by unanimous vote

Vice-chair: Commissioner Repke moves reelecting Deborah Montgomery, Commissioner Donnelly-Cohen seconds; Deborah Montgomery is elected by unanimous vote

Secretary - Alton moves re-electing Virginia Rybin, Wasley seconds, Virginia Rybin is elected by unanimous vote

**STAFF REPORT** – Joe Mansky, Ramsey County Elections Manager.

Mr. Mansky stated that the deadline for amendments to the charter that will be going to the ballot is July 11, per state law. If there are questions that go on the ballot, City Council will authorize the text and the City Attorney will approve by August 25.

If the Charter Commission opts to put a question on the ballot or a citizen effort to initiate, they will need to take action on charter amendments by July 11.

Other information: Two years ago the legislature allowed people to vote prior to Election Day for any reason. This year voters can place ballot directly into counter. These transformative acts increased number of people voting prior to the election by 107%. The number of voters is estimated to increase by 100,000 county-wide by 2020. The Commission might want to consider when and where they want people to vote as they deliberate how elections are being conducted.

Mr. Mansky talked about the new voting system in 2016. The post-election audit showed that for the first time 100% accurate in squaring up the ballots with the ballot counter. Because they don't have approval for electronic reallocation of votes for the election of mayor this year, they will be doing the manual reallocation as for past elections. He noted that there is a video on line showing the process. The ballot will look identical to past, assuming there will be up to six choices listed.

Voters can rank up to six choices. Candidate names are rotated on the ballot from precinct to precinct, as required by law. Rotating the names in nonpartisan races, this eliminates the advantage of being first or disadvantage of being far down on the list for any particular candidate.

Other side of ballot would have authorized ballot questions authorized by City or school district, and other members of school board that were not elected in 2016.

Chair Kramer asked for questions from audience members or commissioners.

Chair Kramer asked if machines will be used in the next election.

Mr. Mansky stated that it will be the same process as 2011. Number of votes will be listed on website. Reallocation will be done manually as in the past. It will be the same method as the Coleman/Franken re-count. Candidates are at the table during the count.

Commissioner Repke stated that he had observed in the past and it is impressive how few mistakes are made in recount, and they do an excellent job.

Mr. Mansky explained how the votes are sorted and reallocated by hand.

Ballots are returned in sealed containers, and remain until reallocation process, first determine count hand count is official. Once ballots are on the table, reallocations are done from bottom up. Smallest pile number is reallocated first, and repeated until someone reaches the threshold to win or there are two candidates left and whoever has the most votes is the winner, whether or not they have the majority.

William Moore, St. Paul – East Side: MN Audience; the numbers are confusing for average voter. Mr. Moore asked for clarification of the reallocation process.

Mr. Mansky reiterated the process of reallocation using a specific example. Explained that it is possible to have twelve candidates file for mayor. If one candidate gets more than 50% of the vote, there is no need for reallocation. Reallocation is only necessary if there is no candidate with over 50% of the votes. Mr. Mansky encouraged people to volunteer as election judges. Ballots are counted one precinct at a time.

Commissioner Repke noted that in the last Ward 2 race, the piles were 2782, 2444, and 582. They never hit 2870, which would be 50%, so 2872 won (see attached letters).

Mr. Mansky explained that there is a basket for all inactive ballots (a no votes remaining for a candidate that is still viable). The greater that pile gets, the greater the chance. The bigger the pile gets, the greater the chance that the winner will not have enough ballots to get to 50%.

Only one vote is ultimately counted, but they get several opportunities to tell us based on who is left, how you want to have your one vote count. He encouraged the audience to watch the on line video, or to watch the reallocation in person.

William Moore stated because of Mr. Mansky's explanation, he trusts the situation, but does not necessarily favor ranked-choice voting.

Mr. Mansky stated that all of this information is on the website: RCElections.org

Peter Butler asked if there has been any instance where the first choice votes did not win the election

Mr. Mansky stated that it has not happened here, but has in Oakland.

No guarantee that it could not happen here.

Commissioner Repke pointed out that in 2011 the person who was 2<sup>nd</sup> on election night was not in final two for the final count.

Commissioner Alton asked whether Mr. Mansky anticipates an electronic reallocation to be approved even though the Secretary of State has not approved the electronic reallocation system.

Mr. Mansky stated that it is the Legislation's decision, the Secretary of State has authority to examine and improve the voting systems in Minnesota. He does not have a law that tells him what he is supposed to do to test whether a method of voting meets whatever standard is set.

We are waiting for legislature to allow him to enact a law.

Chair Kramer asked for other questions.

Shawn Towle asked Mr. Mansky to if he could explain *Arrow's Theorem of Improbability* (if there are more than 4 candidates on the ballot, it is improbable that you will get a majority)?

Mr. Mansky was not familiar with that theorem.

Mr. Moore asked how it was determined to have 6 candidates.

Mr. Mansky stated that the City Council made that decision. The City of Minneapolis, which pre-dates ours by a couple of years, only allows 3. We told the council we could accommodate more choices.

City Council wanted more choices and settled on six.

Commissioner Repke pointed out that realistically, this is what would fit on the ballot in columns that would be readable to the average voter. More than 6 would require an extended length ballot.

Mr. Mansky explained that if we get 12 candidates, 6 choices would consume one side of a 17-inch (maximum size) ballot, all would be on one side, other side would be questions and school board.

Commissioner Meda asked if our equipment being used in any other jurisdiction.

Mr. Mansky explained that ours is brand new and currently for this vendor, we are the largest jurisdiction in the country using it. As best he knows there are not very many jurisdictions using this system, we are the only one with ranked choice voting.

Jeanne Massey, Executive Director of Fair Vote Minnesota asked for clarity on the equipment, it is her understanding that it has the capacity to tabulate a ranked choice election. Could you explain the process and the hiccups?

Mr. Mansky explained that the system is capable of doing that but does not currently have the software application in place, because when we bid out the system, there was no reason to do that. When law is enacted we will instruct vendor to add software. If things move quickly enough this year, we would be ready to reallocate in 2017.

Mr. Moore asked if this (2017 election) would be a test (with no incumbent mayor), and if the reason the last election didn't need to use ranked choice was because there was a majority.

Mr. Mansky stated that there should get more like 60,000 votes cast with a Mayor race.

Mr. Towle stated that he has been in conversation with the vendor. The next software allocation is going to have that capacity in it, but they are not going to allow the lease of it unless there has been authority that states it can be used. He wonders if you are pursuing an actual test with results. Would the city be able to implement the use of ranked voting in the City?

Mr. Mansky said they have talked to the City Attorney about doing something on their own. The City Attorney says the Secretary of State has authority when it comes to use of voting system. The secretary of State does have the authority to authorize experimental use, but lacking direction from legislature, that is our stopping point.

Mr. Butler asked if they could design ballot to have accommodated more candidates. He noted that Mr. Mansky said the machines can't tally those, but have to be hand count anyway, could there be a more compact design?

Mr. Mansky responded that they don't know at this time that we aren't going to be able to do that. They want to make sure we are ready to go if it comes to that. They are going to set the ballot up as if it could be electronically reallocated.

Commissioner Repke added that anytime you have to assign numbers, it makes it more confusing. It is less confusing if you ask them to go to column one for first choice, column two for second choice, than if you ask them to go for "Smith" and give Smith a 1 – 5.

Mr. Mansky stated that currently, our voting systems count vertically, not horizontally. Minnesota voting systems count vertically. To do something different is where we need approval from the state

Mr. Moore asked whether these changes will not occur in 2017.

Mr. Mansky said it is a possibility that they want to be prepared for.

Fred Melo, Pioneer Press asked if there is software lined up.

Mr. Mansky said there is not.

Mr. Melo asked if the legislation happens, could it be in place by November.

Mr. Mansky stated that if it looks like it is getting traction, they will have it ready.

Chair Kramer asked for any final questions. Thanked guests for their participation

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

No standing committee reports.

Chair Kramer asked commissioners to select what committee they are interested in serving on: The Communications Committee or the Charter Review Committee. Meetings will be called after committee membership is appointed. Rachel (Tierney) is looking into standing rules about appointing. He noted that they need to avoid a majority serving on one committee, so all may not be appointed to every committee they are interested in.

Commissioner Repke stated that he hopes they select chairs soon and have a meeting reasonably soon so there is opportunity for public input before July 11.

Chair Kramer responded that our standing rules require three readings (our rules, not imposed). They can be waived, but we would probably want to follow our standing rules.

The Charter Review Committee could consider if amendment is not substantial, charter review committee could put forward as an amendment (not substantial) without having it go on the ballot, if we can get unanimous approval from the council.

There are different options for amending the charter, but substantial amendments require ballot voting.

Language changes are minor amendment,

Voting method changes has traditionally gone to go to voters for approval.

Pick a date, which can be cancelled, so there is time for committees to meet.

Commissioner Repke stated that the date could be used for the first reading.

Chair Kramer concurred and stated that in general Wednesdays are not preferred, due to City Council meetings.

Commissioner Alton asked if they are being speculative and whether they could set a November meeting and call an additional meeting if there were business.

Chair Kramer stated that he would like to have a date established so it is out there and can meet ballot deadlines if something needs to go to the ballot, or if it is a minor amendment there would be time for it to go to the City Council.

Commissioner Repke suggests Monday February 27.

The next meeting of the Charter Commission was set as February 27, 2017.

If there are recommendations of committees, it will not be canceled. If additional readings are necessary, dates will be set at that meeting.



**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

## Moore, Shari (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Tom Goldstein <tom\_goldstein@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 12:46 AM  
**To:** rjfkramer@aol.com; debmontgomery@comcast.com; bridget@bridgetfaricy.com; Filice, Amy (CI-StPaul); leenegeolela@gmail.com; jpkirr@gmail.com; Joycea0805@gmail.com; DEMAEDA@msn.com; gladysmort@aol.com; vrybin@infionline.net; brian@mcclay-alton.com; 'Rick Varco'; Chuckrepke@aol.com  
**Cc:** Moore, Shari (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** Ranked Choice Voting should not be repealed!

Dear Charter Commission Member:

I am writing to let you know that I oppose the effort of a small group of political activists to repeal Ranked Choice Voting in St. Paul. While I initially opposed Ranked Choice Voting in 2009, the fact that voters approved the measure after supporters gathered enough signatures to place the measure on the ballot convinced me otherwise. Not only does RCV increase the likelihood that we will have more competitive political races, it eliminates costly primaries in which turnout has sometimes been in the single digits.

Those arguing for the repeal of RCV claim that the new voting method is confusing to voters and has done nothing to improve voter turnout. While the latter part of this statement may be true, demonizing RCV for continued low turnout after only a few election cycles is nothing more than a partisan effort to make sure that one-party rule remains the rule in our city. The traditional primary system was in place in St. Paul for nearly a hundred years before being replaced by RCV. Perhaps we should give RCV a few decades of use before we start making overall judgments about its effectiveness.

Supporters of RCV were required to gather more than 6,000 signatures in order to put the question of RCV before St. Paul voters in 2009. It seems only fair that those who desire to repeal this system be required to do the same in order to demonstrate public support for their position. Allowing this measure to move forward absent that effort would be an insult to the community.

There should be no short-cuts in the democratic process. Please reject this attempt to repeal RCV. Thank you.

Best,

Tom Goldstein

P.S. Please note that as a candidate for mayor I also wish to have my name included as a signatory to the letter previously sent to you by Elizabeth Dickinson and Councilmember Dai Thao.

\*\*\*\*\*

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Tom Goldstein for Saint Paul

## Moore, Shari (CI-StPaul)

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**From:** Ellen Brown <ellen@thebrownpartners.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2017 11:28 AM  
**To:** Moore, Shari (CI-StPaul)  
**Subject:** To Charter Commission

Date: February 23, 2017

To: Saint Paul Charter Commission

From: Ellen T Brown  
Chair, Saint Paul Better Ballot Campaign

This memo is in response to my having recently learned that the Charter Commission is considering a ballot initiative that would deny Saint Paul voters the use of ranked voting in City elections.

**This year will see the first contested mayoral race since ranked voting came into use, which makes it also the first serious citywide test of ranked voting. It will happen with or without a repeal initiative going forward. Why would the Commission pursue repeal before seeing how well the system serves us in this race?**

Further, three reasons compel me—on behalf of the voters who chose the ranked voting method by ballot initiative in 2009—to oppose repeal

1) A return to the nonpartisan primary-general election system would once again disenfranchise huge swaths of voters. A low turnout primary election results in two candidates presented in the general election who, in the last citywide primary (2009) prior to RCV, were selected by just 7 percent of registered voters (and turnout that year was double that from 2007). It's also essential to note that primary participation historically has not included a significant number of minority voters. Under ranked voting, all the voters get to weigh in on a full slate of candidates in a single decisive election in November. And the city doesn't have to bear the cost of a primary.

2) Some have been critical of ranked voting saying it doesn't really result in a majority of those voting choosing the winner, as some voters don't choose to rank; so if their chosen candidate doesn't earn a position in the second (or third) round of counting, their vote isn't counted. But this action is no different from a voter's candidate losing in the primary and the voter then not bothering to vote in the general election. It is a choice she makes. In any case, the percent of those voting in the final round in recent RCV elections has still not only far outnumbered those voting in primary elections in the past, but the total number of voters helping elect the winner in November is higher: In 2007, the last Ward 2 race under the primary-general election system, the number of voters casting a vote on election day was 5,199. In 2015, the number of voters casting a vote in the final runoff round was 5,226.

It's really important here to understand how much more power voters have under ranked voting by eliminating the disenfranchising primary and holding one high turnout election in November.

3) The turnout in the general election since ranked voting was adopted has increased in the wards with contested races, a goal we should all support. In Ward 2, where ranked voting has come into play, turnout for the 2015 city council race was 6 percent higher than in 2011, and was the Ward's highest turnout for a municipal election in a decade.

One opponent of ranked voting recently said that more choice is bad for voters. I couldn't conceive of a more arrogant statement and one that shows distrust of voters. We know from the experience in St. Paul ward races and races in other cities that use RCV across the country, more choice does not confuse voters and, in fact, it is what they are demanding.

Reducing voters' choice by repealing the ranked voting system is contrary to our belief in democracy.

It is ironic that opponents of ranked voting, who fret (needlessly, according to Joe Mansky) about its being confusing to voters, are promoting a ballot initiative to repeal in the same election that most city voters will have their first chance to use it in a competitive election. At a minimum, the Charter Commission should wait for further consideration of ranked voting until after November when we will see whether the system continues to produce the successful elections it has thus far.

Respectfully,

Ellen T Brown  
874 Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul MN 55105  
651-225-5650



705 Raymond Ave.  
Suite #100  
Saint Paul, MN 55114  
651.641.6199

February 27, 2017

Rich Kramer, Chairman  
Charter Commission  
15 Kellogg Blvd., W.  
Room 220, City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Chairman Kramer:

I write on behalf of TakeAction Minnesota to express our support for St. Paul's system of ranked choice voting and ask that it not be altered or undone by the Charter Commission.

In 2009, TakeAction Minnesota supported tens of thousands of St. Paul voters to amend the City charter to include ranked choice voting. Our members felt that this commonsense way to cast a ballot would make elections more about issues and less about personal attacks. They recognized that ranked choice voting gives voters more candidates to choose from and eliminates small turnout primaries that stifle democratic participation. It makes our elections better and more representative.

RCV has delivered, and is now our custom in St. Paul. It is the election system we know, and it works. The system should not be torn down.

We respectfully ask that you leave our system of voting in place.

Sincerely,

Dan McGrath  
Executive Director

CC: Shari Moore, Clerk

**RESOLUTION** to the Charter Review Committee of the Saint Paul Charter Commission  
Commissioner John Paul (Jack) Kirr  
February 27, 2017

**WHEREAS** File # CCI 17-3 Version 1 ("Agenda #3") on the February 27, 2017 Charter Review Committee meeting agenda ("February Meeting"), is described as *Charter amendments raised at the December 27, 2016 Charter Commission meeting* ("December Meeting") and includes an attached file labeled "12-27-16 Charter Commission Meeting Minutes" ("December Meeting Minutes").

**WHEREAS** the December Meeting Minutes ARE NOT APPROVED by the Charter Commission.

**WHEREAS** a letter from five (5) City Council members to the Charter Commission dated December 21, 2016 ("Council Letter") is NOT ON THE RECORD in the hyperlink within the December Meeting Minutes on the February Meeting agenda.

**WHEREAS** a letter from Commissioner Repke dated December 27, 2016 in response to the Council Letter ("Repke Response") is NOT ON THE RECORD in the hyperlink within the December Meeting Minutes on the February Meeting agenda.

**WHEREAS** both the Council Letter and the Repke Response were NOT ENTERED INTO THE PUBLIC RECORD at the December Meeting during the "Citizen Comment" period.

**WHEREAS** the only proposed charter amendments raised IN THE PUBLIC RECORD during the "Citizen Comment" period at the December Meeting were three (3) proposed amendment changes from a Mr. Peter Butler of Saint Paul.

**WHEREAS** the Charter Commission did not *Commit to Committee* any proposed charter amendments raised at the December Meeting, including the proposed amendment changes from Mr. Butler.

**WHEREAS** the procedural questions relating to matters within this resolution, asked by Commissioner Kirr on February 24, 2017 and February 25, 2017 (attached to this resolution in their entirety), HAVE NOT ALL BEEN ANSWERED SATISFACTORILY by the Saint Paul City Attorney prior to the February Meeting.

**WHEREAS** any consideration of Agenda #3 at the February Meeting puts the City of Saint Paul at risk of acting arbitrarily and capriciously.

**RESOLVED** that Agenda #3 should be removed from the February Meeting agenda.

from: jpkirr@gmail.com  
to: "Tierney, Rachel (CI-StPaul)" <rachel.tierney@ci.stpaul.mn.us>

cc: "Chuckrepke@aol.com" <Chuckrepke@aol.com>,  
"brian@mcclay-alton.com" <brian@mcclay-alton.com>,  
"amyfilice@gmail.com" <amyfilice@gmail.com>,  
"debmontgomery@comcast.com" <debmontgomery@comcast.com>,  
"carriejwasley@q.com" <carriejwasley@q.com>,  
"Rick.Varco@seiuhealthcaremn.org" <Rick.Varco@seiuhealthcaremn.org>,  
"vrybin@info-line.net" <vrybin@info-line.net>,  
"kdc2@comcast.net" <kdc2@comcast.net>,  
"rjfkramer@aol.com" <rjfkramer@aol.com>,  
"Joseph.Mansky@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US" <Joseph.Mansky@co.ramsey.mn.us>

date: Fri, Feb 24, 2017 at 6:21 PM  
subject: Re: Charter Commission Review Committee meeting

Thank you Rachel,

(0) I would like answers to the questions below before the Monday meeting.

(1) What is the relationship between the Charter Review Committee (the body convening on Monday) and the Charter Commission itself? Where is this relationship documented?

(2) What does the agenda item CCI 17-3 "Charter amendments raised at the December 27, 2016 Charter Commission meeting" ask of the Charter Review Committee? Is this a discussion? A vote? Something else?

(3) What specifically are these "raised" amendments? The only ones I see on the city website - and the only ones I heard proposed at the December 27th Charter Commission meeting - are the three entered during the "Citizen Comment" period by a Mr Butler of Saint Paul.

(4) By what means were Mr Butler's three raised amendments added to the Charter Review Committee agenda when the raised amendments themselves were entered into the record at a Charter Commission meeting?

(5) What if anything happens to any of Mr Butler's three raised amendments after an action (?) by the Charter Review Committee? Are they brought to the Charter Commission? The city council?

(6) How is the Charter Review Committee able to take any action on these three raised amendments if the Charter Review Committee itself is only "reviewing" (emphasis added) its own role in CCI 17-2 "Review of the Committee Role"?

Kind regards,

John Paul (Jack) Kirr

from: jpkirr@gmail.com  
to: "Tierney, Rachel (CI-StPaul)" <rachel.tierney@ci.stpaul.mn.us>  
  
cc: "Chuckrepke@aol.com" <Chuckrepke@aol.com>,  
"brian@mcclay-alton.com" <brian@mcclay-alton.com>,  
"amyfilice@gmail.com" <amyfilice@gmail.com>,  
"debmontgomery@comcast.com" <debmontgomery@comcast.com>,  
"carriejwasley@q.com" <carriejwasley@q.com>,  
"Rick.Varco@seiuhealthcaremn.org" <Rick.Varco@seiuhealthcaremn.org>,  
"vrybin@info-line.net" <vrybin@info-line.net>,  
"kdc2@comcast.net" <kdc2@comcast.net>,  
"rjfkramer@aol.com" <rjfkramer@aol.com>,  
"Joseph.Mansky@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US" <Joseph.Mansky@co.ramsey.mn.us>

date: Sat, Feb 25, 2017 at 9:38 PM  
subject: Re: Charter Commission Review Committee meeting

Hi Rachel,

I have several additional questions I would like answers to, below, before the Monday 2/27 meeting of the Charter Review Committee.

At the end of the "Citizen Comments" section of the December 27 Charter Commission meeting minutes, there is a note stating "Two letters, classified under citizen comments (attached)."

- (1) Where are these attachments on the city website? I cannot find them on the city website.
- (2) Please verify these two letters are (a) A 12/21 letter to the Charter Commission from five (5) St Paul City Council members and (b) Commissioner Repke's 12/27 response to that letter.
- (3) If (2) is true then by what means, exactly, are these two letters able to be included as "Citizen Comments"?

These letters were not entered into the public record by a committee motion. To my recollection neither letter was formally introduced to the committee but were only left on our desks.

To my recollection the Charter Commission made no direct reference to these letters during the 12/27 meeting, and I am unable to find any reference to them in the 12/27 Charter Commission meeting minutes - other than in (2) above if verified.

Importantly none of the "citizens" or public attending the Charter Commission meeting saw or heard the information contained in either letter.

- (4) Notwithstanding the foregoing, by what means, exactly, can a Charter Commissioner respond to a letter to the Charter Commission contemporaneously with the receipt of that letter (whether or not entered into the public record) to the Charter Commission?





## History of charter change

2009 Charter amendment passed. YES 17,083 - 52.455 – NO 15,486 – 47.55%

Charter Change requires 51% positive vote. 32,569 votes cast 16,611 needed.

Charter Change passed by 472 votes.

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November 2009, Unfair Campaign Practice charges brought against the “Saint Paul Better Ballot Campaign” for making knowingly and deliberate false claims of endorsement of the Minnesota DFL and the League of Women Voters as well as use of the names of national figures including President Obama in over 40,000 pieces of campaign literature.

Order of the administrative law judges is that the violations “were multiple and deliberate” and that they “created an unfair advantage...” “but the impact on the election cannot be quantified on this record.”

They fined the campaign the maximum allowed \$5,000.00.

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Since then we have had three elections under ranked choice voting.

In 2011, the first instant runoff occurred in Ward 2. The incumbent won when the third place finisher passed the second place finisher after the votes of the fourth and fifth place finisher were dropped.

In 2013, we had a record low voter turnout in the Mayor’s race and elected our first City Council Member with less than 50% of the people voting that day. Dai Thao was elected with 39.7% of the vote. Of the 2444 people who did not cast votes for the top two vote getters and were available for redistribution only 1178, 48.2% transferred to the final two candidates and 51.8% were “inactive” or in other words 1266 voters 25.5% of those voting in Ward 1 that day ended up not voting in the final vote count.

In 2015, we elected our second City Council member without a majority of those voting. Rebecca Noecker was elected with 48.4% of the vote. Of the 1209 votes that did not vote for one of the two top vote getters, 627 votes 52% of those available transferred to other candidates and 582 votes 48% of those available did not transfer, this time leaving 10% of the people who voted that day not participating in the final vote count.

## ORDER

### IT IS ORDERED:

That having been found to have violated Minn. Stat. § 211B.02, Respondent Saint Paul Better Ballot Campaign shall pay a civil penalty of \$5,000 by January 1, 2010.<sup>36</sup>

Dated: November 30, 2009

s/Kathleen D. Sheehy  
KATHLEEN D. SHEEHY  
Presiding Administrative Law Judge

s/Cheryl LeClair-Sommer  
CHERYL LECLAIR-SOMMER  
Administrative Law Judge

s/Barbara L. Neilson  
BARBARA L. NEILSON  
Administrative Law Judge

Reported: Digitally recorded, no transcript prepared.

## NOTICE

This is the final decision in this case, as provided in Minn. Stat. § 211B.36, subd. 5. A party aggrieved by this decision may seek judicial review as provided in Minn. Stat. §§ 14.63 to 14.69.

## MEMORANDUM

There are two issues in this case. The first is whether the St. Paul BBC knowingly and falsely claimed that the ballot question was endorsed by organizations including the Minnesota DFL, the Minnesota League of Women Voters, and the St. Paul League of Women Voters. The second is whether the St. Paul BBC claimed

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<sup>36</sup> The check should be made payable to "Treasurer, State of Minnesota" and sent to the Office of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul MN 55164-0620.

endorsement by several individuals—President Obama, Sen. John McCain, Ralph Nader, and Cynthia McKinney—without obtaining their written permission.

With regard to the claim of false endorsement by the organizations, the Respondent's evidence focused on the extent to which these organizations have indicated support for IRV. It is not disputed that the Minnesota DFL generally supports the use of IRV in state and local elections and that this position is included in the DFL Action Agenda. Nor is it disputed that the League of Women Voters (both the Minnesota League and the St. Paul affiliate) has found IRV to be an acceptable voting system, along with plurality voting. The issue here is whether the St. Paul BBC properly used these general statements of support for IRV in claiming in its literature that the DFL and the League of Women Voters "endorsed" the ballot question in St. Paul.

The Respondent argues that there is no legal or factual distinction between "support" for IRV and "endorsement" of a ballot question. It contends that the two words are interchangeable and that it is free to call the general statements of support by these organizations an "endorsement" of the ballot question.<sup>37</sup>

As a legal matter, the statute at hand provides that a person may not "knowingly make, directly or indirectly, a false claim stating or implying that a candidate or ballot question has the support or endorsement of a major political party or party unit or of an organization."<sup>38</sup> The statute by its terms expressly differentiates between "support" and "endorsement." In interpreting this language, the Minnesota Supreme Court has recognized that there is a distinction between the words "support" and "endorsement." In *Schmitt v. McLaughlin*, a candidate who was not endorsed by the DFL party used the initials "DFL" on advertisements and lawn signs.<sup>39</sup> The Court concluded that the "use of the initials 'DFL' would imply to the average voter that [the candidate] *had the endorsement or, at the very least, the support of the DFL party.*"<sup>40</sup> This interpretation is consistent with the canon of statutory construction requiring that meaning be given if possible to each word in a statute.<sup>41</sup> Moreover, the Court indicated that the determination whether a person has the endorsement or support of a political party is a matter that can be objectively determined.<sup>42</sup>

As a factual matter, the record reflects that the organizations themselves have specific procedures for persons wishing to obtain statements of support or

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<sup>37</sup> The Respondent provided testimony to this effect and cites to *Buckley v. Valeo*, 424 U.S. 1, 44 n. 52 (1976), for the proposition that these words are synonymous. In *Buckley*, the United States Supreme Court held, among other things, that the independent expenditure provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act were unconstitutional. The cited footnote explains that communications expressly advocating the election or defeat of a candidate for public office were subject to this limitation. The panel does not believe *Buckley* sheds any light on the issues raised in this case.

<sup>38</sup> Minn. Stat. § 211B.02.

<sup>39</sup> 275 N.W.2d 587 (Minn. 1979).

<sup>40</sup> *Id.*, 275 N.W.2d at 591 (emphasis added).

<sup>41</sup> Minn. Stat. § 645.16 ("Every law shall be construed, if possible, to give effect to all its provisions"); Minn. Stat. § 645.17(2) (it is presumed that "the legislature intends the entire statute to be effective and certain").

<sup>42</sup> 275 N.W.2d at 591.

endorsement. The DFL party permits endorsements of candidates only by a 60% affirmative vote of delegates present and voting, but no convention representing a geographical area less than the area competent to elect the public official may endorse a candidate.<sup>43</sup> The DFL's position on ballot questions is similar. The process for taking a formal DFL Party position on any ballot question and, if desired, placing the question on the official DFL Sample Ballot, requires a 60% affirmative vote, and the body with authority to take an official stand on that question is the party unit having the smallest jurisdiction that includes the entire electoral district that will vote on the ballot question.<sup>44</sup> In this case, that means that only the St. Paul DFL had the authority to take a position on the St. Paul ballot question. The League of Women Voters has an official position statement, developed in 2005 and unchanged since then, that supports both the use of IRV in state and local single-seat elections, and the continued use of a plurality voting system.<sup>45</sup> Neither the Minnesota League of Women Voters nor the St. Paul League of Women Voters has specifically endorsed the use of IRV in lieu of plurality voting in any election.

The Respondent argues that it could properly characterize the general statements of support by these organizations as an "endorsement," because based on *Kennedy v. Voss*,<sup>46</sup> even "extreme and illogical inferences" based upon accurate statements of fact are not actionable as false statements in campaign literature. That case involved an allegedly false statement regarding a candidate's voting record, and the violation alleged was of Minn. Stat. § 210A.04, subd.1, a predecessor of Minn. Stat. § 211B.06. Claims asserted under § 211B.06 are subject to a different and higher standard of proof. As noted by the Minnesota Supreme Court, the support or endorsement of an organization, when challenged under § 211B.02, is a matter that can be objectively determined. In addition, claims of ignorance about the permissible limits of claiming endorsements, particularly with regard to the implication of endorsement by the DFL party, are viewed with some skepticism.<sup>47</sup>

The record is clear in this case that the Respondents were well aware of the official positions of these organizations. The Respondent successfully obtained the endorsement of the St. Paul DFL party in 2007; however, the presentation of the ballot question to voters was delayed due to the litigation over IRV in Minneapolis. When that matter was resolved,<sup>48</sup> the Respondent again sought the endorsement of the St. Paul DFL; this time, however, it failed to obtain the requisite number of votes. This was the second major campaign spearheaded by Ms. Massey, who previously directed the successful ballot initiative in Minneapolis. She was personally involved in the BBC's unsuccessful effort to obtain the endorsement in St. Paul, and her testimony that she

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<sup>43</sup> Ex. R-14 at Art. 3, Section 4, subsection H.

<sup>44</sup> *Id.* Section 15.

<sup>45</sup> Ex. R-7.

<sup>46</sup> 304 N.W.2d 299 (Minn. 1981).

<sup>47</sup> See *In the Matter of Ryan*, 303 N.W.2d 462, 468 (Minn. 1981); *In the Matter of Daugherty v. Hilary*, 344 N.W.2d 826, 832 (Minn. 1984).

<sup>48</sup> See *Minnesota Voters Alliance v. City of Minneapolis*, 766 N.W.2d 683 (Minn. 2009) (rejecting a number of constitutional challenges to IRV, as adopted by ordinance in Minneapolis).

was unaware that she could not claim endorsement by the "DFL" or the "Minnesota DFL" is not credible.

Likewise, the Respondent was well aware of the position of the League of Women Voters; it worked with League representatives to put the "Vote Yes" question on the ballot in 2007, and it participated in a forum shortly before the recent election in which the League's official position was read before the commencement of a debate between the Respondent and Complainant Chuck Repke. The argument that the Respondent believed it could claim "endorsement" of the ballot question by the League, based on either a partial reading of the League's position, or on personal expressions of support by individual League members or officers, is lacking in credibility.

With regard to the claimed endorsements by individuals, the Respondent admits that it made no effort to obtain written permission from President Obama, Sen. McCain (the endorsed Republican candidate for president in the last election), Ralph Nader (an independent, endorsed Reform Party, and endorsed Green Party candidate for president in the past), or Cynthia McKinney (an endorsed Green Party candidate for president in the last election). The Respondent contends that it would be "absurd" to require that national political leaders, who have taken public positions on specific issues, must provide written permission to use their names in support of local ballot initiatives addressing those issues. In addition, Ms. Massey testified that she was unaware that it was necessary to obtain written permission before using the names of individuals in its literature.

The statute unequivocally provides that "A person or candidate may not state in written campaign material that the candidate or ballot question has the support or endorsement of an individual without first getting written permission from the individual to do so."<sup>49</sup> There is no exception for national political leaders. As with support claimed from organizations, it should be an easy matter to objectively determine whether an individual has provided permission to use that individual's name in support of a candidate or ballot question. The Respondent could truthfully have said in its literature, without obtaining written permission, that as a state legislator in 2002, President Obama introduced legislation that would have permitted municipalities to adopt instant runoff voting for the positions of mayor, city clerk, and city treasurer.<sup>50</sup> It could truthfully have said, without obtaining written permission, that Sen. McCain, in 2002, supported an IRV ballot question in Alaska; or that Ralph Nader said in a debate in 2008 that IRV was something that should be examined. But these are far different messages than saying, without written permission, that the St. Paul ballot question was "endorsed" by President Obama, Sen. McCain, and the others.

The Respondent's testimony that it was not aware that written permission was required from individuals is contradicted by its acknowledgment that it in fact obtained written permission from most if not all of the state and local elected officials, former state and local officials, and other business and community leaders whose names were

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<sup>49</sup> Minn. Stat. § 211B.02.

<sup>50</sup> Ex. R-23.

used in the mailings. It specifically obtained written permission from Brian Melendez, the chair of the Minnesota DFL, to say that he personally supported the ballot question. In addition, the Respondent's web site was designed to incorporate a mechanism by which individuals could provide electronic written permission to use their names as a public endorsement of "advanced voting methods like Instant Runoff Voting."<sup>51</sup> To the extent that the Respondent is relying on testimony that it was not aware of the requirement to obtain written permission from individuals, the panel finds that this testimony is not credible.

Accordingly, the panel has concluded that the Respondent made knowingly false claims that the Minnesota DFL and the League of Women Voters "endorsed" the St. Paul ballot question and that it failed to obtain written permission from the national political figures before using their names as supporters of the ballot question, in violation of Minn. Stat. § 211B.02. The panel has concluded that these violations, which were reflected in approximately 40,000 pieces of campaign literature, were multiple and deliberate. They were made despite the clarity of the statutory prohibitions, and the Respondent remains completely unapologetic. The timing of these mailings made it difficult for opponents to respond before the election and created an unfair advantage. These false claims of support or endorsement likely influenced some voters, but the impact on the election cannot be quantified on this record. Under all the circumstances, the panel believes a fine in the amount of \$5,000 is the appropriate penalty.

K.D.S., B.L.N., C.L.S.

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<sup>51</sup> Ex. C-3.

**Ward 2 Reallocation Summary Statement**  
November 14, 2011

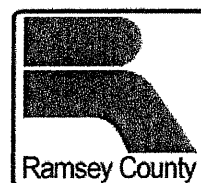
Candidate	Election Night Totals- First Choice	Hand Count Totals-First Choice	Reallocation Rounds			
			1		2	
			+/-	Subtotal	+/-	Subtotal
Dave Thune	2079	2078	75	2153	717	2870
Jim Ivey	1435	1435	86	1521	-1,521	0
Bill Hosko	1378	1378	189	1567	497	2064
Cynthia Schanno	343	344	-344	0	0	0
Sharon Anderson	118	120	-120	0	0	0
Write-in	8	8	-8	0	0	0
Suspended Ballots	0	65	-65	0	0	0
<b>Total Votes Cast</b>	<b>5361</b>	<b>5363</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5241</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4934</b>
Inactive	0	0	187	187	307	494
<b>Total Ballots</b>	<b>5361</b>	<b>5428</b>	<b>5428</b>		<b>5428</b>	

52.9 %

38.0 %

9.1 %

	Election Night	Hand Count
Target Calculations ((Total 1st choice votes cast/2)+1)	2681	2682



Key:	Active
	Inactive
	Winner (more than target)

TOTAL AVAILABLE  
FOR REDISTRIBUTION  
- IVEY, SCHANNO, ANDERSON, E+ ALL

1972

TOTAL DISBURSED

1478 - 75 %

TOTAL INACTIVE

494 - 25 %



City of Saint Paul Ward 2 Turn Out  
2007 v 2011

What follows is a break down by precinct of the turn out In Ward 2 in the last two city council elections. The 2007 general election was where Thune and Hosko faced off and the 2011 IRV race where Ivey, Schanno, and Anderson joined Thune and Hosko on the ballot. What is interesting to note is where turn out is significantly up, and the characteristics of those precincts and where turn out is down.

The 2011 IRV election had a significantly (more than 10%) higher turn out in precincts 2-11 (Lowertown), 2-4 (Summit Hill); 2-6 and 2-7 (Brewery/Irvine Park/Riverfront); and 2-13 West Side Bluff.

The 2011 IRV election had a significantly lower turn out in precincts 2-15 - District Del Sol, 2-16 - Riverview School, and 2-14 - Humboldt.

The most common characteristic of the precincts with the decrease in turn out is that they have the highest minority percentage of population in Ward 2. In fact, precinct 2-15 is the only precinct that is over 50% minority members in Ward 2. 2-15 is 70% of color and 2-16 47% and 2-14 is 34.9%.

Of course, the data can't show who actually voted on election day or if it was IRV that reduced the turnout in some precincts and increased it in others. It is just interesting to note that it is a consistent pattern in city after city.

Voter turn out break down Ward 2 2007 v 2011 (% of minority member 2010 census)

Prct	% 2007	% 2011	+/-%	Min %
2-1	25.6%	27.4%	+7	10.1
2-2	28.0%	29.7%	+6	7.6
2-3	30.0%	27.4%	-9.5	18.4
2-4	19.6%	21.8%	+11	9.4
2-5	30.0%	29.4%	-2	19.4
2-6	24.5%	27.4%	+12	20.3
2-7	20.2%	23.4%	+15.8	29
2-8	17.2%	16.9%	-2	32.1
2-9	18.9%	20.2%	+7	34.1
2-11	20.7%	24.8%	+19.8	18.9
2-12	26.2%	25.7%	-2	19.3
2-13	25.2%	27.7%	+10	27.4
2-14	20.5%	18.5%	-11	34.9
2-15	11.0%	8.9%	-23.5	70.5
2-16	16.3%	13.9%	-17.2	46.8

Prct	% 2007	% 2011	+/-%	Min %
2-11	20.7%	24.8%	+19.8	18.9
2-7	20.2%	23.4%	+15.8	29
2-6	24.5%	27.4%	+12	20.3
2-4	19.6%	21.8%	+11	9.4
2-13	25.2%	27.7%	+10	27.4
2-9	18.9%	20.2%	+7	34.1
2-1	25.6%	27.4%	+7	10.1
2-2	28.0%	29.7%	+6	7.6
2-5	30.0%	29.4%	-2	19.4
2-8	17.2%	16.9%	-2	32.1
2-12	26.2%	25.7%	-2	19.3
2-3	30.0%	27.4%	-9.5	18.4
2-14	20.5%	18.5%	-11	34.9
2-16	16.3%	13.9%	-17.2	46.8
2-15	11.0%	8.9%	-23.5	70.5



# Ward 1 Reallocation Summary Statement

November 11, 2013

Candidate	Election Night Totals First-Choice	Hand Count Totals-First Choice Team 1	Hand Count Totals-First Choice Team 2	Hand Count Totals-First Choice TOTALS	Reallocation Rounds											
					1		2		3		4		5		6	
					+/-	Subtotal	+/-	Subtotal	+/-	Subtotal	+/-	Subtotal	+/-	Subtotal	+/-	Subtotal
Dai Thao	1346	679	668	1347	25	1372	36	1408	155	1563	135	1698	272	1970		1970
Noel Nix	1165	535	632	1167	16	1183	50	1233	63	1296	120	1416	306	1722		1722
Johnny Howard	727	467	261	728	29	757	51	808	33	841	474	1015	-1,015	0		0
Debbie Montgomery	681	445	237	682	25	707	36	743	36	779	-779	0		0		0
Kazoua Kong-Thao	396	231	165	396	16	412	20	432	-432	0		0		0		0
Mark Voerding	266	117	148	265	27	292	-292	0		0		0		0		0
Paul Holmgren	178	82	96	178	-178	0		0		0		0		0		0
Write-in	7	2	5	7	-7	0		0		0		0		0		0
Total Votes Cast	4766	2558	2212	4770	0	4723	0	4624	0	4479	0	4129	0	3692	0	3692
Suspended Ballots	193	23	35	58	-58											
Inactive		67	63	130	105	235	99	334	145	479	350	829	437	1,266		1266
Total Ballots	4959	2648	2310	4958	4958		4958		4958		4958		4958		4958	

25.5%

28.5%

39.7%

34.7%

Target Calculations (Total 1st choice votes cast/2)+1	Election Night	Hand Count
2384	2386	

Key:	Active	Inactive
	Winner (more than target, when count is complete)	

TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR REDISTRIBUTION = 2444  
-HOWARD, MONTGOMERY, KONG-THAO - VOERDING, HOLMGREN ET AL -  
TOTAL DISBURSED = 1178  
TO OTHER CANDIDATES = 51.866  
TOTAL INACTIVE = 1266

# Ward 2 Reallocation

Candidate	Election Night Totals- First Choice	Hand Count Totals-First Choice Team 1	Hand Count Totals-First Choice Team 2	Hand Count Totals- First Choice TOTALS	Reallocation Round	
					1	
					+/-	Subtotal
Rebecca Noecker	2390	1262	1129	2391	391	2782
Darren Tobolt	2207	919	1289	2208	236	2444
Bill Hosko	840	483	357	840	-840	0
Pat Fearing	110	45	65	110	-110	0
Sharon Anderson	93	59	35	94	-94	0
Michael C Johnson	75	39	37	76	-76	0
Write-in	19	8	11	19	-19	0
Suspended Ballots	n/a	34	36	70	-70	0
Total Votes Cast	5734	2849	2923	5738	0	5226
Inactive	0				582	
Total Ballots	5734	2849	2923	5738	5226	

48.4%  
42.6%  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
100%

	Election Night	Hand Count
<b>Target Calculations</b> ((Total 1st choice votes cast/2)+1)	2868	2870

TOTAL AVAILABLE FOR REDISTRIBUTION  
(HOSKO, FEARING, ANDERSON, JOHNSON ET AL)

1209

TOTAL DISBURSED TO OTHER CANDIDATES

627 - 52%

TOTAL INACTIVE

582 48%

Key:	Active
	Inactive
	Winner (more than target)

**Sec. 6.09. Item veto.**

Any ordinance or resolution shall be approved or vetoed by the mayor in its entirety, except that any item in a measure appropriating money may be approved or vetoed.

(C.F. No. 98-374, § 1, 11-25-98)

**Sec. 6.10. Reconsideration and overriding veto.**

Any ordinance or resolution or any part of an appropriation measure which has been vetoed may be reconsidered by the council and shall become law if passed by an affirmative vote of at least five (5) members within thirty (30) days of the veto. Any such ordinance or resolution or any part of an appropriation measure which has been reconsidered by the council and repassed shall be deemed approved.

(C.F. No. 98-374, § 1, 11-25-98)

**Sec. 6.11. Effective date of ordinance.**

Emergency ordinances shall be effective upon passage, approval and publication once in any legal newspaper, unless a later date is specified in the ordinance. All ordinances other than emergency ordinances shall become effective thirty (30) days after passage, approval and publication once in the official newspaper unless a later date is specified therein.

(C.F. No. 98-374, § 1, 11-25-98)

**Sec. 6.12. Codification.**

The council shall provide for the compilation of legislative ordinances in a legislative code and administrative ordinances in an administrative code.

(C.F. No. 98-374, § 1, 11-25-98)

**Sec. 6.13. Prima facie evidence.**

Any codification or compilation of the ordinances or resolutions of the city prepared under the direction of the council or any copy of any ordinance or resolution certified by the city clerk shall be prima facie evidence of its contents and of

the regularity and legality of its adoption and shall be admitted as evidence in any court without further proof.

(C.F. No. 98-374, § 1, 11-25-98)

**CHAPTER 7. ELECTIONS\*****Sec. 7.01. City elections.**

The election of city officers and such other officers as are required by law to be elected at a city election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in odd numbered years.

Note—Amended, see Note 2 following Chapter 2.

**Sec. 7.02. Voter qualifications.**

Every person entitled to vote under the provisions of the Constitutions of the State of Minnesota and of the United States, and who shall fulfill the requirements prescribed by law, shall be entitled to vote in all elections.

**Sec. 7.03. Qualifications of candidates.**

Every person eligible to office under the Constitution of the State of Minnesota shall be eligible to file for election.

**Sec. 7.04. Name on primary ballot.**

Not later than six (6) weeks nor more than eight (8) weeks before the primary election, any

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\*Administrative code reference—For administrative provisions relative to elections, see Title IV, Subtitle E.

person eligible may, by filing an affidavit and payment of fifty dollars (\$50.00) to the city clerk, have his or her name placed on the primary election ballot. Each person desiring to have his or her name placed on the primary ballot for councilmember shall state in the affidavit of candidacy the district for which he or she is a candidate. (Ord. No. 17665, § 5, 6-29-89)

**Editor's note**—Section 7.04 amended, election Nov. 4, 1980; see Resolution, C.F. 275919 and Note 1 following Chapter 2; further amended by Ord. No. 17412, see Note 4 to Chapter 2; further amended by Ord. No. 17413, C.F. 86-1425, adopted by city council Nov. 5, 1986, pursuant to Minnesota Statute, Section 410.12.

#### **Sec. 7.05. Primary election.**

A primary election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September preceding any municipal election day.

**Note**—Amended, see Note 2 following Chapter 2.

#### **Sec. 7.06. City election candidates.**

If the law prescribes that the election of mayor and councilmember be by party designation, the candidate of each party receiving the highest number of votes in the primary election for the office of mayor or the office of councilmember in any district shall be declared the nominee of his party for the office at the next city election and the candidate's name shall be placed on the municipal election ballot, together with the name of any candidate for the office nominated by petition in accordance with the law. If the law does not provide for election by party designation, the two (2) candidates for mayor receiving the highest number of votes in the primary election for the office and the two (2) candidates for the council in each district receiving the highest number of votes for council in that district shall be declared the nominees and the only nominees for the respective offices at the next city election.

(Ord. No. 17665, § 5, 6-29-89)

**Editor's note**—Section 7.06 amended, election Nov. 4, 1980; see Resolution C.F. 275919 and Note 1 following Chapter 2; further amended by Ord. No. 17412, see Note 4 to Chapter 2.

#### **Sec. 7.07. Special election.**

The council may by resolution, adopted by affirmative vote of at least five (5) members, order a  
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special election when deemed necessary for any purpose and provide for the holding of the election.

#### **Sec. 7.08. Election procedure.**

Except where in conflict with the provisions of this Charter, the conduct and procedure of all elections shall be governed by the applicable statutes, together with supplementary ordinances passed by the council.

**Editor's note**—Section 7.08 amended, election Nov. 7, 1978; see also Section 7.09.

#### **Sec. 7.09. Nonpartisan election.**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all elections for the office of mayor or councilmember shall be held on a nonpartisan basis, with no party designation on the ballot for such offices.

**Editor's note**—Party designation amendment submitted to voters at election Nov. 7, 1978 and approved. C.F. 272037, adopted Nov. 14, 1978.

#### **Sec. 7.10. Canvass of returns.**

Within seven (7) days after the election, the city council shall canvass the returns and declare the results of the election.

**Editor's note**—Section 7.10 added by Ord. No. 17047, C.F. 279148, adopted by the city council Aug. 25, 1983, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 410.12.

### **CHAPTER 8. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM, AND RECALL**

#### **Sec. 8.01. Initiative, referendum and recall.**

The people shall have the right to propose ordinances, to require ordinances to be submitted to a vote, and to recall elective officials by processes known respectively as initiative, referendum and recall.

#### **Sec. 8.02. Petition.**

Initiative, referendum or recall shall be initiated by a petition signed by registered voters of the city equal in number to eight (8) percent of those who voted for the office of mayor in the last preceding city election in the case of initiative or referendum, and twenty (20) percent in the case of recall.

**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

○

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 ads 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](mailto: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](mailto:lbrostrom@comcast.net)>

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

**CC:** Noecker, Rebecca (CI-StPaul) <[Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Cc:** [info@fairvotemn.org](mailto: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.

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

**From:** Jeremy Lostetter <[jeremylostetter@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@fairvotemn.org)

Please see the email I sent Debbi Montgomery below -

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

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

## 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  $\pm 2.9$ .



Precinct	Ranking 1	Ranking 2	Ranking 3	% ranked 2	% ranked 3
	Precint total				
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-01	515	442	383	85.8%	74.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-02	890	821	730	92.2%	82.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-03	920	838	739	91.1%	80.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-04	794	718	628	90.4%	79.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-05	712	644	575	90.4%	80.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-06	751	688	611	91.6%	81.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-07	298	277	249	93.0%	83.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-08	414	374	334	90.3%	80.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-09	615	540	485	87.8%	78.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-01	1046	966	850	92.4%	81.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-02	713	655	561	91.9%	78.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-03	339	306	275	90.3%	81.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-04	120	110	94	91.7%	78.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-05	518	469	418	90.5%	80.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-06	452	426	371	94.2%	82.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-07	144	137	124	95.1%	86.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-08	1240	1158	1016	93.4%	81.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-09	367	341	305	92.9%	83.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-2 P-10	201	174	150	86.6%	74.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-01	166	145	131	87.3%	78.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-02	416	381	336	91.6%	80.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-03	990	907	791	91.6%	79.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-04	661	579	511	87.6%	77.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-05	688	571	492	83.0%	71.5%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-06	978	834	740	85.3%	75.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-07	894	805	686	90.0%	76.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-08	766	684	603	89.3%	78.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-3 P-09	580	503	404	86.7%	69.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-01	388	338	302	87.1%	77.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-02	515	442	398	85.8%	77.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-03	218	193	175	88.5%	80.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-04	719	631	525	87.8%	73.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-05	567	509	460	89.8%	81.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-06	407	332	289	81.6%	71.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-07	613	530	461	86.5%	75.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-4 P-08	473	434	393	91.8%	83.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-01	537	484	440	90.1%	81.9%

Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-02	460	368	315	80.0%	68.5%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-03	332	271	240	81.6%	72.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-04	400	351	328	87.8%	82.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-05	486	416	368	85.6%	75.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-06C	462	381	341	82.5%	73.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-07	329	263	234	79.9%	71.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-5 P-08	390	314	301	80.5%	77.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-01	351	290	257	82.6%	73.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-02	813	469	426	57.7%	52.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-03	1198	239	200	19.9%	16.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-04	534	321	279	60.1%	52.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-05	438	154	131	35.2%	29.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-06	321	191	170	59.5%	53.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-07	288	139	125	48.3%	43.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-08	413	304	271	73.6%	65.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-6 P-09	439	349	295	79.5%	67.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-01C	504	454	396	90.1%	78.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-02D	821	768	663	93.5%	80.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-03	930	864	735	92.9%	79.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-04D	845	771	679	91.2%	80.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-05	534	479	417	89.7%	78.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-06	378	340	307	89.9%	81.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-07	523	479	416	91.6%	79.5%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-08	957	874	783	91.3%	81.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-09	893	828	730	92.7%	81.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-7 P-10	183	166	149	90.7%	81.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-01	392	273	247	69.6%	63.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-02	696	647	572	93.0%	82.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-03	328	299	263	91.2%	80.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-04	476	440	406	92.4%	85.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-05	880	822	727	93.4%	82.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-06	944	891	799	94.4%	84.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-07	1249	1147	987	91.8%	79.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-8 P-08	1063	984	882	92.6%	83.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-01	725	642	561	88.6%	77.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-02	1119	1030	913	92.0%	81.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-03	481	393	334	81.7%	69.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-04	345	276	245	80.0%	71.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-05	198	171	150	86.4%	75.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-06	799	738	629	92.4%	78.7%

Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-07	544	489	422	89.9%	77.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-9 P-08	51	39	35	76.5%	68.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-01	653	576	511	88.2%	78.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-02	572	530	446	92.7%	78.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-03A	726	660	577	90.9%	79.5%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-04	585	522	455	89.2%	77.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-05A	731	631	545	86.3%	74.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-06	729	660	550	90.5%	75.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-07	862	772	672	89.6%	78.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-08	517	448	390	86.7%	75.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-10 P-09	489	429	377	87.7%	77.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-01	816	766	674	93.9%	82.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-02	1011	871	759	86.2%	75.1%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-03	570	526	463	92.3%	81.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-04	1186	1086	971	91.6%	81.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-05	666	596	514	89.5%	77.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-06	1035	944	821	91.2%	79.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-07	852	778	681	91.3%	79.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-08	681	611	543	89.7%	79.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-09	319	300	274	94.0%	85.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-11 P-10	630	567	503	90.0%	79.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-01	1049	969	837	92.4%	79.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-02	942	871	759	92.5%	80.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-03	1087	979	865	90.1%	79.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-04	526	474	400	90.1%	76.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-05	1259	1127	979	89.5%	77.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-06	1158	1056	923	91.2%	79.7%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-07	52	28	27	53.8%	51.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-08	1456	1323	1142	90.9%	78.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-09	616	554	465	89.9%	75.5%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-12 P-10	542	484	438	89.3%	80.8%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-01	588	532	456	90.5%	77.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-02	1260	1163	1033	92.3%	82.0%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-03	1195	1083	936	90.6%	78.3%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-04	1331	1213	1041	91.1%	78.2%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-05	1418	1317	1161	92.9%	81.9%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-06	1680	1534	1301	91.3%	77.4%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-07	1378	1243	1083	90.2%	78.6%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-08	886	801	704	90.4%	79.5%
Hennepin: MINNEAPOLIS W-13 P-09	984	894	785	90.9%	79.8%



January 24, 2017

St. Paul Charter Commission  
15 Kellogg Blvd. West, 310 City Hall  
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear St. Paul Charter Commission Members,

St. Paul voters will elect the city's next mayor using Ranked Choice Voting this year. While St. Paul voters approved RCV in 2009, this will be the first citywide use of RCV as Mayor Chris Coleman steps down after 12 years of service.

As chair of the Minnesota DFL Party, which endorsed RCV as part of the party's Ongoing Platform, I'm excited that all St. Paul voters will have the opportunity to rank their ballots. DFLers statewide adopted Ranked Choice Voting in our party platform because we believe RCV makes elections more inclusive and participatory, values that Democrats strongly uphold.

I'm proud of our party's commitment to improving our democratic process and look forward to the campaign ahead in St. Paul under RCV. It promises to be a competitive race with plenty of robust, yet civil debate.

I'm writing you because I've heard there is an interest by some to put forward a charter amendment to repeal RCV. I urge the Commission to reject any such proposal. A repeal effort would be a huge disservice to St. Paul voters and would be an attack on the very system their next mayor will be elected under. Even more critically, an attempt to repeal RCV would distract everyone from the vital issues St. Paul voters – and candidates – care about.

As RCV campaigns in St. Paul's Ward 1 and Ward 2 have shown, voters find RCV overwhelmingly simple to use. Moreover, voter turnout has increased in races under RCV and candidates have been positive and issue-focused. There's no basis for reverting back to the old system, which would require voters to turnout for two elections instead of just one. Local primaries attract few voters and are costly to taxpayers and campaigns. RCV rolls the local primary into the General Election and ensures the candidate with the broadest support wins in the decisive November election when turnout is highest and most diverse.

The DFL is proud to continue to make our democracy better and applauds St. Paul voters for being leaders in adopting RCV. I look forward to the race ahead and am committed to ensuring that the DFL helps to prepare St. Paul voters to participate fully and effectively in the election. At a time when citizens across the nation are becoming discouraged and disengaged, St. Paul has the opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of the country how RCV can more fully engage voters and help to build a stronger democracy. Please support St. Paul voters in this crucial endeavor.

Sincerely,

Ken Martin  
Chairman, Minnesota DFL Party

Ellen T Brown  
874 Fairmount Avenue  
Saint Paul MN 55105

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March 22, 2017

Dear members of the Saint Paul Charter Commission,

I am Ellen Brown, former chair of the Saint Paul Better Ballot Campaign, a citizen-initiative to enact Ranked Choice Voting. RCV was adopted by the voters of Saint Paul in 2009 with 52.5 percent of the vote. As a board member of FairVote Minnesota, I assisted with the successful implementation of that measure and with our voter education program since its adoption.

Below I will layout the experience that Saint Paul has had with RCV since its adoption. But before doing that, let me point out that this experience is limited to only three council races as the other races were not competitive and ranked votes were not a factor. Most importantly to the proposal you are considering, however, is that Saint Paul voters have not yet used RCV in a competitive city-wide race as Mayor Coleman was never seriously challenged. **This upcoming mayoral election will be the first broad test of RCV in Saint Paul and it is seriously misguided to ask voters to do away with the system before it has been evaluated in a city-wide race.**

### **RCV in Minnesota**

RCV has been used in municipal elections in Minnesota's two largest cities since 2009. Since that time, over 215,000 ranked choice ballots have been cast in the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul to determine winners in 54 municipal races.

Interest by municipalities in Ranked Choice Voting grew following an exhaustive study by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in 2004 that evaluated various alternative voting systems and formally endorsed RCV (or Instant Runoff Voting as it was called then). Other important support comes from the Minnesota DFL, where it has been in the party's action agenda or ongoing platform since 2008, the Minnesota Independence Party, the Minnesota Green Party, five of the current seven Saint Paul city councilmembers, Governor Mark Dayton and Lieutenant Governor Tina Smith, former Senator Dave Durenberger and former mayors Jim Schiebel and George Latimer.

## **RCV in Saint Paul**

Saint Paul voters used Ranked Choice voting in city elections in 2011, 2013 and 2015, though only a few races were considered competitive. In each of these cycles, in all but one race, winners emerged on Election Night having won a majority of first choice rankings. In the one council race in each election that required multiple rounds of tabulation, reallocation was efficiently completed and fully transparent. In fact, in the highly competitive 2015 Ward 2 race, Saint Paul elections manager, Joe Mansky, noted that the election was the smoothest he'd ever seen.

Saint Paul's Hart InterCivic precinct-based voting machines are capable of reading and counting ranked ballots. Precinct results are submitted to the central counting location for tabulation at the ward or citywide level. The counting process is fully transparent, with round-by-round results of all ballot rankings publicly displayed in a user-friendly format. The process is neither burdensome nor chaotic for election administrators, candidates, or voters. And by the next cycle, when fully automated reallocation software is anticipated to have been certified, the process will be even more efficient and faster.

## **RCV elections in Saint Paul**

What follows is background information on the three competitive races to date in Saint Paul.

- **Ward 2, 2011(Incumbent race)**

Total valid votes cast: 5,363

Valid ballot rate: 99.99%

Total first preferences for each candidate:

- Dave Thune: 2,078 (39%)
- Jim Ivey: 1,435 (27%)
- Bill Hosko: 1,378 (25%)
- Cynthia Schanno: 344 (6%)
- Sharon Anderson: 120 (2%)
- Write-in: 8 (<1%)

Winner: Dave Thune, Round 3 with 58% of continuing ballots; 53% of initial ballots cast



- **Ward 1, 2013 (Special election)**

Total valid votes cast: 4,770

Valid ballot rate: 99.99%

Total first preferences for each candidate

- Dai Thao: 1,347 (28%)
- Noel Nix: 1,167 (24.5%)
- Johnny Howard: 728 (15%)
- Debbie Montgomery: 682 (14%)
- Paul Holmgren: 178 (4%)
- Kazoua Kong-Thao: 396 (8%)
- Mark Voerding: 265 (5.5%)
- Write-in: 7 (<1%)

Winner: Dai Thao, Round 6 with 77% of continuing ballots; 41% of initial ballots cast

- **Ward 2, 2015 (Open seat)**

Total ward voters: 5,738

Valid ballot rate: 99.99%

Total first preferences for each candidate:

- Rebecca Noecker: 2,391 (42%)
- Darren Tobolt: 2,208 (38%)
- Bill Hosko: 840 (15%)
- Pat Fearing: 110 (2%)
- Sharon Anderson: 94 (1%)
- Michael C. Johnson: 76 (1%)
- Write-in: 19 (<1%)

Winner: Rebecca Noecker, Round 2 with 53% of continuing ballots; 49% of initial ballots cast.

Note that it is always the case that the winner will receive a majority of ballots cast in the final round. Ballots for voters who chose not to rank one of the final two candidates are “exhausted” before the final round. In some cases, this results in winners with less than half the initial votes cast. Contrary to opponents’ claims that RCV does not always elect majority winners, it does. It is simply the case that some voters do not like either of the finalists and did not rank them. We

know from polling that this is not because of voter confusion, but because of voter preference. Voters are instructed to rank as far as they have a preference and in some cases, voters do not wish to rank all the way down the ballot. It would be similar to voters not turning out for a run-off election of the top-two candidates because they didn't like either of them or skipping the general election if their preferred candidate lost in a primary.

More importantly, RCV increases *effective voter participation* by bringing together the most candidates with the most voters in one decisive election in November when turnout is highest and most diverse. This is especially key for communities of color who are even more underrepresented in primaries than in general elections than the population at large. Under RCV more voters are choosing their local officials.

Costly, poorly attended and unrepresentative local primaries was a main reason voters opted for RCV in 2009. Here's the record in Saint Paul citywide, which shows that municipal primary turnout is a fraction of General Election turnout.

	1993	1995	1997	1999	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009
Primary	35,883	18,550	31,668	16,928	37,994	19,226	25,303	5,606	11,672
General	63,915	43,690	61,362	76,326	59,864	32,652	59,509	30,620	34,411

### **RCV is proven to be successful in Saint Paul**

Below are key findings from the exit polls and election results data in the competitive Ward 1 special election in 2013 and Ward 2 race in 2015. The polling was conducted by Edison Research. (See attached RCV By the Numbers for more detailed information.)

In contrast to claims of widespread voter confusion, the vast majority of voters knew about RCV before heading to the polls, ranked their ballots, found it simple to use, like it, and prefer to keep it over the old primary-general election system. Here are the highlights:

In 2013:

- 72% of voters found RCV simple to use
- 72% of voters ranked their ballots
- 62% of voters want to continue to use RCV

In 2015, the numbers were even higher:

- 83% of voters found RCV simple to use
- 73% of voters ranked their ballots
- 70% of voters like and want to continue using RCV in Saint Paul



Last, but not least, voters found the campaigns more civil. While in Ward 2 in 2015, outside groups engaged in negative campaigning, the campaigns themselves were more civil than under traditional head-to-head elections. In fact, negative mailers by outside groups in 2015 seemed to backfire and did not help their candidate win. Voters are tired of negative campaigning and are demonstrating a preference for civil and issue-based campaigns.

Regarding turnout, contrary to opponents' claims, RCV has led to increases in turnout on election day in the competitive races. **Let me stress that it is only relevant to look at turnout numbers in the wards in which RCV was a factor, not citywide. The first competitive citywide mayoral election since RCV adoption will not occur until this year.** In 2007, Ward 2 turnout was 22 percent. In the first RCV race in 2011, it was also 22 percent or essentially flat, which isn't surprising in a race with a strong incumbent. Those races tend to draw fewer people than open seats. In 2015, turnout was 25%, an increase over 2011 due to the competitiveness of the election and choice on the ballot. In Ward 1, turnout in the 2013 special election was 33% higher than in 2011, and the highest in 8 years.

Minneapolis is also experiencing higher voter turnout under RCV. This is a promising trend in an era of declining voter engagement. Let me note that advocates have not claimed that RCV would lead to increased turnout per se; but it does seem to be having a positive impact on overall voter turnout – in addition to increasing effective voter participation by eliminating the low-turnout primary and holding only one higher turnout election in November. In short, RCV is engaging more voters.

### **RCV in Minneapolis**

Since there have only been three competitive races in Saint Paul since adoption of RCV, it may also be helpful to consider the success of RCV in our neighboring city, Minneapolis, with which we share a similarly large and ethnically diverse voting population and voting customs.

Minneapolis voters approved a charter amendment in 2006 by a nearly two-to-one margin. RCV was first used in the November 2009 elections. The implementation was a tremendous success, with 95 percent of voters polled – and 97 percent of people of color polled – reporting that they found the ballot easy to use.

In 2013, RCV was used in the first open mayoral contest. It was a highly competitive election with 35 candidates. (Note, this unwieldy number of candidates was due to a very low [\$20] filing fee that assured a place on the November ballot; the city of Minneapolis has since raised the fee to \$500, as it is in Saint Paul). Voter turnout was the highest it had been in 12 years.

Voters proved they understood the process, with a 99.94 valid ballot rate and nearly 90 percent ranking their ballot for mayor (it would have been higher had there not been a concerted effort

on the part of a campaign to urge voters in the Somali-dominant district, Ward 6, not to rank). See attached table showing ranking by precinct. Mayor Betsy Hodges won with 61 percent of the ballots cast in the final round and 49 percent of initial ballots cast – an incredibly large share given the large number of candidates. This reflects the high degree of ranking in that election as well as the fact that some voters prefer only one candidate and don't have a preference for any other candidate if that candidate is defeated. In the end, RCV ensured that the consensus candidate emerged as the winner and provided Minneapolis voters with the opportunity to express their true preferences about the candidates without worrying about vote splitting or the need for strategic voting. Attached are findings from the 2013 race in Minneapolis, including a breakdown of rankings by precinct.

## **Conclusion**

I hope this information demonstrates the merits of RCV.

Beyond the case to be made for RCV on its own, I want to emphasize again how poorly timed a measure to repeal RCV in 2017 would be—before it has been tested in a competitive city-wide race and at the same voters will be using it to elect the city's next mayor. Such an action seems misguided at best.

Finally, when RCV was adopted in 2009, more than 7000 voters signed a petition verifying that they wanted the opportunity to consider and vote RCV up or down. A majority (8 of 14) of the members of the Charter Commission, an unelected body, should not have the power to place on the ballot a question the voters haven't asked for. When voters put an initiative on the ballot, only they should have the power to decide if they want to reconsider it.

Respectfully,

Ellen Brown  
Former Chair, Better Ballot Campaign

-----Original Message-----

From: Laurie Radovsky [mailto:laurier21@me.com]

Sent: Monday, March 20, 2017 11:42 AM

To: \*CI-StPaul\_Contact-Council

Cc: info@fairvotemn.org

Subject: Don't repeal Ranked Choice Voting!

Dear friends:

I was shocked to learn of the attempt to repeal ranked choice voting by the St. Paul City Council. I voted for it and am looking forward to using it in the upcoming mayoral election. The argument against it that it will confuse immigrants is patronizing and incorrect. The end-run through the City Council that bypasses the majority opinion is unfair and undemocratic. Please do not eliminate this tool that promotes healthy politics over political partisanship!

Sincerely,

Laurie Radovsky

11xx Juliet Ave.

St. Paul, MN55105

**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

::::

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>

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**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 - [theatreproprata.org](http://theatreproprata.org)**

**The Ghost Train - March 31 - April 16 - Wayward & Mission Theatre Companies - [waywardtheatre.org/missiontheatrecompany.com](http://waywardtheatre.org/missiontheatrecompany.com)**

**Turn of the Screw - May 4-13 - Hero Now Theatre - [heronowtheatre.org](http://heronowtheatre.org)**

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

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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

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**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

--

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

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[jim@collegepossible.org](mailto:jim@collegepossible.org)>

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

**To:** <[chartercommssion@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto: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!**

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**From:** EJ Coolidge [mailto:[ecoolidg@macalester.edu](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 dose should be requited 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](mailto: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 Comission 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](mailto:stehr002@umn.edu)

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**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](mailto:alan@greendel.org)

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**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](mailto:benweiss87@gmail.com)

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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

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**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

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From: [info@stpaulvotesmarter.com](mailto:info@stpaulvotesmarter.com)

To: [rjfkramer@aol.com](mailto: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

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**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

**City of Saint Paul**

Charter Review Committee of the Charter Commission  
Single Transferrable Voting (STV)

Charter Commissioner John Paul (Jack) Kirr  
March 27, 2017

# City of Saint Paul

## Charter Review Committee of the Charter Commission

The Charter Commission is Responsible<sup>1</sup> for

- **Improving the government** of Saint Paul by studying and analyzing issues and concerns of the City
- **Educating citizens** about the Charter and encouraging involvement in the Commission's work
- **Serving as a resource and providing oversight** in solving problems that are deemed unsolvable by the City Council or inappropriate for the Council to address
- **Hearing petitions regarding the Charter** from the public and the City Council
- **Keeping the Charter current** by reviewing the provisions and language to keep it up-to-date and coordinated with State laws

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/city-council/charter-commission>

## Basis of Comparison – City Council Elections

- Two full City Council elections (2011 and 2015) have been run under the Single Transferable Voting<sup>1</sup> (STV) method
- This analysis also includes the STV 2013 Ward 1 City Council Special Election
- This analysis also compares the traditional 1995, 1999, 2003 and 2007 City Council elections
- 2 of 14 City Council races in 2011 and 2015 triggered a STV Instant Runoff (Ward 2 in both cases)
- The 2013 Ward 1 City Council Special Election also triggered a STV Instant Runoff
- Ward boundaries changed in 2011 – between the 2011 and 2015 STV elections
- Saint Paul does not provide detailed STV automated *electronic ballot images* – unlike Minneapolis

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<sup>1</sup> Ord. No. 17665, § 5, 6-29-89; C.F. No. 05-909



## Comments and Questions

- There is not much data to evaluate STV with only two full City Council cycles and 15 total City Council races
- Most City Council races (12 of 15 or 80%) were decided at the first round (equivalent to traditional voting)
  - STV Instant Runoff settled the outcome when no candidate reached the *threshold* in the first round
- The cost to date to implement STV – about \$185,000 – is a **Sunk Cost**
  - The appropriate way to evaluate the cost of STV versus traditional is what each will cost from **today and in future**
- Several factors may help understand STV – But it is **not clear** whether those factors **also apply** to traditional voting

*Turnout* – Does STV increase or decrease voter turnout? Can it be known one way or the other?

- Does it depend on other factors like incumbency, the number or quality of candidates? Other initiatives?

*Ward and Precinct Demographics* – Are there clear voting patterns and trends between wards and/or precincts?

- Different in STV than in traditional voting? Can the differences be quantified?

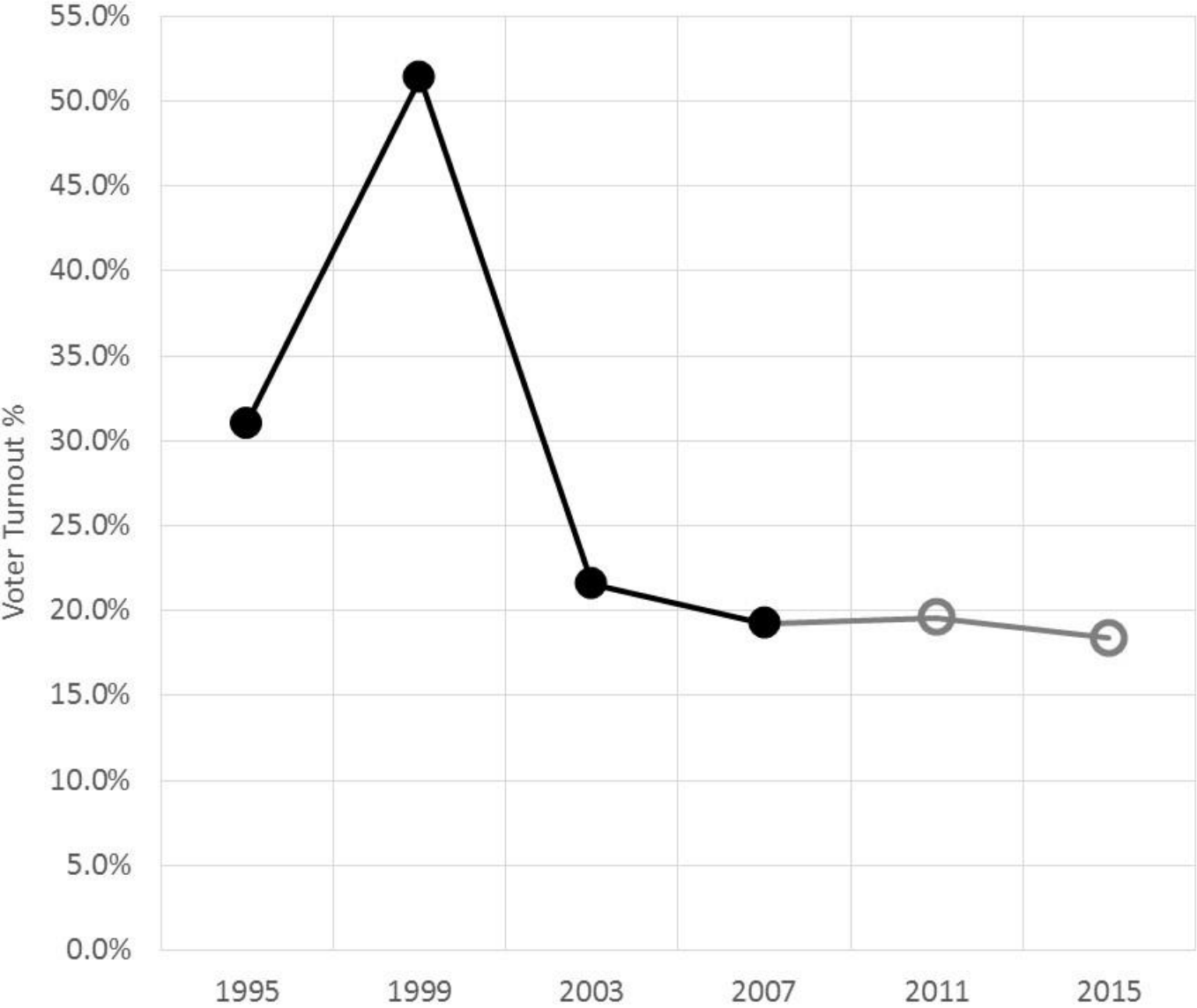
- Election-to-election comparisons (whether STV or traditional) are difficult when ward and precinct boundaries change

## Comments and Questions, Continued

- Is the **Charter Commission** debating a “**False Choice**” fallacy? Is this really an either/or choice STV versus traditional?
- Are there other, better voting systems than either STV or traditional to **achieve all the city’s election goals**?
  - Higher Turnout
  - Representative of Voter Preferences
  - Competitive
  - Low Cost
  - Fair
- **Will these goals be achieved by changing to traditional voting?** Remaining with STV? Does the Commission know?
- Does the Charter Commission have a **responsibility** to help improve the city election system?

City of Saint Paul  
Voter Turnout % All Wards  
City Council Elections 1995-2015

○ STV



Voter turnout decreased in three of last four full City Council elections and long-term trend is down

1999 Election

- City Council
- School Board
- Ballpark Initiative Ordinance
- Billboard Initiative Ordinance
- Council Salary Charter Amendment

Does the City have a Turnout Issue?

Is STV or Traditional Better to Improve Turnout?  
What if Neither? How does Commission know?

What is **Commission** doing to improve **Turnout**?

## Summary of STV City Council Elections

		2011							
Ward Precinct		Type	Candidates Excl Write-In	Total Registered	Persons Voting	Turnout	Winner	% of Votes	Runoff?
All	All		20	156,760	30,682	19.6%			
1	All	INCUMBENT	4	21,218	3,672	17.3%	CARTER	60.6%	No
2	All	INCUMBENT	5	24,189	5,423	22.4%	THUNE	✓	Yes
3	All	OPEN	4	28,083	7,894	28.1%	TOLBERT	50.7%	No
4	All	INCUMBENT	2	26,464	4,455	16.8%	STARK	76.6%	No
5	All	OPEN	2	19,143	3,771	19.7%	BRENDMOEN	50.2%	No
6	All	INCUMBENT	2	18,306	3,453	18.9%	BOSTROM	58.1%	No
7	All	INCUMBENT	1	19,357	2,014	10.4%	LANTRY	93.2%	No

		2013							
Ward Precinct		Type	Candidates Excl Write-In	Total Registered	Persons Voting	Turnout	Winner	% of Votes	Runoff?
1	All	OPEN	7	21,009	4,961	23.6%	THAO	✓	Yes

		2015							
Ward Precinct		Type	Candidates Excl Write-In	Total Registered	Persons Voting	Turnout	Winner	% of Votes	Runoff?
All	All		18	151,966	27,923	18.4%			
1	All	OPEN	2	20,248	3,061	15.1%	THAO	84.2%	No
2	All	OPEN	6	23,773	5,807	24.4%	NOECKER	✓	Yes
3	All	INCUMBENT	1	27,746	5,440	19.6%	TOLBERT	91.9%	No
4	All	INCUMBENT	2	24,383	5,524	22.7%	STARK	61.4%	No
5	All	INCUMBENT	3	18,623	3,991	21.4%	BRENDMOEN	56.2%	No
6	All	INCUMBENT	3	18,073	2,221	12.3%	BOSTROM	73.8%	No
7	All	OPEN	1	19,120	1,879	9.8%	PRINCE	94.8%	No

- 9 of 15 City Council races were Incumbent
- 3 of 15 races triggered a STV Instant Runoff - 2 were Open and 1 was Incumbent
- **71.0%** average Winning % of all Non-Runoff races
- Open races do not always have multiples candidates

### Does the City have a Competition Issue?

Is STV or Traditional Better to Improve Competition?  
What if Neither? How does Commission know?

### What is **Commission** doing to improve **Competition**?

City of Saint Paul

2013 Election  
Ward 1 Reallocation  
Hand Count Totals

	First Choice	%	+/- First Choice	Subtotal	% of Total Ballots
Dai Thao	1,347	28.2%	623	1,970	41.3%
Noel Nix	1,167	24.5%	555	1,722	36.1%
			b 1,178	3,692	77.4%
Johnny Howard	728	15.3%	(728)	-	0.0%
Debbie Montgomery	682	14.3%	(682)	-	0.0%
Kazoua Kong-Thao	396	8.3%	(396)	-	0.0%
Mark Voerding	265	5.6%	(265)	-	0.0%
Paul Holmgren	178	3.7%	(178)	-	0.0%
Write-in	7	0.1%	(7)	-	0.0%
Suspended Ballots	188		(188)	-	0.0%
			a (2,444)	-	0.0%
			c (1,266)	1,266	26.5%
Total Votes Cast	4,958				
Less Suspended Ballots	(188)			(188)	-3.9%
Total Ballots	4,770	100.0%		4,770	100.0%

a Votes for *Mathematically Impossible to be Elected* Candidates 2,444  
= b Total Activated (Thao or Nix as Subsequent Choice) 1,178  
+ c Total Inactivated Ballots (Neither Thao nor Nix as Any Choice) 1,266

Notes

a Howard, Montgomery, Kong-Thao, Voerding, Holmgren & Write-in did not have enough votes in later rounds to win.

b Thao and Nix got 1,178 second through sixth choice votes reallocated from all the other candidates.

In other words, 1,178 ballots from all the other candidates had Thao or Nix as a second through sixth choice.

These 1,178 ballot choices were added to the first round votes for Thao and Nix.

c There were 1,266 ballots that did not have Thao or Nix as any choice. These ballots are considered "inactivated."

Fairness is a Feeling  
What’s fair to some isn’t always fair to all

STV Instant Runoff Calculations Seem to Be Contentious  
‘Inactive’ ballots act like a *‘Primary Within a General’*

Is it Fair?

- 26.5% of first choices did not carry to the total (‘inactive’)
- Ballots with the second place finisher as the first choice have subsequent choices that are never reallocated

*All reallocations happen with subsequent choices from candidates who are mathematically unable to win – except for the second place finisher*

Hypothetical Primary + General = Two Total Elections

Primary (Top 2 Advance)			General <sup>a</sup>			Total (Primary + General) <sup>b</sup>		
Voters		%	Voters		%	Voters		%
Abraham	12	24.0%	Abraham	49	49.0%	Abraham	49	38.3%
Bill	10	20.0%	Bill	51	51.0%	Bill	51	39.8%
Donald	9	18.0%				Donald	9	7.0%
Eugene	8	16.0%				Eugene	8	6.3%
Franklin	7	14.0%				Franklin	7	5.5%
Hubert	4	8.0%				Hubert	4	3.1%
Total	50	100.0%	Total	100	100.0%		128	100.0%
						Donald	9	7.0%
						Eugene	8	6.3%
						Franklin	7	5.5%
						Hubert	4	3.1%
						Subtotal	28	21.9%

a Voters for Donald, Eugene, Franklin and Hubert do not vote in the General

b Primary voters for Abraham and Bill also vote for them in the General

Fairness is a Feeling  
What’s fair to some isn’t always fair to all

Is it Fair?

- Who won the most votes?
- Was there a **majority**?
- Were 21.9% of votes ‘inactivated’?
  
- Do the results **Represent** voter preferences?
  
- That (city) elections are ‘**non-partisan**’  
When political **parties** endorse candidates?
  
- That **only two candidates** moved to the General?
- Does this electoral method foster **Competition**?
  
- Are two-step elections Low Cost? **Lower Cost**?

**Fairness** is a Feeling

What's fair to some isn't always fair to all

**Is it Also Fair?**

- Voters changed from traditional way they vote to STV
- 3rd parties rarely win any races in traditional (or STV) systems
- Only two Republicans have been Mayor since WW II
- **All** electoral methods have **strengths and weaknesses**

What is **Commission** doing to improve **Fairness**?

## Summary

- Is the **Charter Commission** debating a “**False Choice**” fallacy? Is this really an either/or choice STV versus traditional?
- Are there other, better voting systems than either STV or traditional to **achieve all the city’s election goals**?
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  - Higher Turnout
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  - Competitive
  - Low Cost
  - Fair
- Does the Charter Commission have a **responsibility** to help improve the city election system?

The Charter Commission is Responsible for

- **Improving the government** of Saint Paul by studying and analyzing issues and concerns of the City
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- **Keeping the Charter current** by reviewing the provisions and language to keep it up-to-date and coordinated with State laws



## Appendix

- 1999-2015 Voter Turnout by Ward
- 2011 Election Details By Choice
- 2015 Election Details By Choice
- 2015 Ward 2 STV Instant Runoff Reallocation
- Minneapolis Automated *Electronic Ballot Image* Example
- Minneapolis 2009 and 2013 Elections Executive Summary

City of Saint Paul  
Voter Turnout By Ward

	Total Number of Votes					Trend	Total Registered					Trend	Turnout %					Trend
	1999	2003	2007	2011	2015		1999	2003	2007	2011	2015		1999	2003	2007	2011	2015	
All	76,326	32,652	30,620	30,682	27,923	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	148,473	151,424	159,160	156,760	151,966	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	51.4%	21.6%	19.2%	19.6%	18.4%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
1	7,635	4,965	4,628	3,672	3,061	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	17,735	19,477	21,052	21,218	20,248	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	43.0%	25.5%	22.0%	17.3%	15.1%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
2	12,046	5,400	5,199	5,423	5,807	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	23,578	21,269	23,595	24,189	23,773	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	51.1%	25.4%	22.0%	22.4%	24.4%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
3	16,519	6,925	5,329	7,894	5,440	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	26,658	28,983	29,043	28,083	27,746	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	62.0%	23.9%	18.3%	28.1%	19.6%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
4	13,134	4,898	4,058	4,455	5,524	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	25,173	26,530	26,306	26,464	24,383	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	52.2%	18.5%	15.4%	16.8%	22.7%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
5	9,449	5,101	4,181	3,771	3,991	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	18,747	18,400	20,046	19,143	18,623	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	50.4%	27.7%	20.9%	19.7%	21.4%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
6	8,429	2,034	4,736	3,453	2,221	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	17,610	17,714	19,154	18,306	18,073	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	47.9%	11.5%	24.7%	18.9%	12.3%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>
7	9,115	3,329	2,489	2,014	1,879	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	18,974	19,051	19,964	19,357	19,120	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	48.0%	17.5%	12.5%	10.4%	9.8%	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

	Change in Total Number of Votes				Change in Total Registered			
	2003	2007	2011	2015	2003	2007	2011	2015
All	-43,674	-2,032	62	-2,759	2,951	7,736	-2,400	-4,794
1	-2,670	-337	-956	-611	1,742	1,575	166	-970
2	-6,646	-201	224	384	-2,309	2,326	594	-416
3	-9,594	-1,596	2,565	-2,454	2,325	60	-960	-337
4	-8,236	-840	397	1,069	1,357	-224	158	-2,081
5	-4,348	-920	-410	220	-347	1,646	-903	-520
6	-6,395	2,702	-1,283	-1,232	104	1,440	-848	-233
7	-5,786	-840	-475	-135	77	913	-607	-237

	% Change in Total Number of Votes				% Change in Total Registered			
	2003	2007	2011	2015	2003	2007	2011	2015
All	-57.2%	-6.2%	0.2%	-9.0%	2.0%	5.1%	-1.5%	-3.1%
1	-35.0%	-6.8%	-20.7%	-16.6%	9.8%	8.1%	0.8%	-4.6%
2	-55.2%	-3.7%	4.3%	7.1%	-9.8%	10.9%	2.5%	-1.7%
3	-58.1%	-23.0%	48.1%	-31.1%	8.7%	0.2%	-3.3%	-1.2%
4	-62.7%	-17.1%	9.8%	24.0%	5.4%	-0.8%	0.6%	-7.9%
5	-46.0%	-18.0%	-9.8%	5.8%	-1.9%	8.9%	-4.5%	-2.7%
6	-75.9%	132.8%	-27.1%	-35.7%	0.6%	8.1%	-4.4%	-1.3%
7	-63.5%	-25.2%	-19.1%	-6.7%	0.4%	4.8%	-3.0%	-1.2%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
MELVIN W. CARTERIII	1	1	2,177	60.6%	2	552	28.1%	3	213	21.2%	4	162	28.1%	5	113	42.0%
JOHNNY HOWARD	1	1	1,010	28.1%	2	792	40.3%	3	236	23.4%	4	133	23.1%	5	75	27.9%
ANTHONY J. FERNANDEZ	1	1	269	7.5%	2	422	21.5%	3	333	33.1%	4	85	14.7%	5	20	7.4%
JAMES MICHAELMCEIVER	1	1	122	3.4%	2	176	9.0%	3	199	19.8%	4	177	30.7%	5	32	11.9%
WI WRITE-IN**	1	1	15	0.4%	2	21	1.1%	3	26	2.6%	4	20	3.5%	5	29	10.8%
TOTAL			3,593	100.0%		1,963	100.0%		1,007	100.0%		577	100.0%		269	100.0%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
DAVE THUNE	2	1	2,079	38.8%	2	953	24.7%	3	360	16.6%	4	113	12.4%	5	151	27.0%	6	74	30.1%
BILL HOSKO	2	1	1,378	25.7%	2	895	23.2%	3	543	25.0%	4	165	18.2%	5	110	19.6%	6	69	28.0%
JIM IVEY	2	1	1,435	26.8%	2	1,268	32.8%	3	416	19.1%	4	167	18.4%	5	84	15.0%	6	36	14.6%
CYNTHIA P. SCHANNO	2	1	343	6.4%	2	514	13.3%	3	519	23.9%	4	218	24.0%	5	75	13.4%	6	22	8.9%
SHARON ANDERSON	2	1	118	2.2%	2	219	5.7%	3	310	14.3%	4	229	25.2%	5	117	20.9%	6	19	7.7%
WI WRITE-IN**	2	1	8	0.1%	2	17	0.4%	3	27	1.2%	4	16	1.8%	5	23	4.1%	6	26	10.6%
TOTAL			5,361	100.0%		3,866	100.0%		2,175	100.0%		908	100.0%		560	100.0%		246	100.0%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
CHRIS TOLBERT	3	1	3,959	50.7%	2	1,462	30.0%	3	512	21.6%	4	223	21.9%	5	97	35.0%
JOHN MANNILLO	3	1	2,563	32.8%	2	1,779	36.5%	3	515	21.7%	4	173	17.0%	5	77	27.8%
EVE STEIN	3	1	1,098	14.1%	2	1,222	25.1%	3	836	35.2%	4	141	13.8%	5	48	17.3%
TYLOR J. SLINGER	3	1	164	2.1%	2	352	7.2%	3	470	19.8%	4	430	42.2%	5	16	5.8%
WI WRITE-IN**	3	1	24	0.3%	2	53	1.1%	3	40	1.7%	4	52	5.1%	5	39	14.1%
TOTAL			7,808	100.0%		4,868	100.0%		2,373	100.0%		1,019	100.0%		277	100.0%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
RUSS STARK	4	1	3,284	76.6%	2	390	39.8%	3	185	60.1%
CURTIS STOCK	4	1	958	22.4%	2	500	51.1%	3	85	27.6%
WI WRITE-IN**	4	1	43	1.0%	2	89	9.1%	3	38	12.3%
TOTAL			4,285	100.0%		979	100.0%		308	100.0%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
AMY BRENDMOEN	5	1	1,853	50.2%	2	718	50.0%	3	227	47.2%
LEE HELGEN	5	1	1,817	49.2%	2	659	45.9%	3	201	41.8%
WI WRITE-IN**	5	1	23	0.6%	2	59	4.1%	3	53	11.0%
TOTAL			3,693	100.0%		1,436	100.0%		481	100.0%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
DAN BOSTROM	6	1	1,962	58.1%	2	467	42.5%	3	250	47.5%
BEE KEVIN XIONG	6	1	1,397	41.4%	2	586	53.3%	3	242	46.0%
WI WRITE-IN**	6	1	19	0.6%	2	47	4.3%	3	34	6.5%
TOTAL			3,378	100.0%		1,100	100.0%		526	100.0%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
KATHY LANTRY	7	1	1,649	93.2%	2	310	80.9%
WI WRITE-IN**	7	1	120	6.8%	2	73	19.1%
TOTAL			1,769	100.0%		383	100.0%

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
DAI THAO	1	1	2,503	84.2%	2	544	47.3%	3	336	68.2%
TRAHERN JEENCREWS	1	1	416	14.0%	2	551	48.0%	3	109	22.1%
WI WRITE-IN**	1	1	<u>54</u>	<u>1.8%</u>	2	<u>54</u>	<u>4.7%</u>	3	<u>48</u>	<u>9.7%</u>
TOTAL			<u>2,973</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>1,149</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>493</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
REBECCA NOECKER	2	1	2,390	41.4%	2	1,413	33.8%	3	344	16.0%	4	107	12.5%	5	95	14.5%	6	90	15.8%
DARREN TOBOLT	2	1	2,207	38.3%	2	1,459	34.9%	3	328	15.3%	4	121	14.2%	5	114	17.4%	6	117	20.5%
BILL HOSKO	2	1	840	14.6%	2	698	16.7%	3	654	30.4%	4	167	19.6%	5	95	14.5%	6	100	17.5%
PAT FEARING	2	1	110	1.9%	2	216	5.2%	3	333	15.5%	4	192	22.5%	5	112	17.1%	6	46	8.1%
SHARON ANDERSON	2	1	93	1.6%	2	186	4.4%	3	218	10.1%	4	117	13.7%	5	82	12.5%	6	134	23.5%
MICHAEL C JOHNSON	2	1	75	1.3%	2	158	3.8%	3	225	10.5%	4	150	17.6%	5	157	24.0%	6	83	14.6%
WI WRITE-IN**	1	1	<u>54</u>	<u>0.9%</u>	2	<u>54</u>	<u>1.3%</u>	3	<u>48</u>	<u>2.2%</u>	4	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	5	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	6	<u>-</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
TOTAL			<u>5,769</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>4,184</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>2,150</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>854</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>655</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>570</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
CHRIS TOLBERT	3	1	4,484	91.9%	2	722	77.0%

WI WRITE-IN**	3	1	<u>397</u>	<u>8.1%</u>	2	<u>216</u>	<u>23.0%</u>
TOTAL			<u>4,881</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>938</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
RUSS STARK	4	1	3,293	61.4%	2	799	45.5%	3	272	47.3%
TOM GOLDSTEIN	4	1	2,039	38.0%	2	866	49.3%	3	247	43.0%
WI WRITE-IN**	4	1	<u>35</u>	<u>0.7%</u>	2	<u>92</u>	<u>5.2%</u>	3	<u>56</u>	<u>9.7%</u>
TOTAL	4		<u>5,367</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>1,757</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>575</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
AMY BRENDMOEN	5	1	2,202	56.2%	2	544	26.0%	3	346	32.2%	4	177	43.7%
DAVID J. GLASS	5	1	1,485	37.9%	2	669	32.0%	3	346	32.2%	4	156	38.5%
DAVID SULLIVAN- NIGHTENGALE	5	1	215	5.5%	2	840	40.2%	3	336	31.3%	4	44	10.9%
WI WRITE-IN**	5	1	<u>14</u>	<u>0.4%</u>	2	<u>39</u>	<u>1.9%</u>	3	<u>47</u>	<u>4.4%</u>	4	<u>28</u>	<u>6.9%</u>
TOTAL			<u>3,916</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>2,092</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>1,075</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>405</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
DAN BOSTROM	6	1	1,571	73.8%	2	400	39.4%	3	306	44.7%	4	196	60.9%
EDWARD DAVIS	6	1	290	13.6%	2	321	31.6%	3	160	23.4%	4	50	15.5%
KEVIN T. BRADLEY	6	1	251	11.8%	2	273	26.9%	3	199	29.1%	4	59	18.3%
WI WRITE-IN**	6	1	<u>16</u>	<u>0.8%</u>	2	<u>21</u>	<u>2.1%</u>	3	<u>20</u>	<u>2.9%</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>5.3%</u>
TOTAL			<u>2,128</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>1,015</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>685</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>322</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

CANDIDATE	WARD	CHOICE	COUNT	%	CHOICE	COUNT	%
JANE PRINCE	7	1	1,574	94.8%	2	260	83.6%
WI WRITE-IN**	7	1	<u>87</u>	<u>5.2%</u>	2	<u>51</u>	<u>16.4%</u>
TOTAL			<u>1,661</u>	<u>100.0%</u>		<u>311</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

City of Saint Paul

2015 Election

Ward 2 Reallocation

Hand Count Totals	First Choice	%	+/- First Choice	Subtotal	% of Total Ballots
Rebecca Noecker	2,391	41.7%	391	2,782	48.5%
Darren Tobolt	2,208	38.5%	236	2,444	42.6%
			b 627	5,226	91.1%
Bill Hosko	840	14.6%	(840)	-	0.0%
Pat Fearing	110	1.9%	(110)	-	0.0%
Sharon Anderson	94	1.6%	(94)	-	0.0%
Michael C Johnson	76	1.3%	(76)	-	0.0%
Write-in	19	0.3%	(19)	-	0.0%
Suspended Ballots	70		(70)	-	0.0%
			a (1,209)	-	0.0%
			c (582)	582	10.1%
Total Votes Cast	5,808				
Less Suspended Ballots	(70)			(70)	-1.2%
Total Ballots	5,738	100.0%		5,738	100.0%

a Votes for <i>Mathematically Impossible to be Elected</i> Candidates	1,209
= b Total Activated (Noecker or Tobolt as Subsequent Choice)	627
+ c Total Inactivated Ballots (Neither Noecker nor Tobolt as Any Choice)	582

Notes

- a Hosko, Fearing, Anderson, Johnson and Write-in did not have enough votes in later rounds to win.
- b Noecker and Tobolt got 627 second through sixth round votes reallocated from all other candidates.
- In other words, 627 ballots from the other candidates had Noecker or Tobolt as the second through sixth choice.
- These 627 ballot choices were added to the first round votes for Noecker and Tobolt.
- c There were 582 ballots that did not have Noecker or Tobolt as any choice. These ballots are considered "inactivated."

Ward and Precinct	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-01	ABDUL M RAHAMAN "THE ROCK"	undervote	undervote
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-01	ALICIA K. BENNETT	MERRILL ANDERSON	ALICIA K. BENNETT
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-01	ALICIA K. BENNETT	STEPHANIE WOODRUFF	undervote
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-01	BETSY HODGES	ALICIA K. BENNETT	MARK ANDREW
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-01	BETSY HODGES	BETSY HODGES	BETSY HODGES
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-02	ALICIA K. BENNETT	ABDUL M RAHAMAN "THE ROCK"	JOHN LESLIE HARTWIG
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-02	ALICIA K. BENNETT	NEAL BAXTER	DAN COHEN
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-02	ALICIA K. BENNETT	STEPHANIE WOODRUFF	BETSY HODGES
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-02	BETSY HODGES	ABDUL M RAHAMAN "THE ROCK"	MARK ANDREW
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-03	ABDUL M RAHAMAN "THE ROCK"	JAMES "JIMMY" L. STROUD, JR.	undervote
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-03	ALICIA K. BENNETT	BETSY HODGES	MARK ANDREW
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-03	ALICIA K. BENNETT	undervote	undervote
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-03	BETSY HODGES	ALICIA K. BENNETT	BOB FINE
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-03	BETSY HODGES	ALICIA K. BENNETT	DON SAMUELS
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-03	undervote	overvote	JACKIE CHERRYHOMES
MINNEAPOLIS W-1 P-06	MARK ANDREW	overvote	undervote

## Minneapolis Automated ***Electronic Ballot Image*** Example

Detailed automated electronic data

- Easy to download
- Easy to analyze (See next slide)

**City of Minneapolis**  
2009 and 2013 Elections  
Executive Summary

	2009			2013			2013 Mayor Only % of Ballots					2013 Ward Only % of Ballots				
	Ballots Cast	Registrations	Turnout	Ballots Cast	Registrations	Turnout	Over-Vote	Under-Vote	No Vote	Duplicate	Duplicate X3	Over-Vote	Under-Vote	No Vote	Duplicate	Duplicate X3
Ward	45,968	234,028	19.6%	80,099	239,985	33.4%	0.2%	24.2%	0.8%	2.0%	1.2%	0.2%	63.2%	5.6%	4.8%	3.5%
1	4,016	17,697	22.7%	5,942	19,209	30.9%	0.2%	20.5%	0.2%	1.8%	1.2%	0.1%	72.7%	5.4%	3.7%	2.2%
2	2,842	20,005	14.2%	5,156	18,705	27.6%	0.1%	19.5%	0.1%	1.1%	0.5%	0.3%	93.2%	9.6%	4.3%	2.8%
3	2,257	15,969	14.1%	6,206	20,027	31.0%	0.2%	24.7%	0.8%	1.9%	1.1%	0.2%	52.2%	1.9%	3.3%	2.0%
4	3,322	15,491	21.4%	3,940	17,086	23.1%	0.3%	23.9%	0.6%	3.4%	2.0%	0.3%	71.0%	3.0%	5.4%	2.8%
5	2,200	12,900	17.1%	3,621	15,388	23.5%	0.2%	29.7%	5.4%	5.1%	3.2%	0.1%	40.3%	3.4%	6.7%	4.5%
6	1,982	14,655	13.5%	5,051	15,023	33.6%	0.5%	57.9%	3.7%	4.1%	2.7%	0.4%	78.2%	3.3%	5.9%	4.1%
7	4,532	23,639	19.2%	6,594	19,651	33.6%	0.2%	20.1%	0.2%	1.3%	0.8%	0.1%	88.1%	14.8%	11.9%	10.9%
8	3,239	16,601	19.5%	6,062	17,322	35.0%	0.4%	19.7%	0.2%	2.4%	1.4%	0.0%	88.0%	13.6%	12.0%	11.1%
9	3,035	14,149	21.5%	4,310	12,658	34.0%	0.3%	23.8%	0.7%	3.1%	2.0%	0.1%	41.2%	3.0%	4.3%	2.9%
10	3,431	19,343	17.7%	5,933	19,456	30.5%	0.1%	23.9%	1.0%	1.3%	0.8%	0.1%	63.7%	2.5%	2.4%	1.2%
11	4,235	19,973	21.2%	7,800	20,100	38.8%	0.1%	20.5%	0.3%	1.3%	0.7%	0.1%	68.1%	5.8%	2.8%	1.7%
12	4,818	20,779	23.2%	8,742	22,108	39.5%	0.3%	22.0%	0.2%	1.7%	0.9%	0.1%	45.2%	4.0%	2.5%	1.2%
13	6,059	22,827	26.5%	10,742	23,252	46.2%	0.2%	20.9%	0.1%	1.1%	0.5%	0.1%	38.5%	2.6%	1.3%	0.6%

## Questions

Why did the 2013 STV Minneapolis election have higher turnout (33.4%) than the 2015 STV Saint Paul election (18.4%) ...

... When the 2009 STV Minneapolis and 2011 STV Saint Paul had the same turnout (19.6%)?

Does anybody know **voter intent?**  
**Without asking the voter?**