From: Peter Butler
To: *CI-StPaul_Contact-Council; CouncilHearing (CI-StPaul)
Subject: Letter for RES 25-1746
Date: Friday, November 7, 2025 7:30:29 AM
Attachments: Letter on Mayoral Election Reallocation.pdf

Please post the attached letter as a public comment on RES 25-1746. Thank you.

November 7, 2025

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

Dear Councilmembers,

St. Paul City Ordinance allows ranked choice reallocation electronically only if the Ramsey County's voting system itself can perform the reallocation:

Sec. 31.08. - Manual count procedures.

The chief election official shall establish administrative procedures for conduct of a manual count in accordance with rules for counting the votes contained in section 31.05 of this chapter

(Ord. No. 10-60, § 1, 2-9-11)

Sec. 31.09. - Electronic voting systems.

(a) *Use of voting systems.* All provisions of Minnesota Statutes pertaining to electronic voting systems apply, to the extent they are not inconsistent with this chapter. Any voting system used to conduct an election under this section must be authorized for use by the county auditor pursuant to Minn. Stats. § 206.58. If used for the electronic reallocation of votes, the voting system must be capable of implementing the provisions of section 31.05(d), except that no manual examination of the ballots is required. If used for this purpose, the chief election official shall test the capability of the voting system to perform the electronic reallocation of votes at least ten (10) days prior to the election. If the test fails to demonstrate the capability of the voting system to perform the reallocation of votes in the manner provided in section 31.05(d), the chief election official shall conduct the reallocation of votes manually.

(b) *Electronic ballot images.* If the voting system is capable of creating an electronic image of the ballots that have been counted, the chief election official may use the electronic ballot images to conduct the manual reallocation of votes required by section 31.05(d) and any recount required by this chapter. The chief election official shall prepare the methodology for using scanned images of the ballots for either the manual reallocation of votes or for the visual inspection and counting of ballots in a recount no later than four (4) weeks before the election.

(Ord. No. 10-60, § 1, 2-9-11; Ord 15-18, § 1, 4-22-15)

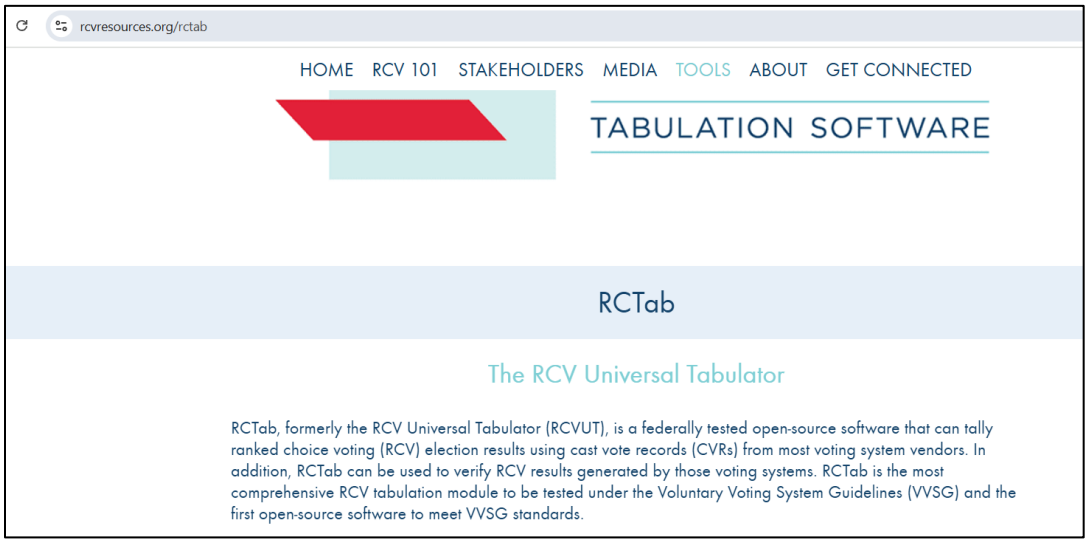
Minnesota Statute 206.56 defines a "voting system" as:

Subd. 8. **Electronic voting system.** "Electronic voting system" means a system in which the voter records votes by means of marking a ballot, so that votes may be counted by automatic tabulating equipment in the polling place where the ballot is cast or at a counting center.

An electronic voting system includes automatic tabulating equipment; nonelectronic ballot markers; electronic ballot markers, including electronic ballot display, audio ballot reader, and devices by which the voter will register the voter's voting intent; software used to program automatic tabulators and layout ballots; computer programs used to accumulate precinct results; ballots; secrecy folders; system documentation; and system testing results.

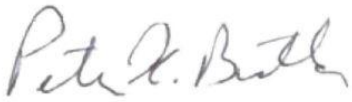
Municipalities may only use voting systems certified by the Minnesota Secretary of State. Ramsey County Elections performed the electronic reallocation with free, "federally tested" software from https://www.rcvresources.org/rctab. Presumably, the Elections Office

exported its voting system's "cast vote records" file and imported it into the RCTab program to determine the reallocation.



The November 4, 2025, mayoral election is the first time that the first-round leader did not win the most votes after reallocation. Performing a manual count and reallocation before the November 12, 2025, canvassing of returns will meet the requirements of city ordinance and ensure that the RCTab software performed properly.

Sincerely,



Peter K. Butler
1060 Grand Avenue, #401
St. Paul, MN 55105

Delivered to Contact-Council@ci.stpaul.mn.us & CouncilHearing@ci.stpaul.mn.us