

Chair Masin and members of the Local Government Division

Vote on H.F. 89 and advance it out of committee!

FROM Bruce Kennedy

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Ranked voting can reduce polarization, increase participation, encourage more choices, and turn the focus from divisive issues to real solutions.

What are the arguments against?

- IS IT CONSTITUTIONAL? Many opponents have claimed that the process is unconstitutional, but the courts have ruled otherwise, most importantly the Minnesota Supreme Court, which ruled unanimously to uphold the process in Minneapolis.
- DOES IT VIOLATE ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE? Those who continue to argue this point claim that some voters unfairly get more votes than others because the voter can rank all the candidates. They say that this violates the principle of “one person one vote.” But this is not the case.

Compare RCV with the primary system that was in place before it in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Consider an election with candidates A, B, and C. In the primary, you vote for A. I vote for C.

A and B each get more votes in the primary than C, so my candidate C is eliminated. In the general election in November that follows, you vote for A again and I vote for B. So you voted for only one candidate, and I voted for two. Was that unfair? Certainly not.

When you think of RCV as just a more efficient and economical way to conduct a primary, or a series of primaries, you see that there is no unfair advantage to those who choose to rank more than one candidate.

- IS IT NON-MONOTONIC? Sometimes mathematicians make an argument that RCV is “non-monotonic.” However, the primary system is also non-monotonic, even more so than RCV. The convoluted fact situations that need to be conjured up to find fault in either system are not worth an extended discussion.
- IS IT TOO COMPLICATED AND DOES IT DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM VOTING? All the evidence is the opposite.

Local governments are famously described as “laboratories of democracy.” Instead of restricting local governments, we should be giving them freedom to seek a more perfect republic. Vote to pass H.F. 89

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