

Dear Chair Masin and members of the House Local Government Division,

What do jurisdictions in Alaska, Maine, Minnesota and Utah have in common? Not their geography. Not their industries. Not their political inclinations. No, what they have in common is their dedication to Ranked Choice Voting.

Why? They have seen that taxpayers' money spent on primary elections and run-offs is badly spent. They have seen that legal challenges to RCV have been ultimately debunked everywhere these challenges have been brought. They have seen that their local and state governments need to be more responsive to their citizens. They have seen that those citizens are disgusted with toxic, polarized politics. And in seeing these things, they have acted.

It is time for Minnesota to act, too. Not just city-by-city, as it already has, but statewide. Minnesota should take advantage – right now – of its opportunities to solidify and advance its democracy. To me, the words “government of the people, by the people and for the people” are not musty or moldy. Instead, they are as fresh as when President Lincoln first spoke them. They are the core of what we are as a nation. And they should be the core of what we are as Minnesotans.

The House Local Government Division should **hear and pass HF 0089 out of committee**, so that citizens like me in small towns such as Grant, can realize the benefits of better (and less expensive) democracy. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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