

STANDARD RESOLUTION FORM

(Note: Incomplete forms may be rejected)

Proposed By (Name): _____ Phone Number: _____

City: Saint Paul Precinct: _____

County Unit/Senate District: _____ Congressional District: 4th

This resolution should be considered under the following category:

Party Issues (Will not be included in the Action Agenda items presented to the state convention.)

Local Issues (City/County) (Forward to the appropriate elected body, not the Platform Committee.)

This resolution is [check one]: A new Action Agenda item An amendment to the Ongoing Platform

A readoption of a 2007 Action Agenda item

This resolution was: Adopted Defeated by:

A voice vote.

A recorded vote of: Yes No Abstain

(A majority consists of more than half of those voting, not counting blanks or abstentions.)

WHEREAS Instant Runoff Voting for St. Paul city elections was endorsed by the St. Paul DFL by a vote of 60 percent in 2007, qualifying the IRV ballot measure to be placed on the DFL sample ballot;

WHEREAS Instant Runoff Voting in Saint Paul will:

- Achieve a majority winner in a single election,
- Eliminate the primary for city elections, which historically have extremely low turn out, thereby increasing voter participation and available choices of candidates,
- Ensure that qualified candidates cannot be eliminated in low-turnout primaries and can compete in the general election, which has higher turnout and is more diverse and representative than a primary election,
- Better reflect voters' intent and assure better representation of voters
- Reduce negative campaigning and lead to more informative and positive campaigns,
- Save the city and candidates time and cost by eliminating separate runoff city elections;

WHEREAS Instant Runoff Voting simulates a series of runoff elections on a single ballot in which:

- Voters rank candidates in preferential order – 1, 2, 3, etc.
- The share of votes needed to win is 50% +1.
- If there is no candidate with a majority of first choices, the candidate with the fewest votes is defeated and those votes are transferred to the second choices on each ballot.
- The votes are recounted, and the process continues until one candidate achieves the required majority.

WHEREAS the Hennepin County District Court upheld the constitutionality of Instant Runoff Voting in Minnesota without stay on implementation;

WHEREAS there is an active Instant Runoff Voting ballot measure campaign in Saint Paul;

WHEREAS Instant Runoff Voting is scheduled for implementation in Minneapolis in November 2009 and is already in use in seven other US jurisdictions (Pierce County, WA; San Francisco, CA; Cambridge, MA; Burlington, VT; Takoma Park, MD; and Cary and Hendersonville, NC), in three states (Louisiana, North Carolina and Arkansas) for overseas voters, and is pending in more than a dozen other jurisdictions throughout the country;

WHEREAS Instant Runoff Voting is endorsed by the Minnesota DFL party, the Saint Paul DFL, the DFL Progressive Caucus, the DFL Feminist Caucus, the Minnesota Young DFL, the College Democrats, AND President Barack Obama;

WHEREAS Instant Runoff Voting is endorsed by the Star Tribune, La Prensa, League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Take Action Minnesota, Minnesota Council of NonProfits, Sierra Club, Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (MPIRG), Unite Here, United Steel Workers - District 11, the Green Party of Minnesota, the Independence Party of Minnesota and several other organizations;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: **The St. Paul DFL renew its endorsement of Instant Runoff Voting for St. Paul City elections; and**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: **The Saint Paul DFL Party insist that all DFL endorsed members of the Saint Paul City Council honor without further delay, the petition signatures of over 7000 residents and place on the ballot for Saint Paul voters in November 2009.**