

2010 CAUCUS RESOLUTION FOR RANKED CHOICE VOTING (A.K.A. INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING)

WHEREAS, a growing number of statewide offices elected since 1998 have been decided by less than a majority of voters;

WHEREAS, the past three elections for governor had three major party candidates plus more candidates from other parties, resulting in a less-than-majority winner;

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting accomplishes in a single election what a traditional runoff accomplishes in two, avoiding the need for a costly and low-turnout runoff election;

WHEREAS, additionally, Ranked Choice Voting has been shown to:

- Maximize voter participation and available choices of candidates
- Assure fairer and more accurate representation of all voters
- Eliminate the problems of “spoiler” candidates and “wasted votes”
- Eliminate the need for nonpartisan city primary elections and reduce the cost of campaigns
- Lead to more informative and less negative campaigns

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting was unanimously ruled constitutional by the Minnesota Supreme Court and supports the principle of “one-person, one vote”;

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting was overwhelmingly adopted by Minneapolis voters in 2006 and used in the 2009 municipal election, adopted by Saint Paul voters in 2009 for use beginning in 2011, and is being considered for placement on the ballot in Duluth in 2010;

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting is already being used in several US cities (San Francisco, CA; Cambridge, MA; Burlington, VT; Takoma Park, MD; and Hendersonville, NC), in three states (Louisiana, North Carolina and Arkansas) for overseas voters, and is pending implementation in more than a dozen other jurisdictions throughout the country;

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting is supported by the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, League of Women Voters of Minnesota, Sierra Club-North Star Chapter, Citizens for Election Integrity-MN, MPIRG and several other state and local organizations as well as the Star Tribune, Spokesman-Recorder and La Prensa;

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting has cross-partisan support in Minnesota;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the _____ Party endorse Ranked Choice Voting for state and local elections.

For further information, see <http://www.fairvotemn.org>.
