

Minneapolis Better Ballot Campaign

A charter amendment initiative for the adoption of Instant Runoff Voting

Resolution of Support for Coalition Partners

WHEREAS: Poor voter turnout is typical in Minneapolis municipal primary elections; for example, just 15% of registered voters in 2005 and 18% in 1997;

WHEREAS: Primary elections are an additional cost to the City and to campaigns;

WHEREAS, Instant Runoff Voting is a better voting method than the current two-round runoff method in that it seeks to:

- Eliminate low turnout local primaries and ensure a majority winner in just one election
- Allow voters to rank fallback choices of candidates to receive their votes in case their first choice can't win
- Increase voter turnout and maximize voter participation in the outcome of the election – the decisive election takes place when turnout is highest
- Make elections less costly, easier and more convenient than the current two-round system
- Assure that low-turnout primary elections won't eliminate candidates who could win in a high-turnout general election
- End the "spoiler" problem – when voting for the candidate you like best may split the majority and help elect the candidate you like least
- Allow all parties to run on their issues and get an accurate tally of their support
- Empower voters to vote sincerely without the need to worry about "wasting" their vote
- Ensure winners have a mandate from the voters
- Reduce negative campaigning
- Invigorate campaign discourse by bringing multiple viewpoints into the debate

WHEREAS: Instant Runoff Voting is an internationally proven voting method that is used in the cities of Cambridge (MA), San Francisco (CA), Burlington (VT) and the states of Louisiana, Arkansas and South Carolina for overseas and military voters; and is pending implementation or being considered for use in several other municipal and statewide elections across the country;

WHEREAS: There is an energetic charter amendment campaign underway for the adoption of Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in Minneapolis that seeks broad support from both political leaders and voters;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: _____ support the Minneapolis Better Ballot Campaign and support the campaign in the following ways:

- _____ Endorse the Minneapolis Better Ballot Campaign
- _____ Gather _____ petition signatures from constituencies for a charter amendment petition (signatures due by May 8, 2006)
- _____ Plan and coordinate _____ educational events to promote the campaign for members and constituents
- _____ Promote the IRV charter amendment campaign on the organization's web site and in other public communications
- _____ Ask constituencies to write letters to the editor and commentaries to community papers
- _____ Recruit other coalition partners
- _____ Make a financial contribution to the campaign in the amount of \$_____ (Make checks payable to Minneapolis IRV Charter Amendment Committee, 3606 Harriet Avenue So., Mpls, MN 55409)