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Minneapolis Lawsuit Dismissed!

Instant runoff voting (IRV) received a resounding legal victory earlier this week, when Hennepin County Judge George McGunnigle unequivocally refuted opponents' claims that IRV is unconstitutional and didn't comply with state law.

This is a great win for democracy. The 29-page opinion is an impressive and unqualified defense of the use of IRV in Minnesota. (Read it [here](#).) Used for more than 100 years in other parts of the country and world, IRV is a straightforward solution to bringing open elections with more choices to the people.

What's next? The Minnesota Voters Alliance – our opponents – have responded that they plan to appeal the case. We'll keep you informed of any developments.

While the timeline of an appeal is uncertain, Mayor R.T. Rybak is optimistic that the legal "wrinkles" can be ironed out and is eager to use IRV this November. He shared his views on [Secrets of the City](#):

"I support it. I supported it on the ballot and voted for it, and now we're implementing it. The citizens have spoken, they want it. Our job is to get it done as quickly as possible. There are a few wrinkles, including a legal wrinkle, about getting it on the ballot this November, but I'm going to try very hard to do it because when the voters tell us to do something we need to follow through on that as quickly as possible as long as we don't make errors on it."

[Read FairVote Minnesota's press release about the court decision](#). Also read press coverage of the decision:

[Star Tribune: Instant-runoff voting wins a round](#)

[MinnPost: Instant Runoff Voting scores big legal win](#)

[Pioneer Press: Minneapolis / Instant-runoff voting gets nod from court](#)

[MPR: Judge upholds Instant Runoff Voting in Minneapolis](#)

1-13

January 13 – or 1-13 – was the date of the resounding court decision in favor of IRV. To memorialize this victorious date and to help launch our BIG efforts in

2009, we have created the 113 Fund. [Help move IRV forward by donating \\$11.3, \\$113 or \\$1,130 to the fund.](#)

With your support, we can model how IRV will work in Minneapolis, advance legislation to support municipal use of IRV elsewhere in the state, put IRV on the ballot in St. Paul, launch a campaign in Duluth and pave the way for statewide legislation!

Your commitment and support have gotten us far, and we thank you for it. But this is big agenda, and we are eager and ready to move forward with it. [Please contribute today!](#)

Instant vs. Two-Round Runoffs

Better elections and preserving Minnesota's reputation for voting integrity were the topics of the day last week when DFL Senator Ann Rest and Republican Representative Laura Brod sat down with MPR's Mike Mulcahy.

Rest and Brod both spoke in favor of the use of runoff elections as an attractive alternative to recounts in close races like the still-undecided Minnesota Senate race. They plan to introduce legislation establishing December runoff elections to determine winners in close elections.

While it's encouraging that Senator Rest and Representative Brod are looking at how to improve our elections, FairVote Minnesota believes that instant runoff voting (IRV) offers a better solution than the adoption of expensive December runoffs. IRV captures voters' second choices during the November General Election, eliminating the need to bring voters back a second time.

See FairVote Minnesota's response [here](#) and help us make the case for why instant runoffs are better than December runoffs: [Call your state legislators.](#)

FairVote Minnesota Board members John Hottinger and Carl "Buzz" Cummins also responded to the idea of two-round Georgia-style runoffs in a [Star Tribune op-ed](#) this week. Please take a moment to [send a letter to the editor](#) and share why YOU think IRV is better than Georgia-style runoffs.

IRV Back at the Legislature!

FairVote Minnesota is again working with Rep. Steve Simon to reintroduce IRV legislation to establish IRV elections in Minnesota statute. The legislation will establish statewide standards for conducting IRV elections. Read more [here](#).

Leading up to the reintroduction of this legislation, FairVote Minnesota will be meeting with legislators to educate them and gather support. **Help us by [contacting your legislators](#)** to let them know you support IRV and asking them to support legislation. Stay tuned for updates and action alerts!

IRV in Duluth

There is a budding campaign to bring IRV to other cities in Minnesota, with support and leadership from a growing number of elected and community leaders who want to make their elections work better. The momentum is particularly strong in Duluth, where a kickoff and training will take place January 19 for anyone who would like to learn more and get involved. Get all the details [here](#).

Welcome New Board and Advisory Council Members

FairVote Minnesota welcomes several new members to its board and advisory council.

Joining the board are **John Hottinger**, former Minnesota Senate Majority Leader; **Carl "Buzz" Cummins**, a former Citizens League president and staffer in Gov. Al Quie's administration; and **Roger Heegaard**, a medical industry entrepreneur.

Joining our advisory council are **Win Rockwell**, partner at Faegre & Benson; **Mary Hartnett**, executive director, Minnesota Commission Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing People; **Matt Filner**, executive director, Progressive Majority; and **Kent Eklund**, president, Fairview Foundation.

Finally, we welcome **Tom Swain**, Lilydale mayor, former chief of staff, Governor Elmer Anderson and former vice president of University Relations at the University of Minnesota, to the list of IRV supporters.

We thank them and all of our board and advisory council members for their generous gifts of time and commitment to bringing better democracy to Minnesota. See the full list of FairVote Minnesota board and advisory council members [here](#).

Volunteer for IRV

With so many exciting projects this year, there are many ways you can help!

[Contact your legislators](#) to let them know why you support IRV.

Assist with our Minneapolis IRV voter education campaign.

Become involved in the St. Paul or Duluth Better Ballot Campaigns.

Write letters to the editor and op-eds in your city or local paper.

Blog about IRV.

Help us redesign our website and communications. We are seeking volunteers to help with design and writing.

Become a member of our Speakers Bureau.

Contact info@fairvotemn.org to become involved in any of these ways!

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