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Taste of Democracy Fundraiser: Tastes Good!

Some 250 Minnesotans came together in support of ranked choice voting at a FairVote Minnesota [fundraiser](#) in Minneapolis Tuesday evening.

Special guests and speakers included former Independence Party gubernatorial candidate Peter Hutchinson, DFL Party Chair Brian Melendez, former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger, Minneapolis City Council Member Elizabeth Glidden, and Peter Wagenius speaking on behalf of Mayor Rybak.

Read more about the event [here](#) – and if you didn't make it to this event, please [contribute](#) to support our efforts to successfully implement ranked choice voting in Minneapolis, get ranked choice voting on the ballot in St. Paul and Duluth and advance legislation to expand ranked choice voting in Minnesota.

We are making significant progress and we need YOUR help to keep this important reform moving forward!

Dave Durenberger: A Strong Voice for Ranked Choice Voting

Following Tuesday's event, former U.S. Senator Dave Durenberger had another opportunity to speak in favor of ranked choice voting, presenting Wednesday to the Twin Cities Community Council, a group of communication professionals who meet regularly to discuss issues and opportunities in the Twin Cities.

The former senator explained the ABCs of ranked choice voting and told the group why he thinks this is a critical reform for Minnesota and the country: "Elections have been taken over by the political parties and there needs to be a change in the way we govern ourselves," he stated. "Ranked choice voting is the only way I know of that will get people back to the polls in a meaningful way and replace plurality-take-all elections with majority-winner elections."

Read more about the event [here](#).

Ranked Choice Voting Continues to Capture Media Attention

More from Dave Durenberger and David Schultz: [Instant Runoff Voting Would Make Every Vote Count](#)

Eric Ostermeier: [Political Luminaries Rally in Support of Ranked Choice Voting at FairVote Minnesota Fundraiser](#)

Lori Sturdevant: [It's "Ranked Choice," and Its Appeal is Growing](#)

[Duluth News Tribune Op Ed: 'Ranked choice' voting improves elections.](#)

Minnesota Supreme Court Date Set for May 13

The Minnesota Supreme Court has accepted a joint appeal for expedited and accelerated review of the case Minnesota Voters Alliance v. The City of Minneapolis and FairVote Minnesota.

The hearing will be held on May 13 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 300 at the Minnesota Judicial Center, 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul.

FairVote Minnesota is very optimistic that the outcome of the Supreme Court appeal will be in ranked choice voting's favor, as the lower court ruling strongly was. Click [here](#) for more information about the lawsuit.

Legislation Gains Support – And Will Be Back Next Year

Sen. Ann Rest and Rep. Steve Simon's ranked choice voting bill didn't get a hearing this session, but we fully expect it to advance next session, with strong and growing support in both the House and Senate.

Since it was introduced, Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher and Representatives Erin Murphy (64A), Paul Rosenthal (41B) and Sheldon Johnson (67B) have signed on to support the bill.

If adopted, the legislation will establish statewide standards for how to conduct ranked choice voting elections in home rule cities. The bill also will require jurisdictions purchasing new voting equipment to select equipment capable of handling ranked ballot elections. The legislation has its roots in recommendations made by the 2007 [Secretary of State's Ranked Choice Voting Issues Group](#).

On another legislative front, unfortunately the [National Popular Vote](#) Plan, also supported by FairVote Minnesota and carried by Rep. Simon, failed to win sufficient votes to move out of committee. But count on it being back next year as well.

What Your Contribution Means

Earlier this week, a three-judge panel ruled that Al Franken won more votes than Norm Coleman in Minnesota's ongoing U.S. Senate contest. Mr. Coleman has vowed to appeal. In the meantime, Minnesota remains a senator down, lacking full representation in Washington – and a negative campaign we all hoped would be over last November drags on.

This election, like several other Minnesota races last November – Congressional District 3, Congressional District 5, House District 41A and House District 51 A and Senate District 16 – all resulted in winners with less than a majority of voter support.

It didn't have to come to this.

Help make sure it never does again. By making a [contribution](#) to FairVote Minnesota today, you'll be taking a stand for better elections.

Ranked choice voting, or instant runoff voting (IRV), is used around the U.S. and world because it more accurately determines the will of voters. With ranked choice voting...

- There are no "wasted votes" or "spoilers"
- Voters have more choices
- More voices are heard
- Campaigns are more positive and informative
- Taxpayers pay for only one election, and voters make only one trip to the polls

Strengthening our democracy by bringing more choices, diverse voices and independent thinking to our elections is important to the future of our state and country. *Can you give [\\$25](#), [\\$50](#), [\\$100](#) or even more to help keep momentum going for ranked choice voting in Minnesota?*

Better elections are up to all of us. Please, [support FairVote Minnesota today!](#)

But giving money is not the only way to contribute.

FairVote Minnesota needs your volunteer help as well to assist with our Minneapolis voter education campaign and Better Ballot Campaigns in Saint Paul and Duluth.

We will have information tables at citywide and neighborhood events throughout the spring and summer. All need volunteer staffers for us to be effective! We launch our spring events at the big May Day festival in Minneapolis on Sunday, May 3rd.

Contact info@fairvotemn.org to help at May Day or another day if this date doesn't work for you. We need you!

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