

Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association



Serving, Representing & Building The Holland Neighborhood

March 20, 2006

Jeanne Massey
Better Ballot Campaign
3606 Harriet Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Ms. Massey,

Of behalf of the Board of Directors of the Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association I am forwarding this letter to indicate our support for your organization's efforts to put the charter amendment question regarding Instant Runoff Voting in City elections on the November ballot.

Thank you for your recent presentation on IRV and the ballot initiative to Holland residents and leaders. Although HNIA is not a political organization, we do form opinions around general matters of civic participation. Although these are usually in the realm of geographically specific community forums, issues of political involvement are significant for the stakeholders we represent. We value civic participation and are in favor of systems and policies that promote greater participation, especially increased participation by those less likely to vote.

Also, systems that support voter participation must be as cost effective as possible, especially when public monies are being spent. After providing ample information on the subject at the neighborhood meeting and engaging those in attendance in question & answer, and a follow up discussion at the Board level, the Better Ballot Campaign has made a compelling case that IRV can be a cost-effective way to encourage greater participation in City elections.

To conclude, the HNIA board has resolved to support the Better Ballot Campaign's goal of bringing the IRV amendment to the 2006 November ballot. Feel free to forward this letter to whatever parties you deem necessary and of interest

Sincerely,

P. Vincent Morey, President, Holland Neighborhood Improvement Association