

Mark Dayton

for a Better Minnesota

Mark Dayton Statement of Support for Instant Runoff Voting

I support the concept of Instant Runoff Voting. It eliminates plurality-wins-all elections and ensures that public officials are elected with the support of a majority of voters.

Instant Runoff Voting addresses two voter dilemmas: “spoiler candidates,” and the “lesser of two evils.” Voters can vote for their preferred candidate; and if he or she cannot win, their votes are shifted to their second preferences. That, in turn, opens the door to the participation of new candidates, and therefore, increased political debate.

Instant Runoff Voting will also discourage the negative campaigning that has come to embody political races in recent years. Candidates may need to attract the second or third rankings of rivals’ supporters to garner the majority of votes necessary to win.

Those benefits would contribute to increased voter engagement, campaigns that are more civil, candidates that are more representative of the electorate, and a democratic system of majority vote.