Ranked Choice Voting in Minnesota:
Summary of Post-Election Report by Minneapolis City Staff

Voters in Minneapolis continue to embrace ranked choice voting (RCV) and feel comfortable casting RCV ballots, according to a post-election report by city staff. The detailed report was published in March 2018 and focuses on the city’s third use of RCV in November 2017.

A large majority, 92 percent, of voters surveyed after the election in Minneapolis said they found voting in RCV elections simple. Eighty percent ranked at least two candidates in all RCV races in Minneapolis. In the 16-way mayoral race, 73 percent of voters used all three of their rankings, while 87 percent ranked at least two candidates. Voters in Minneapolis are limited to three rankings on their ballots due to state-level ballot design laws.

City council races with three or more candidates saw 55 percent of voters use two or three rankings, and the nine-candidate Park Board at-large elections saw 78 percent of voters use two or three rankings (with 64 percent using all three). Few voters skipped rankings, too, with just 0.27 percent of RCV votes skipping a rank.

Sixty-six percent of Minneapolis voters support continued use of RCV in future city elections, compared with only 16 percent who said they do not support its use and 18 percent who were unsure about using RCV. This represents a decline in opposition to RCV over the years the city has used the system since adoption in 2006.

Voters in Minneapolis also made few errors on their RCV ballots. Of all votes cast in RCV races, only 0.2 percent overvoted (that is, gave multiple candidates the same ranking). This low overvote rate could be further reduced if Minneapolis used a different design for its RCV ballots.