



April 14, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Representative Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House
Minnesota House of Representatives
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Hortman,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) represents 80 percent of all active bedside hospital nurses in Minnesota and is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state. We are a leader in nursing, labor, healthcare, and social justice communities, and a voice for nurses and patients on issues relating to the professional, economic, and overall general well-being of nurses and the public.

On behalf of the members of MNA, I write to express strong support for adding an amendment to the Omnibus Elections bill to give local units of government the option to select ranked choice voting for their local elections.

As you may know, MNA is a proud supporter of ranked choice voting. We believe allowing voters to rank their choices is good for democracy and allows candidates to lead with ideas rather than political party. There are also strong connections with better health outcomes for those who have access to voting and feel their voice matters in the democratic process. We support ranked choice voting in elections and commend the work to create better access for this system.

We strongly believe that allowing local units of government to use ranked choice voting in odd-year elections makes perfect sense, will allow for better discussions of local issues, benefit local candidates who are able to build bridges, and will continue to build proof of concept for statewide ranked choice adoption.

We urge all members of the House to vote for an amendment to allow local units of government to choose ranked choice voting for their local elections.

Sincerely,

Shannon Cunningham
Director of Governmental and Community Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association

cc: Representative Cedrick Frazier
Elections Chair Mike Freiberg
Elections Vice Chair Emma Greenman
State and Local Government Chair Ginny Klevorn
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