

February 6, 2013

Proposal for discussion from Commissioner Devin Rice

To change the City of Minneapolis municipal election cycle currently conducted in odd numbered years to even numbered years effective year 2018. If adopted, those elected in 2013 would serve a 5 year term. Voter turnout will increase; recent election data will demonstrate a likely doubling or even tripling in voter participation. Higher voter turnout will result in increased diversity and minority representation for city office holders. Minneapolis taxpayers will save \$1.3MM++ or more in every 4 year election cycle.

Purpose:

- Dramatically increase voter turnout and participation
- Increase minority representation in the 25 elected city offices
- Save taxpayers \$1.3MM++ every 4 years

Background:

- Voter turnout has fallen from 41% in 2001 to 30% in 2005 to a modern era low of below 20% in 2009
- 2010 census reflects a city that is now 60.3% white and 39.7% minority

Racial minority/Ethnic diversity of 49 elected officials in the City of Minneapolis:

- Of the 25 elected city officials (1 Mayor, 13 City Council, 9 Park Board and 2 Board of Estimate) running in low turnout odd numbered year election cycles; only 2 and just 8% are minorities.
- Of the 24 elected members of the MN Legislature and Minneapolis School Board officials from the City of Minneapolis (5 State Senate, 10 State House, and 9 School Board) running in higher turnout even numbered year election cycles; 8 and fully 33.33% are minorities.

Why 2018 versus 2016:

- 25 incumbent's city officials are acting in good faith based on a 2013 and 2017 election cycle. Likely 50+ potential challengers/candidates engaged in the decision to file for office based on a 2013/2017 election cycle.
- 2020 Census impact and redistricting will be in place for an election in 2022 versus 2024.

Impact and Analyses of Ranked Choice Voting Results from 2009 Election:

- **No acceptable technology existed to accurately count RCV voting in the 2009 election and a hand count was required. Nothing has changed and the 2013 election will likely be hand counted.**
- **Statistical analyses of Voter Errors and potential consequence**
- **Use the \$1.3MM++ in savings or a portion thereof to develop an acceptable technology that will eliminate Voter Errors.**

Stated objectives and assertions by The City of Minneapolis and FairVote before the MN Supreme Court

(Excerpt from the 2009 MN Supreme Court decision on IRV/ Ranked Choice Voting)

“The City asserts that IRV serves the following interests:

- (1) Because the citizens of Minneapolis adopted IRV by referendum, IRV serves the purpose of respecting the democratic process;
- (2) Because IRV requires only one election, rather than separate primary and general elections, IRV reduces the inconvenience and costs to voters, candidates, and taxpayers;
- (3) IRV will increase voter turnout; and**
- (4) IRV encourages less divisive campaigns as candidates seek support for second- and subsequent-choice votes.

Respondent FairVote argues that IRV serves the following interests in addition to those identified by the City:

- (1) IRV promotes the election of candidates with majority mandates, eliminating plurality winners in one-seat races;
- (2) IRV eliminates the “spoiler” effect of third-party candidacies; and
- (3) IRV helps insure more diverse representation by promoting minority representation in multiple-seat races.**

Result of 2009 election:

- **Turnout fell by over 34%**
- **Minority representation in the 24 elected offices fell by 50%**

Conclusion:

The Great American Experiment was, and still is our democracy. By any measure whether in whole or in part, the 2009 election should be deemed a failed experiment. Two of the seven asserted objectives proffered by the City and FairVote (turnout and minority representation in multiple seat races) were nothing short of a fallacy and an aberration.

In 1742 the English poet and historian Thomas Gray wrote:

*Thought would destroy their Paradise.
No more; where ignorance is bliss,
'Tis folly to be wise*

To ignore and blissfully accept that immediate action isn't required on how and when we conduct our elections would be foolish.

Technology must be developed to definitively insure that 'Voter Error' be eliminated. The data submitted regarding 'Voter Error' conclusively demonstrates a dramatically higher incidence of errors amongst minority and lower income voters. And, such errors may have disenfranchised their vote or a portion thereof.

An even numbered year election cycle commencing in 2018 running concurrent with the gubernatorial cycle; will determinately increase voter turnout and decisively increase minority representation.

Respectfully submitted;

Devin P Rice

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Minneapolis General Election voting history 2001-2012

Ballots Cast

2001	89,927		Presidential Cycle average	208,825	2004, 2008, 2012
2002	155,464				
2004	201,672				
2005	70,987		Gubernatorial Cycle average	148,381	2002, 2006, 2010
2006	149,318				
2008	209,000				
2009	45,968		Municipal Cycle average	68,960	2001, 2005, 2009
2010	140,363				
2012	215,804				

Last Five Municipal Elections

Ballots Cast	
1993	104,626
1997	96,772
2001	89,927
2005	70,987
2009	45,968

Projected 2013 Turnout

Average based on last 2 Cycles	58,342
Average based on last 3 cycles	68,960
Average of 2001 and 2005	80,547
20 year five election trend	37,418 1993-2009

Voter turnout as a % 2001-2009

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
City-wide													
2001	41	27	35	39	37	26	29	41	43	37	50	49	51
2002	66	52	53	62	50	46	61	63	61	59	71	72	73
2004	75	62	65	71	61	58	68	71	69	67	79	80	81
2005	31	26	22	24	24	21	28	35	32	28	35	38	41
2006	70	64	61	57	45	53	66	64	64	67	75	77	77
2008	76	63	69	70	66	61	71	72	73	70	79	81	82
2009	23	14	14	21	17	14	19	20	21	18	21	23	27
2010	59	46	45	49	42	42	61	58	54	54	66	66	68
2012	82	81	81	75	71	70	85	82	76	81	87	84	88

Presidential Average 2004, 2008, 2012 **74%**

Gubernatorial Average 2002, 2006, 2010 **61%**

Municipal Average 2001, 2005, 2009 **30%**

November 3, 2009 City Election Statistics

	TOTAL BALLOTS	VOTER ERROR	% of ballots	Spooled	% of ballots
	CAST	BALLOTS	Cast in error	Ballots	Spooled
TOTALS City-wide	45968	2958	6.43%	1888	4.10%

WARD	Precinct				% cast in error
5	1	403		78	19.35%
5	2	144		8	5.56%
5	3	259		37	14.29%
5	4	349		53	15.19%
5	5	359		51	14.21%
5	6	249		34	13.65%
5	7	106		16	15.09%
5	8	146		24	16.44%
5	9	60		1	1.67%
5	10	125		13	10.40%
Totals Ward 5		2200		315	14.32%

Ward 5 cast only 4.8 of ballots city-wide and had 10.6% of all errors city-wide

Sample Precincts						% of ballots
Ward	Precinct					Cast in error
2	10	130		35		26.92%
3	9	113		21		18.58%
4	10	169		29		17.16%
6	5	135		27		20.00%
6	6	116		13		11.21%
6	7	129		20		15.50%
6	8	217		37		17.05%
9	11	66		10		15.15%
10	5	137		36		26.28%

7	5	345		6		1.74%
11	5	588		11		1.87%
13	3	524		11		2.10%
13	4	788		15		1.90%

Ward 13						% of ballots
WARD	Precinct					Cast in error
13	1	344		17		4.94%
13	2	787		40		5.08%
13	3	524		11		2.10%
13	4	788		15		1.90%
13	5	866		45		5.20%
13	6	865		56		6.47%
13	7	323		10		3.10%
13	8	450		27		6.00%
13	9	535		17		3.18%
13	10	557		37		6.64%
Totals Ward 13		6039		275		4.55%

2005 election result

Park & Rec Commissioner at Large (vote for up to 3)

Meg Forney	21,453
Daniel Froehlich	20,596
Rochelle Barry Graves	19,469
Mary Merrill Anderson	26,559
Annie Young	22,955
Tom Nordyke	26,464
Write - In	736

Ranked Choice Voting - Minneapolis Method

Voter Error Accounting Chart

Problem	Problem Columns	Requires Duplication	Original ballot			Voter error accounting		
			1st Before	2nd Before	3rd Before	1st After	2nd After	3rd After
Overvote	1	Y	A/B	C	D	Blank	Blank	Blank
	2	Y	A	B/C	D	A	Blank	Blank
	3	Y	A	B	C/D	A	B	Blank
Repeat candidate	1 & 2	Y	A	A	B	A	Blank	Blank
	1 & 3	Y	A	B	A	A	B	Blank
	2 & 3	Y	A	B	B	A	B	Blank
Skipped ranking	1, 2, & 3	Y	A	A	A	A	Blank	Blank
	1	Y	Blank	A	B	A	B	Blank
	2	Y	A	Blank	B	A	B	Blank
Undervote	3	N	A	B	Blank	A	B	Blank
	1 & 2	Y	Blank	Blank	A	Blank	Blank	Blank
	1 & 3	Y	Blank	A	Blank	A	Blank	Blank
Voter error accounting	2 & 3	N	A	Blank	Blank	A	Blank	Blank
	1, 2, & 3	N	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank	Blank
				Original ballot			Voter error accounting	

2005 vs 2009

	TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	Spoiled Ballots	% of Ballots Spoiled
2005	70987	755	1.06%
2009	45968	1888	4.10%

