

Ranked Choice Voting Implementation

**City of Minneapolis
February 28, 2008**

Minneapolis Charter Amendment

- Adopt by ordinance rules for counting the votes and ballot format
- Implement 2009 or adopt ordinance delaying – state reasons for delay
- Procedures in general election law do not apply in RCV election

RCV Issues Group

- First meeting with Secretary of State Elect, Mark Ritchie, in December 2006
- Offices worked together in early 2007 to develop strategy and identify stakeholders

RCV Issues Group

- Primary purpose to draft rules and standards for RCV elections in MN
 - Lower cost of R&D in MN and Mpls
 - Provide for consistent application of law throughout the state - best for voters and election officials
 - New section of election law removes questions of pre-emption (charter v. statute)
- Broad participation helped to develop understanding of the complex issues

RCV Issues Group

Work Product (over 50 hours of meeting time)

- Review of statute and rules
 - Completed September 2008
- Develop rules and procedures and draft legislative proposal for 2008 Session
 - Completed February 1, 2008
- Study equipment options
 - Completed February 1, 2008

RCV Issues Group

Legislation and Rules Committee

- Bill has been introduced (HF3006)
- Applicable to Charter Cities
- Rules for counting votes, resolving ties, recounts, etc.
- Procedures to follow where existing law does not align with RCV
- Establishes minimum standards for equipment capabilities, error notification rules, post-election audit rules

RCV Issues Group

RCV Voting Equipment Study

- Identified options
- Established criteria for evaluation
- Demonstrations by and discussions with equipment vendors
- Discussion and consensus building

Voting Equipment System Requirements

Six Configurations of Components:

- Read Ballots
- Provide Error Notification
- Count ballots
- Create/store ballot record
- Perform vote transfers
- Produce results

Evaluation Criteria

- Flexibility of ballot design
- Ability to run RCV and Non-RCV races together
- Options for error notification to voters
- Integration with County election system
- Integration with Assistive Voting Equipment
- Research & Development Needed
- Certification Considerations
- Cost

MN Certification Laws

State law requires Federal & State Certification

- Election Assistance Commission (EAC)
 - Independent Testing Authority tests to Federal Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)
 - est. 12 - 24 months depending on scope
- State Certification
 - est. 1 - 3 months

Other Certification Scenarios Considered

- Proposed State-only Process
 - Not previously contemplated by SOS
 - SOS not staffed to do work normally done at Federal level
- Experimental Certification
 - SOS would need to create rules with standards for RCV equipment (our own version of VVSG)
 - cannot undertake rule-making process until after 2008 election – approx 12 month process

Challenges to Equipment Acquisition Process

- Time
 - All options require additional R & D
 - All options require certification
- Money
 - Low end – approx. \$75,000 - \$110,000 per election (vendor operated service)
 - High end – approx. \$850,000 (system replacement)
- Compatibility
 - Assistive Voting Device per HAVA
 - City is part of County election system

Next Steps and Time Estimates

Issue a Request for Proposals

- Develop Scope of Services
- Develop Technical Specifications
- Determine Criteria and Process for Vendor Selection
- City Council Approval of RFP

Estimated Time: 3 to 4 months

Next Steps and Time Estimates

Select a Vendor

- Allow Time for Vendor Response
- Evaluate Proposals
- Negotiate Contract
 - City/County/Vendor(s)
- Approve and Award Contract

Estimated Time: 3 to 6 months

Next Steps and Time Estimates

Vendor Actions Required

- System Development (1 to 18 months)
- System Certification (12 to 24 months)
- Production (1 to 12 months)

Estimated Time: 14 to 54 months
(Election Technology Council Estimates)

Next Steps and Time Estimates

	Range in Months
Adopt Statute/Ordinance	2 - 3
Approve Request for Proposals	3 - 3
Vendor Selection Process	6 - 6
Contract Negotiations	1 - 6
System Development	1 - 18
System Certification	12 - 24
Production and Delivery	1 - 12

Estimated Time: 25 to 60 Months