



2013 Municipal Election: An Analysis & Recommendations

**Presentation to the Standing Committee on Elections
Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

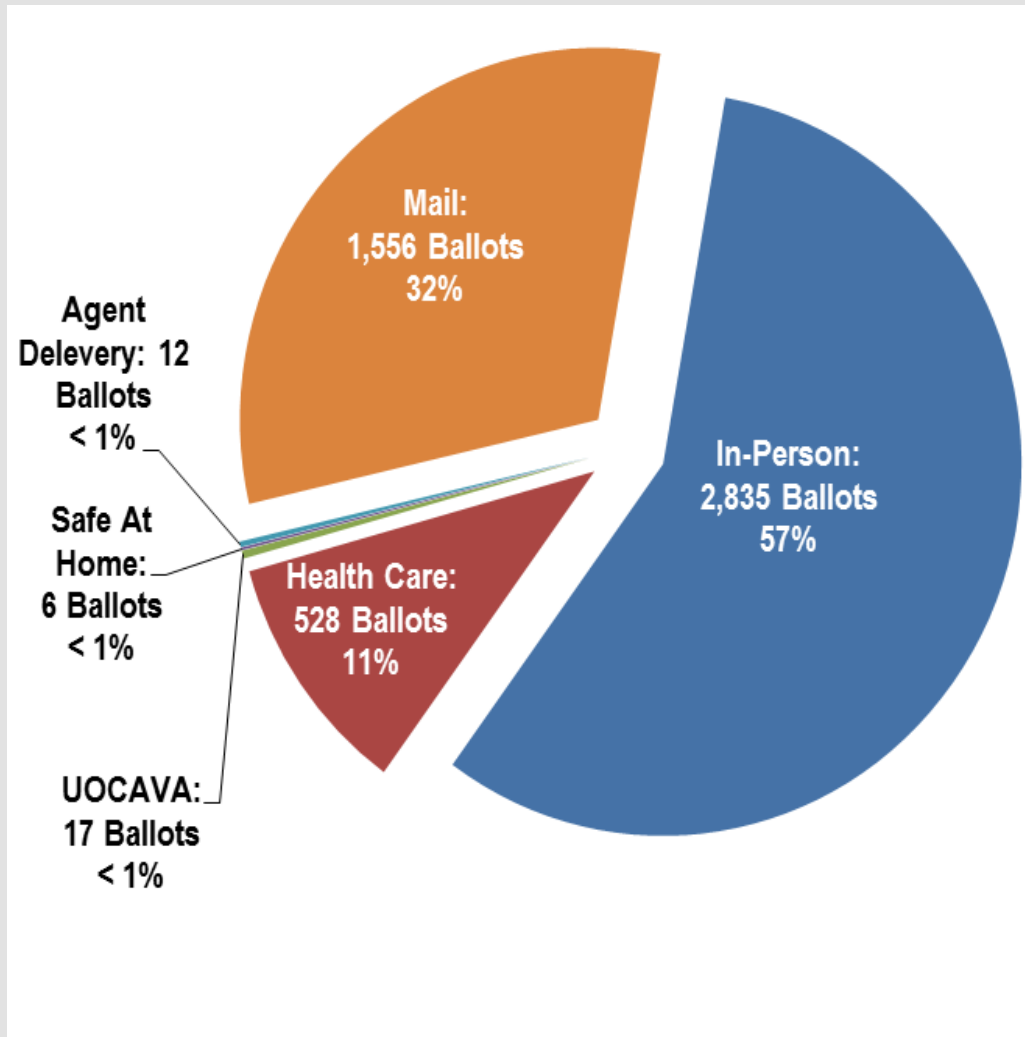
Basic Statistics

MINNEAPOLIS

- ▶ Pre-Registered Voters: 233,351**
- ▶ Number of Precincts: 117 (active)
- ▶ Absentee Ballots: 4,954
 - ▶ *2,835 of these were in-person absentee voters*
 - ▶ *528 of these were health care facility voters*
- ▶ Election Day Registrations: 5,926**
- ▶ Total Election Day Voters: 75,145
- ▶ Total Number of Ballots Cast: 80,099
- ▶ **Percentage Turnout: 33.38%**



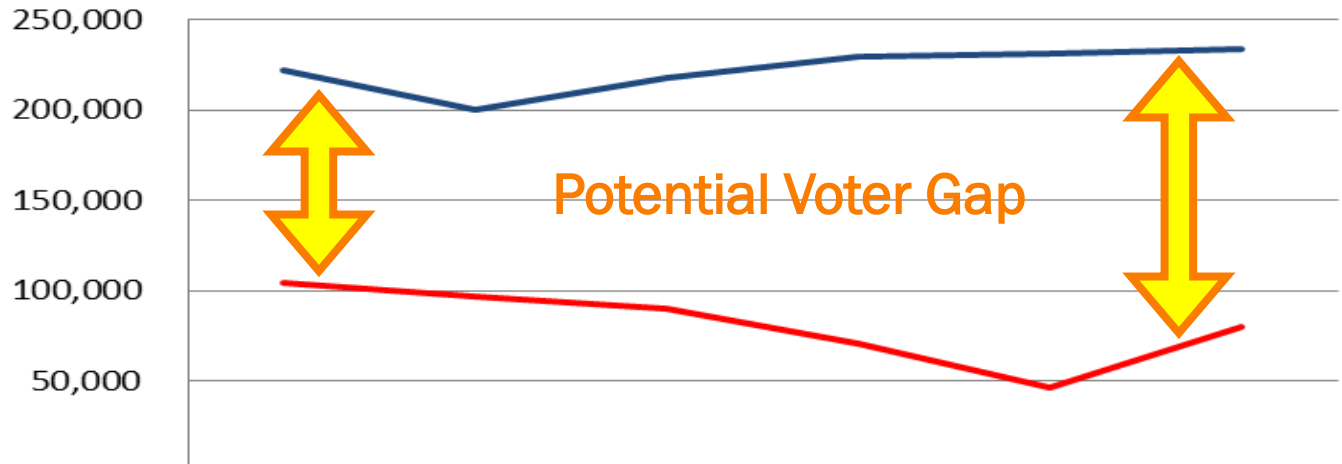
Absentee Voting



Type of AB Ballots	Number
In-person	2,835
Mail	1,556
Health Care	528
UOCAVA	17
Agent Delivery	12
Safe At Home	6
TOTALS	4,954

Municipal Turnout: 1993-2013

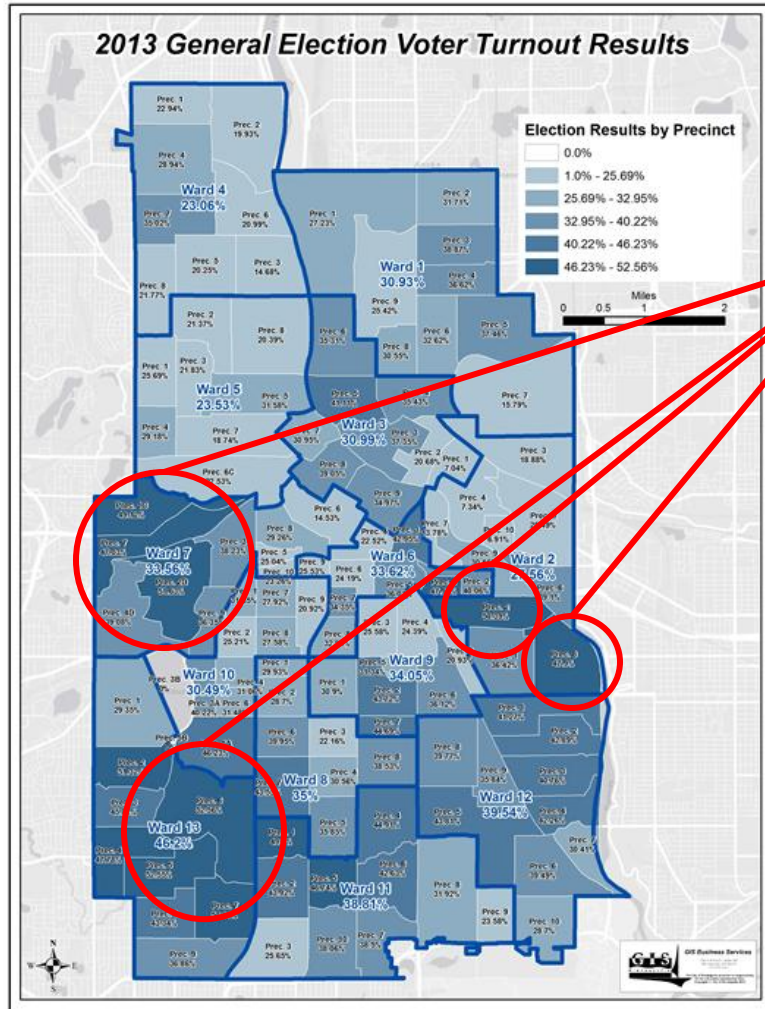
Municipal Elections: Voter Turnout



	1993	1997	2001	2005	2009	2013
— Pre-Registered Voters	222,101	200,311	217,802	229,593	231,078	233,351
— Total Voter Turnout	104,626	96,772	89,927	70,987	45,968	80,099
Potential Voter Gap	117,475	103,539	127,875	158,606	185,110	153,252

The “potential voter gap” increased by 13 points during the 20-year timeframe, from 1993-2013.

Voter Turnout by Neighborhood



Neighborhoods with the highest voter turnout/participation:

- Bryn Mawr
- Cooper
- Fulton
- Kenny
- Kenwood
- Linden Hills
- Lynnhurst
- Seward

RCV: Systems, Procedures & Improvements

- 1) Use Election Night First-Choice Results to Declare Winners
- 2) Count Only Declared Write-In Candidates
- 3) Improve Policy Guidance on Voter Intent



***Results for 14 of the 22 races declared on Election Night.
All results reported within 72 hours after Election Day.***

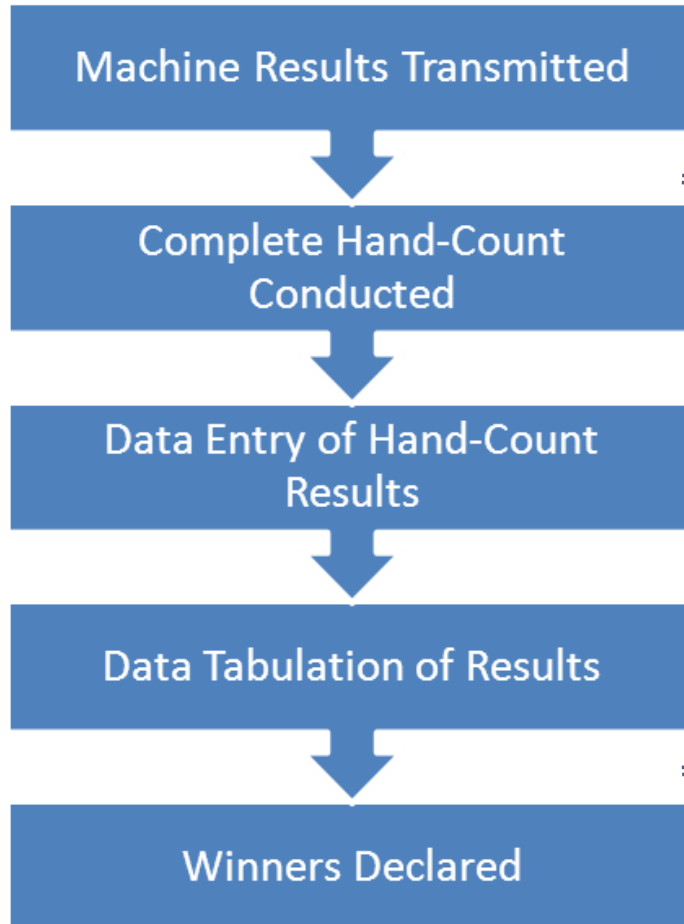
New Voting System & Equipment

- ▶ DS200 tabulators
- ▶ Ballot imaging technology
- ▶ CVR exportable data file
- ▶ MS Excel compatible

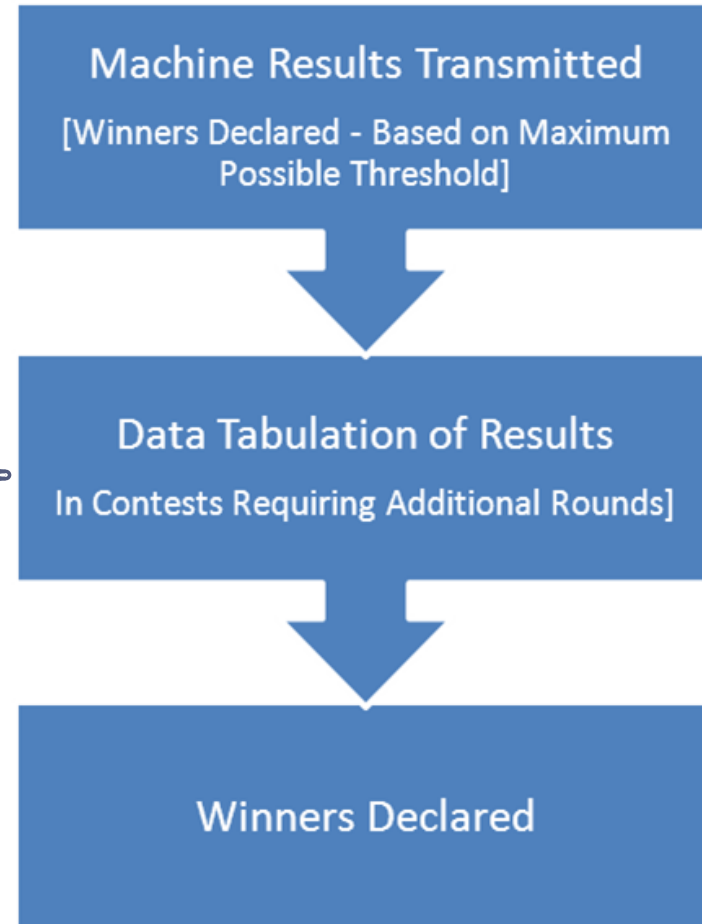


Technical Improvements

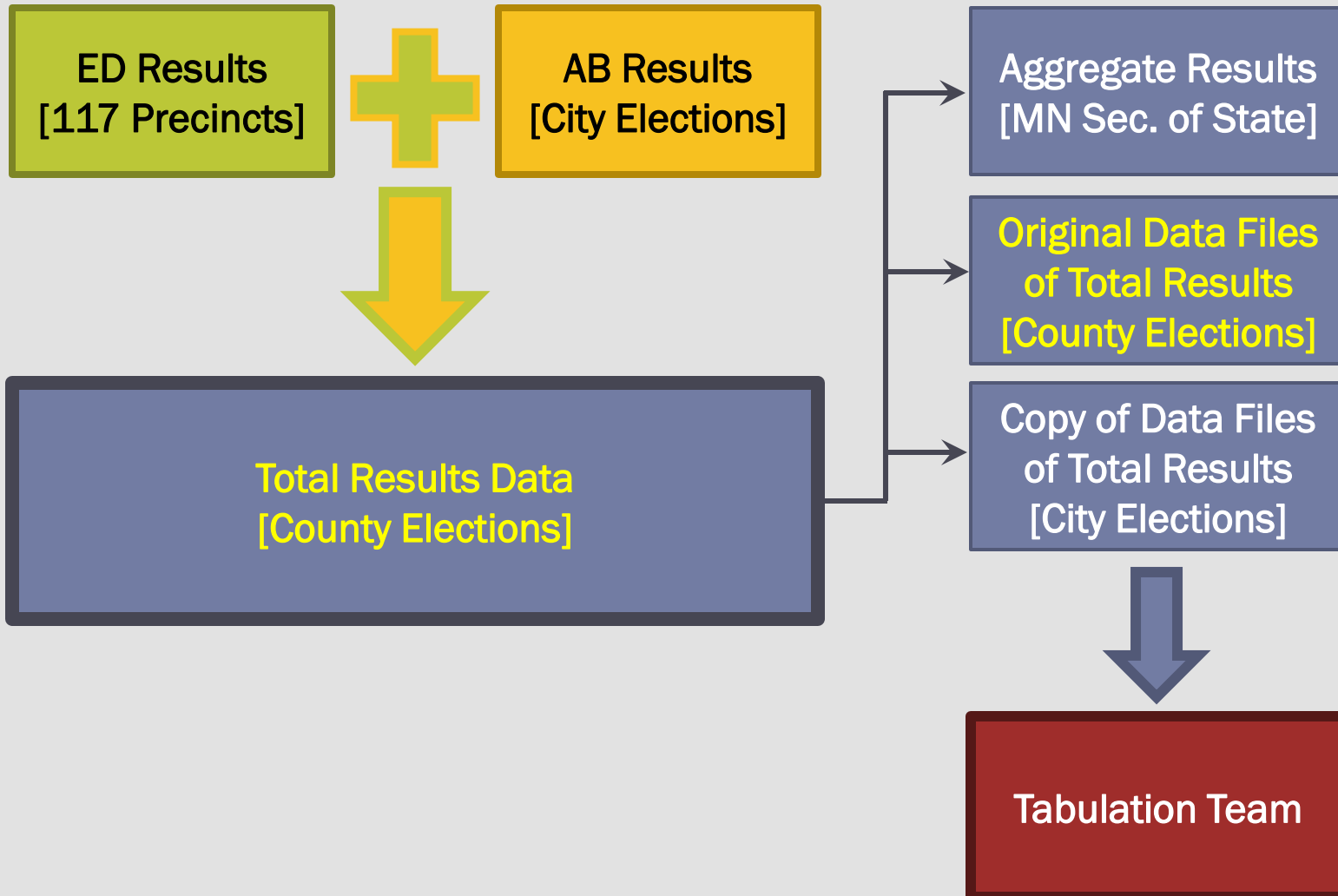
2009 RCV Minneapolis Method



2013 RCV Minneapolis Method



Tabulation Process



Voter Error & Voter Intent

▶ Minn. Stat. 204C.22—

“A ballot shall not be rejected for a technical error that does not make it impossible to determine the voter's intent.”

▶ RCV requires additional policy guidance to address:

- ▶ Overvoting = <1%
- ▶ Skipped rankings = <1%
- ▶ Repeat rankings = 3%

2013 Ordinance Amendment equalized the treatment for all RCV-specific errors and provided consistent treatment in favor of voters.

Rate of RCV-Specific Type Errors

SUMMARY OF RCV BALLOT ERRORS

TYPE OF ERROR	TYPE OF RACE	PERCENTAGE
Overvote	Single-Seat	0.16%
Overvote	Multi-Seat	0.25%
Overvote	All Races	0.19%
Skipped Ranking	All Races	0.35%
Repeat Candidate	1-2 Candidates	6.84%
Repeat Candidate	3+ Candidates	2.26%
Repeat Candidate	All Races	3.28%

92% of surveyed voters indicated they were aware of RCV.

81% indicated that they were “perfectly well” or “fairly well” informed of the process of marking and casting an RCV ballot.

Voter Choice Drop-Off

SUMMARY OF CHOICE DROP-OFF

RACE	3 CHOICES	2 CHOICES	1 CHOICE
Mayor (35 candidates)	76.3%	11.1%	12.6%
Council Ward (1 candidate)	2.3%	1.5%	96.1%
Council Ward (2 candidates)	3.9%	26.7%	69.4%
Council Ward (3+ candidates)	44.5%	22.1%	33.4%
Board of Estimate (4 candidates)	42.6%	29.2%	28.2%
Park At-Large (10 candidates)	60.6%	15.0%	24.4%
Park District (1 candidate)	1.6%	1.0%	97.4%
Park District (2 candidates)	3.1%	36.9%	59.9%

The number of choices used by voters to express preferences increased in competitive races with 3 or more candidates.

Election Judges

- ▶ Minn. Stat. § 204B.22 = minimum 4 judges per precinct
- ▶ “Basic rubric” = 1 EJ per 150 voters
- ▶ Staffing model impacted by—
 - ▶ Type : local, state, or federal and primary or general
 - ▶ Voter turnout analysis and trends
 - ▶ Ballot content: offices, candidates, and questions

In Minneapolis, the staffing model focuses on “team judges,” and does not include the two leadership positions – head and assistant head judges.

2013 Municipal Election Staffing Model

STAFFING PROJECTIONS AT 60% OF REGISTERED VOTERS

VOTERS	PRECINCTS	TEAM EJs	HEAD/ASST. EJs	TOTAL STAFFING
<625	11	5	2	7
626-775	13	6-7	2	8-9
776-900	13	8	2	10
901-1,025	16	9	2	11
1,026-1,150	16	10	2	12
1,151-1,275	13	11	2	13
1,276-1,400	22	12	2	14
>1,400	13	13-16	2	15-18
TOTALS	117	1,137	234	Avg. = 11.7

Language Support & Translation

LANGUAGE SKILLS AMONG ELECTION JUDGES		
LANGUAGE	TEAM EJs	STUDENT EJs
American Sign Language	24	0
Hmong	58	11
Oromo	18	0
Somali	172	17
Spanish	340	7
TOTALS	612	35

Voter Outreach & Education

1. Date, time(s), and polling place locations for the election;
2. Ballot content—including offices and questions;
3. How to properly mark and cast an RCV ballot; and
4. Why voting in the municipal election matters.



Independent Assessments

- 1. *Exhibit A: Survey of Voters, Non-Voters, Election Judges & Candidates in the November 2013 Municipal Election – Morris Leatherman Company***
- 2. *Exhibit B: Observation & Recommendations of the November 2013 Municipal Election – Connie Schmidt, CERA***

Schmidt Assessment - Findings

1. Overall, general compliance with legal mandates, policy requirements, and industry best practices
2. Areas for future improvement:
 - Increase staffing levels, similar to other first-class municipalities
 - Consolidation of operations in a single facility
 - Financial planning that better meets operating needs
3. Reflecting the recently published report of the Presidential Election Commission:

“[t]he electorate seeks above all modern, efficient, and responsive administrative performance in the conduct of elections...”

Morris Leatherman Survey - Findings

1. **Voters who did participate in the 2013 Municipal Election were more likely to be:**
 - Caucasian
 - Middle-age and older (45 years +)
 - More educated (college graduate)
 - Higher income (\$50,001 +)

2. **Voters who did not participate in the 2013 Municipal Election were more likely to be:**
 - African-American
 - Older (64 years +)
 - Less educated (HS diploma or less)
 - Lower income (under \$25,000 annual)

Voter Survey – OF VOTERS

- 1. 92% of responding voters participated in-person at the assigned precinct on Election Day.**
 - Emphasize need for adequate number of precincts, precinct size, and appropriate polling place
- 2. 8% of responding voters participated via absentee balloting.**
 - Hispanic/Latino
 - Annual income of \$75,000 +
- 3. 92% knew RCV would be used in the election before voting.**
- 4. 81% knew how RCV functioned “perfectly well” or “fairly well” prior to voting.**

Voter Survey – OF VOTERS

5. 82% of responding voters indicated that ranked more than one candidate.
6. 87% of responding voters found ranking to be simple.
7. Voters were split on the opinion of RCV:
 - 39% prefer RCV
 - 41% prefer traditional (FPTP) voting
8. 77% were “very confident” or “confident” that all ballots were accurately counted using RCV.

Voter Survey – OF NON-VOTERS

1. 33% of responding non-voters indicated they didn't have time to vote.
2. 12% of responding non-voters chose not to participate because they dislike RCV.
3. 28% of responding non-voters report they don't care to vote in municipal elections.
4. **40% of non-voters chose not to participate because they:**
 - Don't like Ranked-Choice Voting (12%)
 - Don't like voting in municipal elections (28%)

Voter Survey – OF CANDIDATES

- 1. Impact of RCV on campaigns:**
 - 32% saw a “positive impact”
 - 30% saw a “negative impact”
 - 32% saw “little or no impact”
- 2. 65% of responding candidates reported campaign strategies changed because of RCV.**
- 3. Candidates reported preferring the voting system:**
 - 62% prefer traditional (FPTP) method
 - 32% prefer RCV method
- 4. 73% of candidates reported confidence that ballots were accurately counted with RCV.**

Recommendations

1. Clarify definition of “tabulation center”

- Current language is applicable to a physical hand-count
- Recommend matching provisions for other types of elections where automated systems are used to tabulate results

2. Amend process for mathematical elimination

- Recognize impact of voting system, including exportable data file
- Allow for “batch elimination” based on fuller data availability

3. Increase municipal filing fee(s)

- Support efforts to increase municipal filing fee(s), as recommended by the Minneapolis Charter Commission

