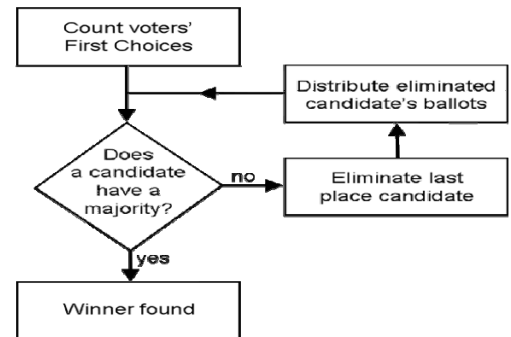# Giving a Voice to All Votes!
Support Ranked Choice Voting H.F 367/S.F 335

<u>**Summary:**</u>

Ranked Choice Voting is a system of voting that **allows voters to select and rank candidates** running in an election based on their preferences. This system prevents candidates who would otherwise win an election without majority support from being elected. Instead, the votes that would otherwise be wasted on candidates who receive the least number are re-tallied based on the second or third choices marked on the ballot until a candidate emerges with a **majority** of the total votes that were cast.

IRV counting flowchart

<u>**The Advantages of Ranked Choice Voting**</u>:

- **Make Every Vote Count**
  - Many American voters don't bother going to the polls due to the notion that their vote would otherwise be wasted on a candidate who won't win. Allowing voters to rank their preference of the candidates effectively ensures that every vote has the potential to influence the election and that the voice of every voter is better heard.
- **Restore Majority Rule**
  - In elections with 3 or more candidates it is possible that a candidate can be elected with less than 34% of the vote. Since 1998, over 40 candidates for state and national office have been elected with fewer than 50% of the vote in Minnesota. Ranked choice voting re-enfranchises all voters by giving a voice to every vote until the most preferred candidate based on all votes is determined.
- **Eliminate the Need for Multiple Elections**
  - Currently, our election process requires a series of expensive primaries and caucuses to narrow the field of candidates down to only one or two frontrunners. Ranked choice voting eliminates the necessity of multiple elections and allows for a greater number of viable candidates to be on the ballot on Election Day.

<u>**The current use of Ranked Choice Voting in Minnesota:**</u>

- Minnesota is quickly becoming known for the high number of plurality winners that have won in our elections. Minneapolis and St. Paul have begun combating this issue by implementing Ranked Choice Voting in their municipal elections.
- Minneapolis used Ranked Choice Voting in their 2009 municipal elections and polls showed **95%** of the people polled **stated that the system was easy to use.** St. Paul first successfully implemented Ranked Choice Voting in the 2011 election.
- In a state where more than **70% of voters** say they would consider voting for a third party candidate, Ranked Choice Voting would be a huge step towards listening to the voice of the voting populous.

Minneapolis and St. Paul have successfully begun implementing a system of Ranked Choice Voting and it is time to support expanding Ranked Choice Voting to the communities who want it.