2019 Municipal Elections:
Ranked-Choice Voting Planning and Implementation Overview
Process Overview

• Series of discussions scheduled specifically focusing on policy questions that will build the foundation for how we conduct municipal elections in St. Louis Park.

• Each discussion will serve as an opportunity to learn about what the various terms and concepts that will be included in the ordinance mean, the options we have for how certain terms and processes are defined, and how these choices will shape our administrative procedures and services.

• Policy discussions will also allow for reflection through the lenses of equity, inclusion, and accessibility to consider how the rules that are developed will impact the different groups we serve in elections.
Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility

• Scope of consideration encompasses overall equity, inclusion and accessibility to voting and elections services.

• Who are the people/groups/populations that we serve?
  ➢ Seniors, non-english speaking, first-time voters, new residents, new U.S. citizens, military and overseas voters, candidates for office, election judges

• How will the policy decisions impact the people we serve?

• Reflect on why a decision is important or urgent.
  ➢ What are we trying to accomplish?
  ➢ Is there a problem that needs to be solved?
  ➢ Is this policy or rule the sole reason a problem exists?
  ➢ What other factors may contribute to or perpetuate this problem?
Legal Considerations

• Why do we need to adopt rules for conduct of municipal elections?
  ➢ State laws do not currently provide rules for the administration of elections using the ranked-choice method.

• Legal overview of process and considerations
  ➢ Adopt rules via ordinance; requires simple majority to approve
  ➢ Must continue to meet all state and federal election laws where applicable
  ➢ Minneapolis model has been challenged and upheld by courts

• Major topics ordinance needs to address
  ➢ Ballot format, number of rankings, tabulation of votes, write-ins, method of resolving ties, counting procedures, reporting results, PER, recounts
Policy Question

• Does the council agree with following the Minneapolis model for the development of the rules of conduct for municipal elections?
  ➢ Framework readily available from Minneapolis; **does not** mean we will copy verbatim
  ➢ Minneapolis rules have been challenged and deemed valid by courts
  ➢ Rules and procedures used by Minneapolis have been tested and proven to work with current voting equipment (DS200 and Automark)
  ➢ Hennepin County administrative procedures have been developed to support the use of ranked-choice voting in Minneapolis
    ✓ Ballot formatting and layout
    ✓ Programming of voting equipment to support a ranked-choice method
    ✓ Administrative support for testing/tabulation/reporting of results
Minneapolis versus St. Paul: What is the difference?

• Number of rankings
  ➢ Minneapolis model provides for at least 3 rankings
  ➢ St. Paul model provides for 6 rankings (if there are at least 6 candidates)

• Counting Procedures - directly impacts service needs and results reporting
  ➢ Minneapolis uses exported data file from ballot tabulator to count votes
  ➢ St. Paul uses hand count procedure of physical ballots for any races in which winner cannot be declared after the first-round

• Definitions of certain terms

• Key administrative differences
  ➢ Ramsey County is entirely responsible for all facets of election administration for City of St. Paul
  ➢ Ramsey County uses different ballot tabulators than Hennepin County
Defining Ranked-Choice Voting

• Minneapolis language
  ➢ Ranked-choice voting means an election method in which voters rank candidates for an office in order of their preference and the ballots are counted in rounds and votes, or fractions thereof, are distributed to candidates according to the preferences marked on each ballot as described in sections 167.60 and 167.70 of this chapter. *(Reference to tabulation of votes)*

• St. Paul language
  ➢ Ranked voting means an election method in which voters rank candidates for an office in order of their preference and the ballots are counted in rounds that simulate a series of runoffs until one (1) candidate meets the threshold, or until two (2) candidates remain and the candidate with the greater number of votes is declared elected.

• Differences are related to the method of tabulation and the fact that Minneapolis has multi-seat races on their ballot and St. Paul does not.