2020 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
RANKED CHOICE VOTING – LOCAL OPTIONS AND STATEWIDE LEGISLATION

WHEREAS, RCV is used in Minneapolis, St. Paul and St. Louis Park and proven to be efficient and successful in all cities with the overwhelming majority of voters – across all age, gender, income and racial and ethnic groups – reporting that they ranked their ballots, find RCV simple to use, and prefer it over the old system and want to see it expanded statewide.

WHEREAS, in local nonpartisan elections, RCV would eliminate the low-turnout and unrepresentative local primary and give voters more choice in the high-turnout November election;

WHEREAS, in state partisan elections, RCV would be used in primaries and general elections to avoid vote-splitting and ensure candidates receive a majority of votes.

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting is easy: instead of voting for just one candidate, you rank your choices in order of preference - 1, 2, 3, etc., knowing that if your 1st choice doesn’t have enough support to win, your ballot can count for your 2nd choice; if your 2nd choice is defeated, your ballot can count for your 3rd choice, and so on;

WHEREAS, under RCV, ballots are counted in rounds, eliminating candidates with too few votes to win and reallocating their ballots based on those voters’ next choices until one candidate reaches the winning threshold or, in the case of multiple-seat elections, until all seats are filled;

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting has been shown to:

- Increase voter participation
- give voters more choice and open the political process to more voices
- encourage candidates to reach out to more voters and build a broad coalition of support to win
- expand political participation by historically underrepresented communities, opening the political process to new voices
- reduce mudslinging and promote civil, issue-oriented campaigns
- eliminate “wasted” votes and the “spoiler” problem
- help mitigate the influence of outside expenditure groups in campaigns

WHEREAS, RCV helps reduce political polarization by requiring office-holders to solve problems on behalf of a broad majority of voters, not just their base;

WHEREAS, RCV is supported by the LWV-Minnesota; the Star Tribune, and dozens of local papers and organizations;

WHEREAS, RCV is expanding rapidly in cities and states across the country, including the State of Maine becoming the first state to use RCV statewide and NYC adopting RCV last year;

WHEREAS, several Minnesota communities are preparing to adopt RCV for local elections in Minnesota;

WHEREAS, there is growing support among Minnesotans to expand RCV at the local and state level;

BE IT RESOLVED that ________________________________ Party support Ranked Choice Voting “Local Options” and statewide legislation.