MEMORANDUM TO CITY LEADERSHIP

_____

TO: Salt Lake City Leadership   **DATE**: February 1, 2021
                Mayor Mendenhall and Amy Fowler, City Council Chair

FROM: Cindy Lou Trishman, City Recorder
                Lauren Shafer, Assistant City Recorder - Elections

SUBJECT: UPDATED: Overview of Ranked Choice Voting and Participation in the Municipal
                Alternative Voting Method Pilot Program

STAFF CONTACT: Lauren Shafer, Assistant City Recorder-Elections

IMPORTANT DATES: *(Current legislation impact to previously provided information is in italics)*

- **Before April 15, 2021:** Notice to Lt. Governor stating intention to participate in the Pilot Program and assurance the municipality has the resources and capability to participate.
  - *If H.B. 75 passes as it is currently written, the legislative body must provide this notice to the Lt. Governor as well as to the Salt Lake County Clerk, after voting to participate. The Recorder's Office will no longer be able to provide the notice.*
  - *Additionally, if H.B. 174 passes as it is currently written, the municipality must also notify the Lieutenant Governor of which voting method (Ranked Choice, Approval or Star) they intend to use within the same notification.*
- **Tuesday, November 2, 2021:** Municipal General Election
  - Primary election is optional under the State's defined pilot program

BUDGET IMPACT: Impact to the City may be directly linked to an interlocal agreement with County election services (no current estimate) or may be direct on behalf of the City Recorder's office budget. The budget impact will be determined by the services offered through County election services and the decision of City elected officials.

- *If H.B. 75 passes as it is currently written, Salt Lake County will be required by the statute to run the election, the County will no longer have allowance to deny the option to interested municipalities.*

DISCUSSION: Ranked Choice Voting–also known as Instant Runoff Voting–is used for single-winner elected positions. The practice was used in the 2019 Municipal Elections for Utah cities Vineyard and Payson. Feedback from the experience in Utah County was generally positive. The potential of Salt Lake City participating in the Pilot program includes the need to discuss the process, how the elections would be conducted and educational efforts.

Ranked Choice Voting Guiding Principles

- Winner declared with more than 50% of the vote
- Decreased splitting of the vote ("lesser of two evils" approach); voters may select candidates they like in preferential order, not simply vote against the candidate with whom the voter disagrees.
- Decreased election costs (due to the removal of the Primary)
- Potentially greater representation of diverse community members

Ranked Choice Voting Process

1) Ballots are designed to list all candidates for the respective position with a designated table area for ranking candidates in order of preference. (Please see Exhibits A & B for sample ballot layout)
2) Voters rank the candidates in order of preference
3) Election equipment tabulates the preference numbers for each ballot
4) If none of the candidates receive more than 50% of the overall vote, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated, and those who had that candidate selected as their first choice will now have their votes counted for the candidate they chose as second. This process of elimination continues until a candidate crosses the 50% threshold and is declared the winner.

RANKED CHOICE VOTING PROCESS IF H.B. 127 PASSES:

1. *If H.B. 127 passes as it is currently written, voters will have to indicate who their first preference is and then may indicate:*
   a. *The names of the remaining candidates in order of the voter's preference, if there are five candidates or less,*
   b. *Or, the names of up to four of the remaining candidates in order of the voter's preference, if there are six candidates or more (totaling five candidates ranked).*
   c. *If there is a tie-vote while using ranked choice voting, that tie will have to be broken by lot.*
   d. *With this legislation, a new form of batch elimination outlines how the election official must eliminate candidates when counting. This means that if the election official chooses to use Batch Elimination, they may exclude each candidate where:*
      i. *The number of remaining candidates with more valid votes is greater than or equal to the number of remaining spots, and;*
      ii. *The number of valid votes counted for the candidate in the phase plus the number of votes counted for all candidates with fewer valid votes is less than the number of valid votes for the candidate with the next highest amount in the phase.*

RANKED CHOICE VOTING PROCESS IF H.B. 174 PASSES:

1. *If H.B. 174 passes as it is currently written, there will be two new RCV methods, the approval method and star method. The municipality can choose which method it prefers.*
   a. *The approval method requires voters to indicate which candidates they approve of, there is no order or ranking. Example: If the voter has three candidates on the ballot and they only approve of two, they need only mark those two. Then the candidates are ranked by who received the most approvals and the candidate with the most wins. If there is a tie it is broken by lot.*
   b. *The star method requires voters to indicate how many stars (out of five – five being the highest) they would give each candidate on the ballot. Example: If the voter has the same three candidates as before and they give Candidate #1 five stars, Candidate #2 three stars, and Candidate #3 zero stars, Candidate #1 would win as they had the most stars. The candidate with the most stars overall wins.*

Educational Outreach Review

Based on studies and research, the emphasis for education will be for the voter to become familiar with completing the ballot. Candidates may also be provided educational information and would be encouraged to discuss the process as frequently as possible.

Efforts from the state program Utah Ranked Choice and other outside sources (FairVote, Ranked Choice Voting Resource Center) provide general material for use as educational resources. The State has also allocated funding for educational efforts during the Pilot Program. Additional opportunities through social media, web chats and clear information provided in the Voter Information guide will assist with education.

Coordination of a Ranked Choice Voting Election

As of the date of this memo, the Salt Lake County Clerk's office has indicated it cannot offer an option for Ranked Choice Voting until the new equipment is received in their office (January 2021) and testing is complete. No further outline on the potential ability to facilitate the RCV option or testing timeline was provided. *However, if H.B. 75 passes, Salt Lake County will be required by statute to conduct the election, the city may not contract out nor is it allowed to conduct the election on its own.*

In 2019, municipalities were provided the option to enter into an interlocal agreement with any local political subdivision in the State. It is anticipated there will be legislation to review this option for future elections during the 2021 legislative session. (State Code, 20A-5-400.1.c,d)

The City Recorder's office may conduct the municipal election with an automated voting system meeting the requirements listed in State Code 20A-5-302. If it is determined the City Recorder conduct the process, it is anticipated an RFP may be needed for voting equipment.

Is the Council interested in reviewing a resolution for the participation in the Pilot Program?

Is City leadership interested in obtaining an estimate or draft interlocal agreement for further consideration of Ranked Choice/Instant Runoff Voting?

OFFICIAL BALLOT
CITY GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT

_____ Judge _____ Judge

| A | STATE OF MINNESOTA | B | NOVEMBER 3, 2009 | C | CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS |

Ranked Choice Voting

Instructions

**How to make your candidate choice**

1. Pick your first choice candidate and completely fill in the oval next to that candidate under First Choice, like this:

  ● **CANDIDATE NAME**

2. If you have a second choice candidate, completely fill in the oval next to that candidate under Second Choice.

3. Your third choice candidate, if you have one, works the same way.

! **All three choices (if you choose to have three) must be different from each other.**

! **If you make a mistake - or cross out or make a stray mark - ask for a new ballot. Otherwise your vote may not count.**
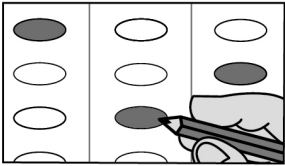
Correct: Correct: Choose different candidates in different columns.
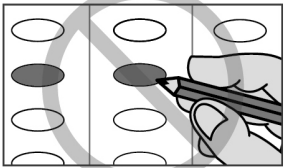
Wrong: Wrong: Voter chose the same candidate more than once.
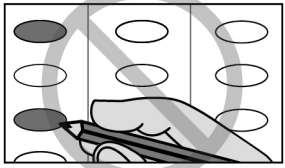
Wrong: Wrong: Voter chose more than one candidate in the same column.

Begin voting below ⬇

CITY OFFICES

MAYOR Mark your first, second and third choice candidates in the columns below. One to be elected.

1 First Choice	Fill in one oval completely.	**2** Second Choice	Make your second choice here.	**3** Third Choice	Make your third choice here.
⬭	**LAKE CALHOUN** Walleye Party	⬭	**LAKE CALHOUN** Walleye Party	⬭	**LAKE CALHOUN** Walleye Party
⬭	**CEDAR LAKE** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**CEDAR LAKE** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**CEDAR LAKE** Lake Superior Agate Party
⬭	**POWDERHORN LAKE** Norway Pine Party	⬭	**POWDERHORN LAKE** Norway Pine Party	⬭	**POWDERHORN LAKE** Norway Pine Party
⬭	**DIAMOND LAKE** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**DIAMOND LAKE** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**DIAMOND LAKE** Lake Superior Agate Party
⬭	**LAKE HARRIET** Walleye Party	⬭	**LAKE HARRIET** Walleye Party	⬭	**LAKE HARRIET** Walleye Party
⬭	**SHINGLE CREEK** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**SHINGLE CREEK** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**SHINGLE CREEK** Lake Superior Agate Party
⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any

COUNCIL MEMBER WARD ONE Mark your first, second and third choice candidates in the columns below. One to be elected.

1 First Choice	Fill in one oval completely.	**2** Second Choice	Make your second choice here.	**3** Third Choice	Make your third choice here.
⬭	**LAKE HIAWATHA** Monarch Butterfly Party	⬭	**LAKE HIAWATHA** Monarch Butterfly Party	⬭	**LAKE HIAWATHA** Monarch Butterfly Party
⬭	**LAKE OF THE ISLES** Norway Pine Party	⬭	**LAKE OF THE ISLES** Norway Pine Party	⬭	**LAKE OF THE ISLES** Norway Pine Party
⬭	**LAKE NOKOMIS** Walleye Party	⬭	**LAKE NOKOMIS** Walleye Party	⬭	**LAKE NOKOMIS** Walleye Party
⬭	**MISSISSIPPI RIVER** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**MISSISSIPPI RIVER** Lake Superior Agate Party	⬭	**MISSISSIPPI RIVER** Lake Superior Agate Party
⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any

Continue voting next side ➡

| A | DEMO | B | 1360 | C | Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01 |

VOTE FRONT AND BACK OF BALLOT

DEMO

D	STATE OF MINNESOTA	E	NOVEMBER 3, 2009	F	CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

Mark your first, second and third choice candidates in the columns below. Two to be elected.

1 First Choice	Fill in one oval completely.	**2** Second Choice	Make your second choice here.	**3** Third Choice	Make your third choice here.
⬭	**SHINGLE CREEK PARK**	⬭	**SHINGLE CREEK PARK**	⬭	**SHINGLE CREEK PARK**
⬭	**ARMATAGE PARK**	⬭	**ARMATAGE PARK**	⬭	**ARMATAGE PARK**
⬭	**MARSHALL TERRACE PARK**	⬭	**MARSHALL TERRACE PARK**	⬭	**MARSHALL TERRACE PARK**
⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER AT LARGE

Mark your first, second and third choice candidates in the columns below. Three to be elected.

1 First Choice	Fill in one oval completely.	**2** Second Choice	Make your second choice here.	**3** Third Choice	Make your third choice here.
⬭	**PEARL PARK**	⬭	**PEARL PARK**	⬭	**PEARL PARK**
⬭	**POWDERHORN PARK**	⬭	**POWDERHORN PARK**	⬭	**POWDERHORN PARK**
⬭	**NORTHEAST PARK**	⬭	**NORTHEAST PARK**	⬭	**NORTHEAST PARK**
⬭	**LONGFELLOW PARK**	⬭	**LONGFELLOW PARK**	⬭	**LONGFELLOW PARK**
⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER DISTRICT ONE

Mark your first, second and third choice candidates in the columns below. One to be elected.

1 First Choice	Fill in one oval completely.	**2** Second Choice	Make your second choice here.	**3** Third Choice	Make your third choice here.
⬭	**MATTHEWS PARK**	⬭	**MATTHEWS PARK**	⬭	**MATTHEWS PARK**
⬭	**LYNDALE FARMSTEAD PARK**	⬭	**LYNDALE FARMSTEAD PARK**	⬭	**LYNDALE FARMSTEAD PARK**
⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any	⬭	write-in, if any

CITY QUESTIONS

To vote for a question, completely fill in the oval next to the word "YES" for that question. To vote against a question, completely fill in the oval next to the word "NO" for that question.

CITY QUESTION
CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 9,000,000
A PROPOSAL TO MAKE THE BICYCLE THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF MINNEAPOLIS

Should the City of Minneapolis adopt the bicycle as its official vehicle?

⬭	**YES**
⬭	**NO**

D	DEMO	E	1360	F	Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01

SS District 15   SR District 85

Style No. 29

State of Maine Sample Ballot
General Election, November 8, 2016
for
Augusta W1 –1, Augusta W2, Augusta W4 –2

Instructions to Voters

To vote for the candidate of your choice, fill in the oval to the left like this: ⬬

To vote for a Write-in candidate, fill in the oval to the left of the Write-in space and write in the person's name.

To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.

If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

President/Vice President
Statewide
Vote for ONE (1)

|	
◯	**Clinton, Hillary Rodham** **Kaine, Timothy Michael** Democratic
◯	**Johnson, Gary** **Weld, Bill** Libertarian
◯	**Stein, Jill** **Baraka, Ajamu** Green Independent
◯	**Trump, Donald J.** **Pence, Michael R.** Republican
◯	**Write-in** _____
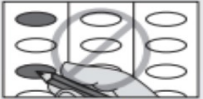
Instructions to Voters: Ranked Choice Voting

- Rank candidates in order of your choice. You may rank as many or as few candidates as you choose.
- Your 2nd, 3rd, and other choices will not count against your 1st choice. They will only be considered if your 1st choice does not win.
- Fill in the oval: In the 1st column for your first (1st) choice.
      In the 2nd column for your second (2nd) choice.
      In the 3rd column for your third (3rd) choice, and so on.
- To vote for a Write-in candidate, fill in the oval of the column of your choice and write in the name below "Write-in."
- To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice. If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Fill in the oval completely.   No more than 1 oval in a column.   No more than 1 oval for a candidate.

U.S. Senator
Statewide

Rank up to 6 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice
Crane, Ichabod City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Lantern, Jack O. City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Patch, Pumpkin City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Stein, Frank N. City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Ween, Hal O. City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Write-in _____	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Rep. to Congress
District 1

Rank up to 6 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice
Duck, Daisy City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Duck, Donald City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Goof, Goofy City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Mouse, Mickey City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Mouse, Minnie City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Write-in _____	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Governor
Statewide

Rank up to 6 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice
Adams, John City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Jefferson, Thomas City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Madison, James City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Monroe, James City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Washington, George City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Write-in _____	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

State Senator
District 15

Rank up to 6 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice
Breyer, Stephen City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Ginsberg, Ruth Bader City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Kennedy, Anthony City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Roberts, John City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Thomas, Clarence City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Write-in _____	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Rep. to the Legislature
District 85

Rank up to 6 candidates. Mark no more than 1 oval in each column.

	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	4th Choice	5th Choice	6th Choice
Blake, Daphne City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Dinkley, Velma City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Doo, Scooby City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Jones, Fred City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Rogers, Shaggy City Party	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Write-in _____	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

Instructions to Voters

To vote for the candidate of your choice, fill in the oval to the left like this: ⬬
To vote for a Write-in candidate, fill in the oval to the left of the Write-in space and write in the person's name.
To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.
If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Sheriff
Kennebec County
Vote for ONE (1)

◯	**Mason, L. Kenneth, III** Readfield Independent
◯	**Reardon, Ryan P.** Oakland Democratic
◯	**Write-in** _____

County Commissioner
Kennebec District 1
Vote for ONE (1)

◯	**Crockett, Patsy A.** Augusta Democratic
◯	**Pare, Jeremy Adam** Manchester Independent
◯	**Write-in** _____

Turn Over
Questions on Back

Instructions to Voters

Fill in the oval next to your Yes or No choice, like this: ⬤

To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.

If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Question 1: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to allow the possession and use of marijuana under state law by persons who are at least 21 years of age, and allow the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing, and sale of marijuana and marijuana products subject to state regulation, taxation and local ordinance?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Question 2: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to add a 3% tax on individual Maine taxable income above $200,000 to create a state fund that would provide direct support for student learning in kindergarten through 12th grade public education?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Question 3: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to require background checks prior to the sale or transfer of firearms between individuals not licensed as firearms dealers, with failure to do so punishable by law, and with some exceptions for family members, hunting, self-defense, lawful competitions, and shooting range activity?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Question 4: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to raise the minimum hourly wage of $7.50 to $9 in 2017, with annual $1 increases up to $12 in 2020, and annual cost-of-living increases thereafter; and do you want to raise the direct wage for service workers who receive tips from half the minimum wage to $5 in 2017, with annual increases until it reaches the adjusted minimum wage?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Question 5: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to allow voters to rank their choices of candidates in elections for U.S. Senate, Congress, Governor, State Senate, and State Representative, and to have ballots counted at the state level in multiple rounds in which last-place candidates are eliminated until a candidate wins by majority?

◯ Yes

◯ No

Question 6: Bond Issue

Do you favor a $100,000,000 bond issue for construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for facilities, equipment and property acquisition related to ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails, to be used to match an estimated $137,000,000 in federal and other funds?

Total estimated life time cost is $133,000,000 representing $100,000,000 in principal and $33,000,000 in interest (assuming interest at 6.0% over 10 years).

◯ Yes

◯ No