A bill for an act
relating to elections; providing funding and modifying policy for elections, campaign finance, and the secretary of state; establishing local ranked choice voting provisions; establishing the voting rights act cost sharing account; modifying transfers and appropriations; authorizing rulemaking; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 10A.01, subdivisions 7, 10d; 204B.35, subdivision 1; 204C.21, by adding a subdivision; 204D.07, subdivision 3; 205.13, subdivision $2 ; 206.57$, by adding a subdivision; 211A.01, subdivisions $3,7,8$, by adding a subdivision; 211A.02, subdivision 2; 211A.05, subdivision 1; 211A.06; 211A.07; 211A.12; 211A.14; Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, sections 10A.20, subdivision 2a; 206.83; 211A.02, subdivision 1; Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12 , article 1 , section 6 ; Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 1, sections 6; 43; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 200; 206; proposing coding for new law as Minnesota Statutes, chapter 204E; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 211A.01, subdivisions 2, 4; 211A.02, subdivision 4.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

## ARTICLE 1

 APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERSSection 1. Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 12, article 1, section 6, is amended to read:

Sec. 6. SECRETARY OF STATE
$\$ \quad 9,684,000 \$$
9,152,000
$\$ 750,000$ each year is for transfer to the voting equipment grant account under Minnesota Statutes, section 206.95. These are onetime transfers.
$2.1 \quad \$ 1,000,000$ each year is for grants to local units of government to implement the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 203B.082. These are onetime appropriations.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 2. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 1, section 6, is amended to read:

Sec. 6. SECRETARY OF STATE

The base for this appropriation is $\$ 11,255,000$ $\$ 12,580,000$ in fiscal year 2026 and $\$ 11,069,000 \$ 12,394,000$ in fiscal year 2027. $\$ 500,000$ the first year is for the secretary of state to make grants to counties and municipalities to improve access to polling places for individuals with disabilities and to provide the same opportunity for access and participation in the electoral process, including privacy and independence, to voters with disabilities as that which exists for voters with no disabilities. Funds may be used to purchase equipment or to make capital improvements to government-owned facilities. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.
$\$ 200,000$ the first year is to develop and implement an educational campaign relating to the restoration of the right to vote to formerly incarcerated individuals, including voter education materials and outreach to affected individuals.
$\$ 2,250,000$ the first year and $\$ 3,127,000$ the second year are for transfer to the voting operations, technology, and election resources account established under Minnesota Statutes,

|  | $\mathbf{1 3 , 4 7 0 , 0 0 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 , 0 6 9 , 0 0 0}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\$$ | $14,720,000$ |  | 12,655,000

section 5.305. The base for this transfer is $\$ 3,000,000$ in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 3. Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 1, section 43, is amended to read:

Sec. 43. TRANSFER; VOTING OPERATIONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND ELECTION RESOURCES ACCOUNT.
$\$ 1,250,000$ each year $\$ 750,000$ in fiscal year 2024 is transferred from the general fund voting equipment grant account under Minnesota Statutes, section 206.95, to the voting operations, technology, and election resources account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 5.305. The base for this transfer is $\$ 1,250,000$ in fiseal year 2026 and each fiseal year thereafter. This is a onetime transfer.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Sec. 4. CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE BOARD;

## APPROPRIATION.

$\$ 20,000$ in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board for costs related to implementation of article 3. This is a onetime appropriation.

## Sec. 5. VOTING RIGHTS ACT COST SHARING ACCOUNT; TRANSFER.

$\$ 144,000$ in fiscal year 2025 is transferred from the general fund to the Voting Rights Act cost sharing account in the special revenue fund. The base for this transfer is $\$ 25,000$ in fiscal year 2026 and each fiscal year thereafter.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024, if the proposed laws styled as the Minnesota Voting Rights Act contained in 2024 regular legislative session, House File 4772, including the cost sharing requirement proposed as Minnesota Statutes, section 200.56, subdivision 4, are enacted on or before that date.

## ARTICLE 2

## ELECTIONS POLICY

Section 1. [200.60] VOTING RIGHTS ACT COST SHARING ACCOUNT.
Subdivision 1. Special revenue fund account established. A Voting Rights Act cost sharing account is established in the special revenue fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the secretary of state for the purpose of reimbursing political subdivisions for presuit notice cost sharing expenses agreed to under section 200.56, subdivision 4, as authorized by this section. The secretary of state may retain up to five percent of the total cost of a reimbursement for administrative costs associated with processing the reimbursement.

Subd. 2. Eligibility for reimbursement; application and approval. (a) A political subdivision that implements a remedy in response to a presuit notice letter submitted under section 200.56 and pays a cost sharing amount under that section may apply to the secretary of state for reimbursement of the paid amount.
(b) The secretary of state must establish a form to be used by a political subdivision when applying for the reimbursement. The secretary of state must approve a submitted application, so long as the information provided by the political subdivision demonstrates that the expenses paid are eligible under section 200.56 and that sufficient funds are available in the Voting Rights Act cost sharing account to make the reimbursement payment. The secretary of state must review, approve, and distribute a reimbursement to an eligible political subdivision within 45 days of receiving its application.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2024, if the proposed laws styled as the Minnesota Voting Rights Act contained in 2024 regular legislative session, House File 4772, including the cost sharing requirement proposed as Minnesota Statutes, section 200.56, subdivision 4, are enacted on or before that date.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204B.35, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Application. All ballots for every election shall be prepared in accordance with sections 204B. 35 to 204B. 44 and ehapter chapters 204D and 204E, except for voting machine ballots or as otherwise provided by law.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204C.21, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 4. Ranked choice voting election. Notwithstanding the requirements of this section, the votes cast in a ranked choice voting election must be counted according to the procedures established in chapter 204E.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 204D.07, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. Exception; certain nonpartisan candidate. If not more than twice the number of individuals to be elected to a nonpartisan office file for the nomination, their names and the name of the office shall be omitted from the state and county nonpartisan primary ballot and the candidates who filed shall be the nominees. For candidates in a nonpartisan ranked choice voting election, candidates shall be omitted from the state and county primary ballot.

Sec. 5. [204E.01] APPLICABILITY; AUTHORIZED LOCAL ADOPTION ONLY.

This chapter applies to all elections conducted using ranked choice voting as authorized by section 204E.03. Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, Minnesota election law applies to elections conducted using ranked choice voting.

## Sec. 6. [204E.02] DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. Application. For the purposes of this chapter, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. Active candidate. "Active candidate" means any candidate who has not been defeated or elected and is not a withdrawn candidate.

Subd. 3. Batch elimination. "Batch elimination" means a simultaneous defeat of multiple continuing candidates that have no mathematical chance of being elected.

Subd. 4. Cast vote record. "Cast vote record" means the tabulatable record of all aggregated votes produced by a single voter in one voting session. For ballots on which voters have indicated a write-in choice, the finalized cast vote record indicates whether the write-in choice was cast for one of the declared write-in candidates, and if so, which one.

Subd. 5. Duplicate ranking. "Duplicate ranking" means a voter has ranked the same candidate at multiple rankings for the office being counted.

Subd. 6. Hand count election. "Hand count election" means an election in which all tabulation of ballots is done by hand, regardless of whether the ballots are cast in a polling place or as absentee or mail ballots.

Subd. 7. Highest continuing ranking. "Highest continuing ranking" means the ranking on a voter's ballot with the lowest numerical value for a continuing candidate.

Subd. 8. Inactive ballot. "Inactive ballot" means a ballot that does not count for any candidate in a given round of tabulation as provided in section 204E. 06 or 204E. 07.

Subd. 9. Mathematically impossible to be elected. "Mathematically impossible to be elected" means:
(1) the candidate cannot be elected because the candidate's surplus votes and current vote total plus the surplus votes and votes of all other candidates in the current round with fewer votes or an equal number of votes would not be enough to surpass the candidate with the next higher current vote total; or
(2) the candidate has a lower current vote total than a candidate who is described by clause (1).

Subd. 10. Maximum possible threshold. "Maximum possible threshold" means the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected under a first ranked choice tabulation under sections 204E. 06 and 204E.07. Maximum possible threshold equals:
(1) the sum of the total ballots cast that include votes, undervotes, skipped rankings, and overvotes for the office; divided by
(2) the sum of one plus the number of offices to be filled; then
(3) adding one to the result; and
(4) with any fractions disregarded.

Subd. 11. Multiple-seat election. "Multiple-seat election" means an election in which two or more seats in an office are to be filled from a single set of candidates on the ballot.
$\underline{\text { Subd. 12. Overvote. "Overvote" means a voter has ranked more than one candidate at }}$ the same ranking.

Subd. 13. Partially defective ballot. "Partially defective ballot" means a ballot that is defective to the extent that the election judges are unable to determine the voter's intent with respect to the office being counted.

Subd. 14. Ranked choice voting. "Ranked choice voting" means an election method in which voters rank candidates for an office in order of their preference, with each vote counting for the highest-ranked continuing candidate on each ballot until that candidate has been elected or defeated as provided in this chapter.

Subd. 15. Ranked choice voting local election official. "Ranked choice voting local election official" means the county auditor, school district clerk, or municipal clerk responsible for duties related to election administration in the applicable jurisdiction. Where more than one ranked choice voting election jurisdiction is involved, the ranked choice voting local election official is presumed to be the county auditor if the county has adopted ranked choice voting. If an overlapping city and school district adopt ranked choice voting, the municipal clerk is presumed to be the ranked choice voting election official. Nothing in this subdivision prohibits overlapping jurisdictions from agreeing to an alternative ranked choice voting election official.

Subd. 16. Ranked choice voting tabulation center. "Ranked choice voting tabulation center" means the location where ballots are processed automatically or by hand and are tabulated.

Subd. 17. Ranking. "Ranking" means the number assigned by a voter to a candidate to express the voter's preference for that candidate. Ranking number one is the highest ranking. A ranking of lower numerical value indicates a greater preference for a candidate than a ranking of higher numerical value.

Subd. 18. Repeat candidate ranking. "Repeat candidate ranking" means a voter ranks the same candidate at multiple rankings for the office being counted.

Subd. 19. Round. "Round" means an instance of the sequence of voting tabulation steps established in section 204E. 06 or 204E.07.

Subd. 20. Single-seat election. Single-seat election means an election in which one seat in an office is to be filled from a single set of candidates on the ballot.

Subd. 21. Skipped ranking. "Skipped ranking" means a voter has left a ranking blank and ranks a candidate at a subsequent ranking.

Subd. 22. Surplus. "Surplus" means the total number of votes cast for an elected candidate in excess of the threshold.

Subd. 23. Surplus fraction of a vote. "Surplus fraction of a vote" means the proportion of each vote to be transferred when a surplus is transferred. The surplus fraction is calculated by dividing the surplus by the total votes cast for the elected candidate, calculated to four decimal places, ignoring any remainder.

Subd. 24. Threshold. "Threshold" means the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected. In any given single-seat election, the threshold equals: the total votes counted, during that tabulation round, excluding inactive ballots; divided by two; then adding one;
and disregarding any fractions. In any given multiple-seat election, the threshold equals: the total votes counted in the first round after removing defective ballots; divided by the sum of one plus the number of offices to be filled; adding one to the result; and disregarding any fractions.

Subd. 25. Totally defective ballot. "Totally defective ballot" means a ballot that is defective to the extent that election judges are unable to determine the voter's intent for any office on the ballot.

Subd. 26. Transfer value. "Transfer value" means the fraction of a vote that a transferred ballot will contribute to the next ranked continuing candidate on that ballot. The transfer value of a vote cast for an elected candidate is calculated by multiplying the surplus fraction of each vote by its current value, calculated to four decimal places, ignoring any remainder. The transfer value of a vote cast for a defeated candidate is the same as its current value.

Subd. 27. Transferable vote. "Transferable vote" means a vote or a fraction of a vote for a candidate who has been either elected or defeated.

Subd. 28. Undeclared candidate. "Undeclared candidate" means a candidate who does not file a request within the time required by section 204E. 05 , subdivision 4 , for the candidate's write-in votes to be counted, and whose name does not otherwise appear on the ballot.

Subd. 29. Undervote. "Undervote" means a voter did not rank any candidates for an office.

Sec. 7. [204E.03] AUTHORIZATION FOR LOCAL ADOPTION.
(a) After January 1, 2025, or the adoption of administrative rules governing ranked choice voting by the secretary of state, whichever is later, the following political subdivisions may adopt, in the manner provided in this section, ranked choice voting as a method of voting for local offices within the political subdivision:
(1) home rule charter or statutory cities;
(2) school districts; and
(3) counties.
(b) A jurisdiction that adopts ranked choice voting may do so by adopting an ordinance or resolution, by a ballot question presented to the voters, or by amending the charter. The ranked choice voting method may be repealed by the same methods used for adoption.
(c) Before adopting the use of ranked choice voting for an election held in conjunction with a statewide election, a jurisdiction must enter into an agreement, or a conditional agreement if adopting by ballot question, with the county or counties responsible for administering the jurisdiction's election.
(d) If a home rule charter or statutory city adopts ranked choice voting without an agreement with the county or counties, the election conducted by ranked choice voting must not be held in conjunction with a statewide election and the jurisdiction must administer its own election.
(e) Before a school district can adopt the use of ranked choice voting for an election not held in conjunction with a statewide election, the district must first enter into an agreement, or a conditional agreement if adopting by ballot question, with the city or cities within the district's boundaries responsible for administering any elections conducted not in conjunction with a statewide election.
(f) A home rule charter jurisdiction that adopts a ranked choice voting system in its charter may adopt this chapter by reference in an ordinance but is not required to do so.
(g) Ranked choice voting must only be used to elect local offices at a general or special election.
(h) A jurisdiction that adopts the use of ranked choice voting in local elections must do so no later than 20 weeks before the state primary or 90 days before the first day for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office for which ranked choice voting is to be used as the method of election if the election is not held in conjunction with a state primary or state general election.
(i) Repeal of ranked choice voting must be no later than 90 days before the first day for filing affidavits of candidacy for offices for which ranked choice voting is used as the method of election.
(j) The ranked choice voting local election official must notify the secretary of state and, if applicable, the county auditor within four weeks following adoption or repeal of ranked choice voting.

Sec. 8. [204E.04] BALLOTS IN LOCAL RANKED CHOICE VOTING ELECTIONS.
Subdivision 1. Ballot format. (a) If there are three or more qualified candidates, a ballot must allow a voter to rank three candidates for each office in order of preference and must also allow the voter to add write-in candidates.
(b) A ballot must:
(1) include instructions to voters that clearly indicate how to mark the ballot;
(2) include instructions to voters that clearly indicate how to rank candidates in order of the voter's preference; and
(3) indicate the number of seats to be elected for each office.

Subd. 2. Mixed-election method ballots. If elections are held in which ranked choice voting is used in addition to other methods of voting, the ranked choice voting and nonranked choice voting elections must be on the same ballot card if possible, with ranked choice voting and nonranked choice voting portions clearly separated. A jurisdiction may not deviate from the standard ballot order of federal offices, state offices, or state constitutional amendments, but may deviate from the standard ballot order for other offices to allow separation of ranked choice voting and nonranked choice voting elections.

Subd. 3. Ballot format rules. The secretary of state must adopt rules regarding ranked choice voting ballot format, consistent with this section. Notwithstanding section 204B.36, the rules adopted under this subdivision may provide a standard for ballot format that differs from the standards required by that section.

Sec. 9. [204E.05] LOCAL RANKED CHOICE VOTING TABULATION CENTER.
$\underline{\text { Subdivision 1. Tabulation of votes; generally. The ranked choice voting local election }}$ official must designate one location to serve as the ranked choice voting tabulation center. If the tabulation includes a manual count of physical ballots, the center must be accessible to the public for the purpose of observing the vote tabulation. Tabulation of votes must be conducted as described in sections 204E. 06 and 204E. 07.

Subd. 2. Precinct tabulation. In an election where ranked choice voting is used, the county auditor, municipal clerk, or school district clerk shall deliver one set of summary statements; all spoiled ballots; and the envelopes containing the ballots to the ranked choice voting tabulation center as soon as possible after the vote counting is completed and the election judges have returned materials pursuant to section 204C.27.

Subd. 3. Notice of recess in count. At any time following receipt of materials under subdivision 2, the ranked choice voting local election official may declare a recess. Notice of the recess must include the date, time, and location at which the process of recording and tabulating votes will resume and the reason for the recess. Notice must be posted on the local jurisdiction's official bulletin board and on the door of the ranked choice voting tabulation center. During any recess, all electronic voting data and ballots must be secured.

Subd. 4. Recording write-in votes. (a) At a time set by the ranked choice voting local election official, the judges and any other election officials designated by the ranked choice voting local election official shall convene at the ranked choice voting tabulation center to examine ballots on which voters have indicated a write-in choice and record the names and number of votes received by each write-in candidate who submits a request as required by this subdivision. The number of votes received by write-in candidates who did not file a request as provided in this subdivision must be recorded as a group by office.
(b) Notwithstanding section 204B.09, subdivision 3, a candidate for a city or school district office whose election is governed by this chapter and who wants write-in votes for the candidate to be counted must file a written request with the filing officer not more than seven days before the election. The filing officer shall provide copies of the form to make the request. The filing officer shall not accept a written request later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day for filing a written request.

Subd. 5. Ranked choice vote tabulation. After all votes have been recorded, and at a time set by the ranked choice voting local election official, the process of tabulating votes cast for offices to be elected using the ranked choice method must begin. The counting must continue until preliminary results for all races are determined, subject to subdivision 3.

## Sec. 10. [204E.06] TABULATION OF VOTES; SINGLE-SEAT LOCAL RANKED CHOICE VOTING ELECTIONS.

(a) This section applies to a ranked choice voting election in which one seat in an office is to be filled from a single set of candidates on the ballot. The method of tabulating ranked choice votes for single-seat elections as described in this section must be known as the "single-seat single transferable vote" method of tabulation.
(b) A first ranked choice tabulation shall be done under this paragraph before a tabulation as described in paragraph (c). A first ranked choice tabulation will consist of a first round only. Under the first ranked choice tabulation, the vote total will be the sum of the ranked votes marked number one. The maximum possible threshold must be determined. If the vote total for a candidate, other than an undeclared or a declared write-in candidate, is equal to or greater than the maximum possible threshold, that candidate is declared elected and the tabulation is complete. If the vote total for no candidate, other than an undeclared or a declared write-in candidate, is equal to or greater than the maximum possible threshold, additional rounds must be performed as provided in paragraph (c).
(c) Tabulation of votes at the ranked choice voting tabulation center must proceed in rounds for each office to be counted. The threshold must be calculated. The sum of all
12.1 ranked choice votes for every candidate must be calculated. Each round must proceed sequentially as follows:
(1) the number of votes cast for each candidate, as indicated by the highest continuing ranking on each ballot, must be counted. If a candidate, other than an undeclared write-in candidate, has a vote total that is equal to or greater than the threshold, that candidate is declared elected and the tabulation is complete. If no candidate, other than an undeclared write-in candidate, has a vote total that is equal to or greater than the threshold, a new round begins and the tabulation must continue as described in clause (2);
(2) at the beginning of the second round only, all undeclared candidates must be defeated and all candidates for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected may be defeated simultaneously. For third and subsequent rounds, the candidate with the fewest votes must be defeated and all candidates for whom it is mathematically impossible to be elected may be defeated simultaneously. Votes for the defeated candidates must be transferred to each ballot's next-ranked continuing candidate, except votes for candidates defeated in the final round are not transferred if, by their defeat, the number of continuing candidates is reduced to one. If no candidate can be defeated under this clause, the tabulation must continue as described in clause (3). Otherwise, the tabulation must continue as described in clause (4);
(3) the candidate with the fewest votes is defeated. Votes for the defeated candidate must be transferred to each ballot's next-ranked continuing candidate, except votes for candidates defeated in the final round are not transferred if, by their defeat, the number of continuing candidates is reduced to one. Ties between candidates with the fewest votes must be resolved by lot by the ranked choice voting local election official. The candidate chosen by lot must be defeated. The result of the tie resolution must be recorded and reused in the event of a recount;
(4) the procedures in clauses (1) to (3) must be repeated until one candidate reaches the threshold. When only one continuing candidate remains, that continuing candidate must be elected; and
(5) when a skipped ranking, overvote, or repeat candidate ranking is encountered on a ballot, that ballot shall count toward the highest continuing ranking that is not a skipped ranking, overvote, or repeat candidate ranking. If any ballot cannot be advanced because no further continuing candidates are ranked on that ballot, or because the only votes for further continuing candidates that are ranked on that ballot are either overvotes or repeat candidate rankings, the ballot shall not count toward any candidate in that round or in subsequent rounds for the office being counted.

Sec. 11. [204E.07] TABULATION OF VOTES; MULTIPLE-SEAT LOCAL RANKED CHOICE VOTING ELECTIONS.
(a) This section applies to a ranked choice voting election in which two or more seats in office are to be filled from a single set of candidates on the ballot. The method of tabulating ranked choice votes for multiple-seat elections as described in this section must be known as the "multiple-seat single transferable vote" method of tabulation.
(b) A first ranked choice tabulation shall be done under this paragraph before a tabulation as described in paragraph (c). A first ranked choice tabulation will consist of a first round only. Under the first ranked choice tabulation, the vote total will be the sum of the ranked votes marked number one. The maximum possible threshold must be determined. If the number of candidates, other than any undeclared or declared write-in candidate, whose vote total is equal to or greater than the maximum possible threshold is equal to the number of seats to be filled, those candidates are declared elected and the tabulation is complete. If the number of candidates, other than any undeclared or declared write-in candidate, whose vote total is equal to or greater than the maximum possible threshold is less than the number of seats to be filled, additional rounds must be performed as provided in paragraph (c).
(c) Tabulation of votes at the ranked choice voting tabulation center must proceed in rounds for each office to be counted. The threshold must be calculated. The sum of all ranked choice votes for every candidate must be calculated. Each round must proceed sequentially as follows:
(1) the number of votes cast for each candidate for the current round must be counted. If the number of candidates, other than any undeclared write-in candidate, whose vote total is equal to or greater than the threshold is equal to the number of seats to be filled, those candidates who are continuing candidates are elected and the tabulation is complete. If the number of candidates, other than any undeclared write-in candidate, whose vote total is equal to or greater than the threshold is not equal to the number of seats to be filled, a new round begins and the tabulation must continue as described in clause (2);
(2) surplus votes for any candidates whose vote total is equal to or greater than the $\underline{\text { threshold must be calculated; }}$
(3) the candidate with the largest surplus is declared elected and that candidate's surplus is transferred. A tie between two or more candidates must be resolved by lot by the ranked choice voting local election official. The surplus of the candidate chosen by lot must be transferred before other transfers are made. The result of the tie resolution must be recorded and reused in the event of a recount. The transfer value of each vote cast for an elected
candidate must be transferred to the next continuing candidate on that ballot. If no candidate has a surplus, the tabulation must continue as described in clause (4). Otherwise, the tabulation must continue as described in clause (1);
(4) if there are no transferable surplus votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is defeated. Votes for a defeated candidate are transferred at their transfer value to each ballot's next-ranked continuing candidate, except votes for candidates defeated in the final round are not transferred if, by their defeat, the number of continuing candidates is reduced to the number of seats yet to be filled. Ties between candidates with the fewest votes must be resolved by lot by the ranked choice voting local election official, and the candidate chosen by lot must be defeated. The result of the tie resolution must be recorded and reused in the event of a recount;
(5) the procedures in clauses (1) to (4) must be repeated until the number of candidates whose vote total is equal to or greater than the threshold is equal to the number of seats to be filled, or until the number of continuing candidates is equal to the number of seats yet to be filled. If the number of continuing candidates is equal to the number of seats yet to be filled, any remaining continuing candidates must be declared elected; and
(6) when a skipped ranking, overvote, or repeat candidate ranking is encountered on a ballot, that ballot shall count toward the highest continuing ranking that is not a skipped ranking, overvote, or repeat candidate ranking. If any ballot cannot be advanced because no further continuing candidates are ranked on that ballot, or because the only votes for further continuing candidates that are ranked on that ballot are either overvotes or repeat candidate rankings, the ballot shall not count toward any candidate in that round or in subsequent rounds for the office being counted.

Sec. 12. [204E.08] LOCAL RANKED CHOICE VOTING ELECTIONS;

## REPORTING RESULTS.

(a) In addition to the requirements of section 204C.24, each precinct must print an additional precinct summary statement, which must include the number of first choices cast for each candidate in that precinct.
(b) The ranked choice voting local election official must provide a tabulation summary statement of each contest with the following information:
(1) total votes cast;
(2) number of undervotes;
(3) number of totally defective and spoiled ballots;
(4) threshold calculation;
(5) total first choice rankings for all candidates;
(6) round-by-round tabulation results, including simultaneous batch eliminations, surplus transfers if applicable, and defeated candidate transfers; and
(7) inactive ballots at each round.
(c) In jurisdictions where ballots are scanned and recorded electronically, the ranked choice voting local election official must provide an electronically available spreadsheet of $\underline{\text { the cast vote record, consistent with the requirements of section } 206.845 .}$
(d) The jurisdiction must canvass the election returns pursuant to applicable state statutes for the election being held, and the canvassing board report must include the information required in the ranked choice voting tabulation center summary statement, with the addition of the number of persons registered to vote before election day by precinct, the number of persons registered on election day by precinct, and the number of accepted regular, military, and overseas absentee ballots and mail ballots. If the election is held in conjunction with a state general election, the canvass report must also include the number of federal office only absentee ballots and, if applicable, the number of presidential absentee ballots.

## Sec. 13. [204E.09] LOCAL RANKED CHOICE ELECTION RECOUNTS.

(a) A candidate defeated in the final round of tabulation may request a recount as provided in section 204C.361, to the extent applicable. For the purpose of ranked choice voting recounts, the recount official and filing officer is the ranked choice voting local election official.
(b) A candidate defeated in the final round of tabulation when the vote difference is greater than that provided in section 204C. 36 may request a recount at the candidate's own expense. A candidate defeated in an earlier round of tabulation may request a recount at the candidate's own expense. The candidate is responsible for all expenses associated with the recount, regardless of the vote difference between the candidates in the round in which the requesting candidate was defeated. The requesting candidate shall file with the filing officer a bond, cash, or surety in an amount set by the filing officer for the payment of the recount expenses. Expenses must be determined as provided in section 204C.36, subdivision 4.
(c) The secretary of state must adopt rules governing recounts conducted under this section.
(d) At the discretion of the recount official, in the case of a recount under paragraph (a) or (b) or by the requesting candidates, a recount may commence with the earliest tabulation round in which any requesting candidate was defeated or any prior round. All other candidates who, in the initial tabulation, were defeated prior to the round in which the recount starts $\underline{\text { may be presumed to have been correctly defeated. }}$

## Sec. 14. [204E.10] LOCAL RANKED CHOICE ELECTIONS; POSTELECTION

## REVIEW.

Subdivision 1. Selection of test date; notice. At the canvass, the ranked choice voting local election official must select by lot the offices and precincts to be reviewed and set the date, time, and place for the postelection review, in accordance with section 206.89. Postelection review is not required for a hand count election.

Subd. 2. Scope and conduct of test. The postelection review must be conducted in public and must review a sample of ballots cast for at least one single-seat ranked-choice voting election and at least one multiple-seat election, if such an election occurred.

Subd. 3. Review. (a) For each office to be reviewed, the number of precincts selected for review shall be determined as follows. If the office was voted on in fewer than five precincts, one precinct shall be selected. If the office was voted on in at least five precincts and fewer than 50 precincts, two precincts shall be selected. If the office was voted on in at least 50 precincts and fewer than 100 precincts, three precincts shall be selected. If the office was voted on in at least 100 precincts, four precincts or three percent of the total number of precincts in the election shall be selected, whichever is greater.
(b) For each office voted on in a county election, the ranked choice voting local election official may select precincts as specified in paragraph (a) or use the precincts selected in accordance with section 206.89 .
(c) Using the actual ballots cast in each precinct selected, the judges of the election shall conduct a hand-count tabulation of how many ballots contain each combination of candidates across the rankings. All undeclared write-in candidates shall be considered as a group in this hand count, and blank or overvoted rankings shall be included as such in the tabulated combinations.

Subd. 4. Standard of acceptable performance by voting system. A comparison of the results compiled by the voting system with the cast vote records compiled by the judges of the election performing the hand count must show that the results of the electronic voting system differed by no more than the applicable threshold provided in section 206.89,
subdivision 4, from the hand count of the sample tested. Valid votes that have been marked by the voter outside the vote targets or using a manual marking device that cannot be read by the voting system must not be included in making the determination whether the voting system has met the standard of acceptable performance.

Subd. 5. Additional review if needed. An additional review is required if:
(1) a test reveals a difference greater than the threshold provided in section 206.89, subdivision 4, in at least one precinct of an office, the ranked choice voting local election official must immediately, publicly select by lot two additional precincts of the same office for review. The additional precinct review must be completed within two days after the precincts are selected and the results immediately reported to the county auditor; and
(2) the additional precinct review indicates a difference in the vote totals that is greater than the applicable threshold, as provided by section 206.89, subdivision 4, in at least one additional precinct of an office, the ranked choice voting local election official must conduct a review of the ballots from all the remaining precincts in the office being reviewed.

This review must be completed no later than two weeks after the canvass.

Subd. 6. Report of results. Upon completion of the postelection review, the ranked choice voting local election official must immediately report the results to the county auditor and make the results available to the public.

Subd. 7. Update of vote totals. If the postelection review under this section results in a change in the number of votes counted for any candidate, the revised vote totals must be incorporated in the official result from those precincts.

Subd. 8. Effect on voting systems. If a voting system is found to have failed to record votes accurately and in the manner provided by this chapter, the voting system must not be used at another election until it has been approved for use by the county auditor, pursuant to section 206.58. In addition, the county auditor may order the city to conduct a hand recount of all ballots cast in the election.

Sec. 15. [204E.11] RULES; LOCAL OPTION RANKED CHOICE VOTING.

The secretary of state must adopt rules necessary to implement the requirements and procedures established by this chapter.

Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 205.13, subdivision 2, is amended to read:
Subd. 2. Notice of filing dates. At least two weeks before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy, the municipal clerk shall publish a notice stating the first and last dates on which affidavits of candidacy may be filed in the clerk's office and the closing time for filing on the last day for filing. The clerk shall post a similar notice at least ten days before the first day to file affidavits of candidacy. If ranked choice voting pursuant to chapter 204E is to be used, the notice must indicate the method of election to be used for the offices on the ballot. The notice must separately list any office for which affidavits of candidacy may be filed to fill the unexpired portion of a term when a special election is being held to fill a vacancy as provided in section 412.02 , subdivision 2 a .

Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 206.57, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6a. Required certification for ranked choice voting. In addition to the requirements of this section, a voting system used to administer ranked choice voting under chapter 204E must provide a test lab report from a voting system test lab accredited by the Election Assistance Commission or other appropriate federal agency responsible for testing and certification of compliance with the federal voting systems guidelines at the time of submission of the application required by subdivision 1 . The test lab report must show that the system is in conformity with voluntary voting system guidelines issued by the Election Assistance Commission or other appropriate federal agency.

## Sec. 18. [206.802] ELECTRONIC VOTING SYSTEMS; PURCHASING.

A voting system purchased for use in Minnesota to administer ranked choice voting on or after the effective date of this section must have the ability to:
(1) capture, store, and publicly report ballot data;
(2) to the extent practicable, produce a single human-readable file for each contest on the ballot containing all cast vote records captured for that contest;
(3) keep data anonymous;
(4) accept ranked or cumulative voting data under a variety of tabulation rules;
(5) be programmable to follow all other specifications of the ranked choice voting system or be compatible with automatic tabulating equipment or a software reallocation feature;
(6) provide a minimum of three rankings for ranked choice voting elections;
(7) to the extent practicable, notify voters of the following errors: overvotes, skipped $\underline{\text { rankings, and duplicate rankings in a ranked choice voting election; and }}$
(8) be programmable to print a zero tape indicating all rankings for all candidates in a ranked choice voting election.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective upon certification by the secretary of state that equipment meeting the standards required by this section is available for purchase and implementation.

Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 206.83, is amended to read:

### 206.83 TESTING OF VOTING SYSTEMS.

(a) At least three days before voting equipment is used, the official in charge of elections shall have the voting system tested to ascertain that the system will correctly mark ballots using all methods supported by the system, including ranked choice voting if applicable, and through assistive technology, and count the votes cast for all candidates and on all questions. Public notice of the time and place of the test must be given at least two days in advance by publication once in official newspapers. The test must be observed by at least two election judges, who are not of the same major political party, and must be open to representatives of the political parties, candidates, the press, and the public. The test must be conducted by (1) processing a preaudited group of ballots punched or marked to record a predetermined number of valid votes for each candidate and on each question, and must include for each office one or more ballot cards which have votes in excess of the number allowed by law in order to test the ability of the voting system tabulator and electronic ballot marker to reject those votes; and (2) processing an additional test deck of ballots marked using the electronic ballot marker for the precinct, including ballots marked using the electronic ballot display, audio ballot reader, and any assistive voting technology used with the electronic ballot marker. If an election is to be conducted using ranked choice voting, the equipment must also be tested to ensure that each ranking for each candidate is recorded properly.
(b) If any error is detected, the cause must be ascertained and corrected and an errorless count must be made before the voting system may be used in the election.
(c) After the completion of the test, the programs used and ballot cards must be sealed, retained, and disposed of as provided for paper ballots.

## ARTICLE 3 <br> CAMPAIGN FINANCE POLICY

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.01, subdivision 7, is amended to read:
Subd. 7. Ballot question. "Ballot question" means a question or proposition that is placed on the ballot and that may be voted on by:
(1) all voters of the state; or
(2) all voters of Hennepin County;
(3) all voters of any home rule charter city or statutory city located wholly within Hennepin County and having a population of 75,000 or more; or
(4) all voters of Special School District No. 4 a county, city, school district, township, or special district.
"Promoting or defeating a ballot question" includes activities, other than lobbying activities, related to qualifying the question for placement on the ballot.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 10A.01, subdivision 10d, is amended to read:
Subd. 10d. Local candidate. "Local candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to $\div$
(1) any county office in Hennepin County;
(2) any city office in any home rule charter eity or statutory city located wholly within Hennepin County and having a population of 75,000 or more; or
(3) the sehool board in Special Sehool District No. 4 a county, city, school district, township, or special district office.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 10A.20, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

Subd. 2a. Local election reports. (a) This subdivision applies to a political committee, political fund, or political party unit that during a non-general election year:
(1) spends in aggregate more than $\$ 200$ to influence the nomination or election of local candidates;
(2) spends in aggregate more than $\$ 200$ to make independent expenditures on behalf of local candidates; or
(3) spends in aggregate more than $\$ 200$ to promote or defeat ballot questions defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 7 , clause (2), (3), or (4).
(b) In addition to the reports required by subdivision 2, the entities listed in paragraph (a) must file the following reports in each non-general election year:
(1) a first-quarter report covering the calendar year through March 31, which is due April 14;
(2) a report covering the calendar year through May 31, which is due June 14;
(3) a pre-primary-election July report due 15 days before the local primary election date specified in section 205.065;
(4) a pre-general-election report due 42 days before the local general election; and
(5) a pre-general-election report due ten days before a local general election.

The reporting obligations in this paragraph begin with the first report due after the reporting period in which the entity reaches the spending threshold specified in paragraph (a). The pre-primary July report required under clause (3) is required for all entities required to report under paragraph (a), regardless of whether the candidate or issue is on the primary ballot or a primary is not conducted.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, subdivision 3, is amended to read:
Subd. 3. Candidate. "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination or election to a county, municipal, school district, or other political subdivision office. This definition does not include an individual seeking a judicial office. For purposes of sections 211A. 01 to 211^. 05 and 211^.07, "candidate" also includes a candidate for the United States Senate or House of Representatives.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 4a. Committee. "Committee" means a group established by a candidate of two or more persons working together to support the election of the candidate to a political $\underline{\text { subdivision office. A committee may accept contributions and make disbursements on behalf }}$ of the candidate.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, subdivision 7, is amended to read:
Subd. 7. Filing officer. "Filing officer" means the officer authorized by law to accept affidavits of candidacy or nominating petitions for an office or the officer authorized by law to place a ballot question on the ballot.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.01, subdivision 8 , is amended to read:
Subd. 8. Political purposes. An act is done for "political purposes" if it is of a nature, done with the intent, or done in a way to influence or tend to influence, directly or indirectly, voting for a candidate at a primary or an election or if it is done because a person is about to vote, has voted, or has refrained from voting for a candidate at a primary or an election.

Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 211A.02, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. When and where filed by committees or candidates. (a) A committee or a candidate who receives contributions or makes disbursements of more than $\$ 750$ in a calendar year shall submit an initial report to the filing officer within 14 days after the candidate or committee receives or makes disbursements of more than $\$ 750$ and shall must continue to make the reports tisted in paragraph (b) required by this subdivision until a final report is filed.
(b) The committee or In a year in which a candidate must file a report by Jantary 31 of each year following the year when the initial report was filed and in a year when receives contributions or makes disbursements of more than $\$ 750$ or the candidate's name or a ballot question appears on the ballot, the candidate or committee shall must file a report:
(1) ten 15 days before the primary or special primary. This report is required if a primary is held in the jurisdiction, regardless of whether the candidate or isste is on the primary ballot or. If a primary is not conducted, the report is due 15 days before the primary date specified in section 205.065;
(2) seven days before a special primary, if one is conducted;
(2) (3) ten days before the general election or special election; and
(3)(4) 30 days after a general or special election.

The reporting obligations in this paragraph begin with the first report due after the reporting period in which the candidate reaches the spending threshold specified in paragraph (a). A candidate who did not file for office is not required to file reports required by this paragraph
that are due after the end of the filing period. A candidate whose name will not be on the general election ballot is not required to file the reports required by clauses (3) and (4).
(c) Until a final report is filed, a candidate must file a report by January 31 of each year following a year in which:
(1) an initial report was filed;
(2) the candidate receives contributions or made disbursements of more than $\$ 750$; or
(3) the candidate's name appears on the ballot.

Notwithstanding subdivision 2, clause (4), the report required by this subdivision must only include the information from the previous calendar year.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.02, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. Information required. The report to be filed by a candidate or committee must include:
(1) the name of the candidate or ballot question and office sought;
(2) the printed name, address, telephone number, signature, and email address, if available, of the person responsible for filing the report;
(3) the total cash on hand designated to be used for political purposes;
(4) the total amount of contributions received and the total amount of disbursements for the period from the last previous report to five days before the current report is due;
(5) the amount, date, and purpose for each disbursement if disbursements made to the same vendor exceed $\$ 100$ in the aggregate during the period covered by the report; and
(6) the name, address, and employer, or occupation if self-employed, of any individual or committee entity that during the year period covered by the report has made one or more contributions that in the aggregate exceed $\$ 100$, and the amount and date of each contribution. The filing officer must restrict public access to the address of any individual who has made a contribution that exceeds $\$ 100$ and who has filed with the filing officer a written statement signed by the individual that withholding the individual's address from the financial report is required for the safety of the individual or the individual's family.

Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.05, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. Penalty. A candidate who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211 A .02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. The
treasurer of a committee formed to promote or defeat a ballot question who intentionally fails to file a report required by section 211 A .02 or a certification required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor. Each candidate or treasurer of a committee formed to promote or defeat a ballot question shall must certify to the filing officer that all reports required by section 211A. 02 have been submitted to the filing officer or that the candidate or committee has not received contributions or made disbursements exceeding $\$ 750$ in the calendar year. The certification shall must be submitted to the filing officer no later than seven days after the general or special election. The secretary of state shall must prepare blanks for this certification. An officer who issues a certificate of election to a candidate who has not certified that all reports required by section 211A. 02 have been filed is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.06, is amended to read:

## 211A. 06 FAILURE TO KEEP ACCOUNT; PENALTY.

A candidate, treasurer, or other individual who receives money for a committee is guilty of a misdemeanor if the individual:
(1) fails to keep a correct account as required by law;
(2) mutilates, defaces, or destroys an account record; or
(3) in the case of a committee, refuses upon request to provide financial information to a candidate; and
(4) does any of these things with the intent to conceal receipts or disbursements, the purpose of receipts or disbursements, or the existence or amount of an unpaid debt or the identity of the person to whom it is owed.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.07, is amended to read:

## 211A. 07 BILLS WHEN RENDERED AND PAID.

A person who has a bill, charge, or claim against a candidate's candidate or a committee shall must render it in writing to the candidate or committee within 60 days after the material or service is provided. A bill, charge, or claim that is not presented within 60 days after the material or service is provided must not be paid

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.12, is amended to read:

## 211A.12 CONTRIBUTION LIMITS.

(a) A candidate or acandidate's committee may not accept aggregate contributions made or delivered by an individual or an association, a political committee, political fund, or political party unit in excess of $\$ 600$ in an election year for the office sought and $\$ 250$ in other years; except that a candidate or a candidate's committee for an office whose territory has a population over 100,000 may not accept aggregate contributions made or delivered by an individual or an association, a political committee, political fund, or political party unit in excess of $\$ 1,000$ in an election year for the office sought and $\$ 250$ in other years.
(b) The following deliveries are not subject to the bundling limitation in this section:
(1) delivery of contributions collected by a member of the candidate's committee, such as a block worker or a volunteer who hosts a fundraising event, to the committee's treasurer; and
(2) a delivery made by an individual on behalf of the individual's spouse.
(c) Notwithstanding sections 211A.02, subdivision 3, and 410.21, this section supersedes any home rule charter.
(d) For purposes of this section, the terms "political committee," "political fund," and "political party unit" have the meanings given in section 10A.01.

Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 211A.14, is amended to read:

## 211A.14 CONTRIBUTIONS AND SOLICITATIONS DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

A legislator or state constitutional officer who is a candidate for a county, city, or town effice, under this chapter, the candidate's principal campaign committee, and any other political committee with the candidate's name or title may not solicit or accept a contribution from a political committee, political fund, or registered lobbyist during a regular session of the legislature. For purposes of this section, the terms "political committee," "political fund," and "lobbyist" have the meanings given in section 10A.01.

## Sec. 15. REPEALER.

Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 211A.01, subdivisions 2 and 4; and 211A.02,
subdivision 4, are repealed.

## APPENDIX

## 211A. 01 DEFINITIONS

Subd. 2. Ballot question. "Ballot question" means a proposition placed on the ballot to be voted on by the voters of one or more political subdivisions but not by all the voters of the state.

Subd. 4. Committee. "Committee" means a corporation or association or persons acting together to influence the nomination, election, or defeat of a candidate or to promote or defeat a ballot question. Promoting or defeating a ballot question includes efforts to qualify or prevent a proposition from qualifying for placement on the ballot.

## 211A. 02 FINANCIAL REPORT.

Subd. 4. Congressional candidates. Candidates for election to the United States House of Representatives or Senate and any political committees raising money and making disbursements exclusively on behalf of any one of those candidates may file copies of their financial disclosures required by federal law in lieu of the financial statement required by this section. A candidate or committee whose report is published on the Federal Election Commission website has complied with the filing requirements of this section.

