



May 2, 2021

**Re: LMC Comments for Conference Committee on HF 1952**

Chairs Kiffmeyer and Nelson and members of the conference committee:

The League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on the third engrossment and the first unofficial engrossment of HF1952. We appreciate the work that the Chairs and the Senate and House have done to hear and understand local government concerns this session.

**Local Government Policy**

- Repeal of the local government compensation limit: The League of Minnesota Cities supports the House position on R12-A6, 171.1-171.3 (Art. 6, Sect. 22 of the third engrossment). The local government compensation limit is a law that significantly restricts the ability of cities and counties to attract and retain employees. The League and its members support the repeal of this statute as an essential element of local control.

**Elections Article**

- Felon Voting Clarification: The League supports the clarification of when voting rights are restored after release from incarceration found in the House provisions on R3, ln. 64.23-64.29.
- Small Community Mail Balloting: The League supports the statewide extension of the allowance for mail balloting in communities under population 400 found in House provisions on R37-38, ln. 93.4-93.16.
- Ranked-Choice Voting for Local Elections: The League opposes the pre-emption of local authority to implement ranked-choice voting found in the Senate provisions on R40, ln. 113.5-113.20.
- Unfunded Election Procedural Changes: The League shares the concerns expressed by counties about the potential costs of changes involving provisional balloting and ballot challenges that these could carry significant cost implications for local election efforts.

The League looks forward to continuing to work with the chairs, the conference committee, and other stakeholders as the legislative budget process continues. Thank you for your attention. Please feel free to contact either of us if there are any questions related to these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gary N. Carlson'.

Gary N. Carlson  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Craig A. Johnson'.

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