



April 30, 2023

RE: Recommendations Related to Several Elections Provisions within the State Government Finance Omnibus bills

Dear Members of the State Government Finance Conference Committee,

We Choose Us (WCU) is a coalition of three dozen grassroots organizations, unions and advocacy groups committed to building multiracial democracy in Minnesota. We write to share our recommendations related to several elections provisions within the State Government Omnibus bills.

We strongly support the provisions in the House and Senate bills that ease access to the voting process for eligible voters in Minnesota. We urge your strong support for the **following provisions that are present in both chambers' bills** with identical language:

- Establishing the right to time off from work to vote for all 46 days of early absentee voting
- Requiring universities to provide residential housing lists so that students can register to vote with their student ID.

We Choose Us also strongly commends the inclusion of several provisions that are currently in both the House and Senate bills, and recommends the following adoptions as they include slightly more concise and comprehensive language:

- Codifying the State Canvassing Board's jurisdiction to name the candidate duly elected who received the highest number of votes for each federal and state office – **Adopt the language of the House bill** (section 79 lines 122.15 - 122.19).
- Requiring voting be facilitated for residents of assisted living facilities by delivering absentee ballots to those facilities – **Adopt the language of the Senate bill** (section 21 lines 47.14 - 47.17).
- Establishing appropriations to the Secretary of State for the HAVA account to ensure the security of our elections – **Adopt the language of the Senate bill** (section 3 lines 25.7 - 25.11).

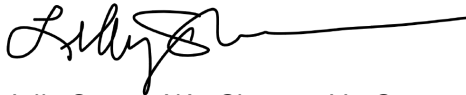
Many of the things our coalition heard as priorities from Minnesotans are reflected in these omnibus bills. In order to strengthen the elections provisions even further, we **strongly**

**suggest the inclusion** of the following funding provisions in the Conference Committee report:

- Funds to strengthen the physical accessibility requirements of polling locations, which is **currently included in the Senate’s language** (section 3 line 24.12);
- Funds to the Attorney General’s office to support election worker protections from intimidation and harassment, which is **currently in neither proposal**; and
- Funds to support implementation of Restore the Vote, **which is currently included in the Senate proposal** (section 3, line 24.27).

Both omnibus bills contain the important steps to put Minnesota on a path to build a strong democracy that works for all of us. We thank Chair Freiberg and Chair Carlson for their leadership on the elections provisions of these bills and we look forward to seeing pro-democracy initiatives reflected in the Conference Committee Report.

Sincerely,



Lilly Sasse, We Choose Us Campaign Director  
and We Choose Us Coalition Partners:

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| 100% Campaign                     | Land Stewardship Project                        |
| AFL-CIO                           | League of Women Voters                          |
| AFSCME Council 5                  | Main Street Alliance                            |
| Asian American Organizing Project | Minnesota Association of Professional Employees |
| Ayada Leads                       | Minnesota Voice                                 |
| CAIR MN                           | Minnesota Nurses Association                    |
| Clean Elections Minnesota         | MN Move to Amend State Network                  |
| Clean Water Action Minnesota      | MUUSJA  |
| COPAL                             | Native American Community Development Institute |
| Grassroots in Action              | New Justice Project                             |
| Fair Vote                         | Planned Parenthood                              |
| Healthy Democracy Healthy People  | Pro-Choice MN                                   |
| Minnesota Indivisible Alliance    | SEIU  |
| Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia     | TakeAction Minnesota                            |
| Interfaith Power and Light        | Tending the Soil Alignment                      |
| Inter Faculty Organization        | Ujamaa Place                                    |
| ISAIAH                            | Unidos & Fe y Justicia                          |
| Jewish Community Action           | We Win Institute                                |

