



TESTIMONY

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTIONS; REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF DECEASED VOTERS FROM THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM; AMENDING MINNESOTA STATUTES 2024, SECTION 201.13, BY ADDING A SUBDIVISION.

House File 3722

March 16, 2026

TESTIMONY BEFORE

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Elections, Finance, and Government Operations

TESTIMONY BY

The Hon. J. Kenneth Blackwell

CHAIR, SECURE ELECTIONS
AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE



Chairs Quam and Frieberg, Vice-Chairs Altendorf and Lee, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the policies set out in HF 3722. I have served as the former Secretary of State of Ohio, a former United States Ambassador at the United Nations, the former Chairman of the bipartisan International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and the Chair of Secure Elections at the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), which gives me a wealth of knowledge about election administration and election policy. This policy before you today is pretty simple and should not be controversial: dead people should not be on voter rolls.

The singular provision of this bill requires that a voter be removed from the rolls once their voter status is marked as "deceased" in the statewide voter registration system. It also establishes a deadline of June 1, 2027 for the removal of all voters currently marked as deceased. Dead people cannot vote. They should not remain on the voter rolls.

Voter rolls containing the names of deceased people are not imaginary but have proven to be a real concern. In 2022, AFPI [highlighted this exact issue in a multi-state tour](#), bringing data analytics on inflated voter rolls to elected leadership across the country. We have [also noted](#) that while federal law clearly mandates accurate voter rolls, states still allow deceased voters to remain on the rolls; Michigan, for example, reportedly had [26,000 deceased people](#) on their rolls.

Currently, there is a gap in Minnesota state law that permits deceased people to remain on voter rolls. When a county auditor marks a voter as deceased, that status change does not trigger immediate removal. Under current law there is no explicit statutory requirement compelling removal; this creates a discrepancy between the administrative determination that a voter has died and the formal cleansing of the rolls.

Why does this matter? As I know from my experience as Ohio's top election official, accurate voter rolls are critical to an accurate election. Voter rolls that include dead people can be exploited, with ballots could be cast in the name of the deceased. It disenfranchises legitimate voters to permit this vulnerability to continue. Even if outright fraud does not occur, the presence of deceased voters on active rolls undermines public confidence in the accuracy and



integrity of the system. Minnesotans deserve voter rolls that reflect the living electorate.

Because there is no credible reason to keep the deceased on Minnesota's voter rolls, this bill simply closes the loophole in Minnesota law, changing the removal of deceased voters from discretionary to mandatory. It also addresses the existing backlog to ensure accuracy moving forward.

This bill poses no barrier or risk to living voters. It does not disenfranchise anyone, in fact it does the opposite. It is not extra administrative work or cost. This is not partisan, controversial, or complicated. Every entry in the statewide system should represent a real, living, eligible Minnesota voter. HF 3722 brings the state closer to that standard.

