

March 7, 2023

Representative Moller and Members
Chair of the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy
Re: HF 635 – Greenman: Prohibiting Election Official Intimidation

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members,

The City of Minneapolis is pleased to share our support for HF 635.

In 2022, Reed College and the Democracy Fund surveyed local election officials and found, nationally, that 1 in 4 local election officials in the previous two years experienced abuse, harassment, or threats as a part of their capacity as an election official. As this has been a growing concern, not only nationally, but also locally, the City of Minneapolis appreciates the steps this legislation takes to protect our election workers.

The City of Minneapolis wants to ensure that all current and future election staff feel safe when they are performing their duties, while also guaranteeing that our residents have free, impartial, and fair access to voting. We need to make certain that we can recruit the 2,000 or so election officials Minneapolis needs to make election day happen by assuring all potential election officials that they will be protected when carrying out their election day work.

We thank you for considering this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Katie Smith
Director of Elections & Voter Services
City of Minneapolis – City Clerk's Office