

Chair Rep. Raymond Dehn

Ranking Member Rep. Jim Nash

Administrator Amanda Randolph

I am generally very supportive of the proposal to allow vote-by-mail for all eligible Minnesotans in situations which are deemed to be an emergency. In fact, I would favor automatic vote by mail as a standard procedure for state-wide and district elections.

The current proposal would not change the safeguards in our system to assure that all voters are indeed eligible to vote and that is a critical issue.

There are currently smaller communities in the state who have automatic voting by mail. This should be extended to the whole state.

The deadline for submission of a ballot should rely on the postmark on the ballot by election-day, not that it must be received by election-day.

The aspects of the current proposal about which I would have comments include the provision to close and/or move polling places. We definitely would continue to need on-site voting. There should be some provision for guardrails on the process of closing or moving polling places so that certain groups are not disadvantaged. For instance, since many on Native American reservations do not have a street address they should be assured a polling place within a reasonable distance. Further, voters who are illiterate or not proficient in English should have access to a polling place where they can receive assistance with their ballot as an option.

Thank you for the hard work that you are doing in this trying time and for allowing us to have access and input into the critical work you are doing at the Capitol. I hope that you will formalize the current proposal and move it to the floor for approval.

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Cc: Committee members