



April 29, 2021

Dear Members of the State Government Conference Committee (HF1952/SF1831),

Metro Cities appreciates the opportunity to comment on the omnibus Government Finance and Elections bills that will be considered by this conference committee. Metro Cities supports several key provisions:

**Election Equipment, Security, and Administration Grants** – Cities play a critical role in managing and ensuring the integrity of elections. Metro Cities supports provisions in HF 1952 and SF 1831 to include grants to cities for election equipment and other administrative costs.

**Salary Cap Repeal** – Metro Cities supports local decision-making authority for terms and conditions of employment for local government employees and supports language in HF 1952 that repeals Minnesota Statutes 2020, Section 43A.17, Subdivision 9.

**Metro Cities opposes language in SF 1831 that would preempt local governments** from making local decisions about ranked-choice voting. Metro Cities supports local decision-making authority and believes that the decision to adopt or reject ranked-choice voting for local offices should be decided at the local level.

**Metro Cities has concerns around the language in SF 1831 that would limit public expenditures on ballot questions.** Cities often spend public funds to educate residents and make them aware of a ballot question before an election. Article 4, Section 2 of SF 1831 could restrict a city's ability to adequately inform the public on matters that can often be quite technical in nature.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the State Government bills. Metro Cities is available to answer any questions as the conference committee completes its work.

Regards,

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