



MINNESOTA COUNCIL
ON FOUNDATIONS

a community of grantmakers

February 11th, 2022

ATTN: Minnesota House State Government Finance and Elections Committee

Dear Chair Nelson and members of the committee,

My name is May Yang and I am the Public Policy Manager with the Minnesota Council on Foundations (MCF). At MCF, one of our key advocacy priorities is strengthening democratic systems and civic participation. We are committed to supporting efforts to expand and protect voting rights and voting access, with a focus on making our democracy more inclusive. I am writing to express our support for the passage of the following bills:

[HF607](#) (Bahner) Automatic voter registration system provided.

[HF3024](#) (Baldon) Eligible voters authorized to automatically receive absentee ballot prior to each election.

[HF3021](#) (Wolgamott) Individuals at least 16 year of age permitted to preregister to vote, and postsecondary student voter registration provisions modified

These bills would provide streamlined processes for citizens to vote and work to remove unnecessary barriers. Automatic voter registration, automatic absentee ballots, and voter preregistration also allow opportunities for voters to become informed about civic engagement processes prior to election day. By increasing access to and methods of voting these bills also make it easier for voters from historically underrepresented groups to fully participate in voting and elections.

We are heartened to see efforts to increase voting access and are eager to see these bills signed into law this year. Thank you for your leadership and the opportunity to submit testimony. I am happy to answer any questions or provide further information.

Sincerely,
May Yang
Public Policy Manager, Minnesota Council on Foundations
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