

## Written testimony regarding HF3 Voting Act:

I am an 80 year old grandmother who has been an election judge in Wabasha County for 35+ years. I care VERY much about election integrity in our state. When working the elections I am respectful of our voters and will help them any way I can on voting day. I believe we have many voters who are overwhelmed and concerned about voting changes in the past and present. I am writing for my voters, to address some of the proposed changes.

### Article 1, Section 3b Allowing 16 year olds to vote

The definition of an adult in the US: You have to be 18 years old to sign a contract. Up until you turn 18 you are considered a minor by law and you cannot enter into a contractual agreement with a tender. You cannot join the military until you are 18. The age at which one is considered to be an adult is 18. I believe 16 year olds are still maturing. Their brains have not fully developed and they are not aware of political happenings and really do not care. To ask these young people to make decisions on our governmental representation is not sensible nor advisable.

Before the passage of the 26<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment in 1971, 21 was the minimum voting age in most states—and thus served as the age of adulthood in most areas of law. Congress lowered the nationwide voting age to 18 as a response to unrest and passionate

debate about the Vietnam War. Amendment to the Constitution ratified July 1, 1971. Section 1 “The right of citizens of the United States, who are eighteen years of age or older, to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of age.”

I believe that this law should be voted on by the public as they will want their voices heard regarding this matter.

Amendment 1 Sec 8 Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 201.162

Automatic Voter Registration

This policy is going to get out of hand as there will be too many people involved in voter registration. At the present time voters register at local offices and polling places where the procedure is carefully performed and implemented by educated personnel.

Look to California. Their automatic voter registration act was launched in April 2018. What has happened? As I said above “human errors”.

As an example, the California DMV experienced long lines and mounting public pressure due to long wait times. Part of the reason was the new automatic voter registration program. In September the DMV admitted to having incorrectly registered or entered errors in 3000 voter registration records.

Around 4600 of the errors were people who were registered but who did not want to register to vote and did not complete the required voter registration affidavit. DMV officials blamed “administrative processing error” caused by DMV workers who did not fully clear their screens before serving the next customer.

In October, the DMV admitted that an additional 1500 people who should not have been registered to vote were registered including non citizens. The DMV blamed this on employees making data entry errors.

On the whole 100,000 errors were found to have been created by the automatic voter registration system in the span of a few months creating headaches for everyone—for voters who were already registered, for ineligible persons who did not wish to register and for local election offices. Again, I believe that this should be voted on by the public as they will want their voices heard regarding this issue.

## Section 11 Permanent absentee voter status

Absentee ballots should be requested and intended for people not able to make it to the polling place. Our state should encourage people to vote AT the polling place as it is monitored and organized in such a way that each person is complimented and appreciated for taking the time

to vote in person. The Absentee ballot application should be filled out and requested each year that the individual voter is unable to go the polling place.

When the ballot board reviews these ballots there should be signature matching. The signature on the absentee ballot should closely match the voter's Drivers License and/or polling place roster signature.

#### Sec 16 243.205 Notice of Restoration of Right to Vote

When convicted of breaking the law the felon gives up his privileges and these should NOT be restored until the sentence is completed. Unless we enforce our laws and take away normal entitlements, there is no reason not to break the law. The felon needs a goal to get his life back and this could be one of his goals; "I will be able to vote again."

#### Article III Section 9 10B.02 Issuance of Democracy Dollar Coupons

Where is the \$25 coming from? If we, as taxpayers, are funding this policy we NEED and deserve the right to vote on it.

PLEASE represent the people of our beautiful state and reconsider these recommendations. We the People want election integrity in our

state and are getting disillusioned by changes we do not want or need.  
We will pray for you.

Karen Graves

Election Judge Wabasha County

37065 South County Rd 11

Rochester, Mn 55906

507-753-2741