



March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members of the House Elections Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 1723 (Freiberg), as amended by the DE 1 Amendment, which is being heard in the Elections Committee on Wednesday.

Metro Cities has concerns with the early voting provisions contained in the amendment. Specifically, the days and hours cities and counties are required to remain open for during the 18-day early voting period do not allow adequate flexibility for local governments and place undue financial and administrative burden on elections administrators. Article 2, Section 39 of the DE amendment requires a city clerk's office to be open on several weekend days from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Cities' ability to provide staff for early voting outside of typical business hours will vary based on the resources available to them.

Metro Cities supports Article 2, Section 111 in the DE amendment that prohibits the intimidation or interference of election officials. Local governments are struggling to recruit election judges and this provision offers some basic protections for those willing to help serve the state as election workers.

Metro Cities supports the Voting Operations, Technology, and Election Resources Account that would help cities purchase equipment, pay for staff costs, improve polling place accessibility, provide local matching funds for federal grants, etc.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'M' and 'L'.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities