



March 17, 2025

Chair and Representative Samantha Vang
House Legacy Finance Committee
Room G3, State Capitol Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for HF1740 - Community cable television programming funding

Dear Chair Vang,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. With our statewide membership of more than 2,200 members representing 33 local Leagues across the state, we envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

LWV Minnesota strongly supports HF1740 because of the importance of local community media to our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

Many of our local Leagues rely on community stations for their nonpartisan candidate forums and informational programs. For example, the League of Women Voters of White Bear Lake Area (LWVWBLA) worked in partnership with four community stations: Lakes Area TV, Nine North, Suburban Community Channels, and Valley Access Channels to record 18 candidate forums this past fall. These channels broadcast the forums live, re-played them numerous times, and made them available to post on LWVWBLA's own YouTube channel. In total, local Leagues held **198 forums** that have reached 63,193 views.

In 2024, CCX Media recorded and published 22 forums, shared candidate statements and provided election night reporting to communities across the west metro despite absorbing more than \$1.8 million in lost revenue since 2017. While they have met the demand online, cut costs and utilized ads, CCX and other trusted stations are struggling with the decline of cable.

Please pass HF1740 to ensure that communities around the state can continue to rely on local media as a trusted source of information in our democracy.

Sincerely,

Sam Streukens, Civic Engagement Director
League of Women Voters Minnesota
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Jackie Reis, President
League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area