



February 27, 2023

House Elections Finance and Policy Committee  
Room 200, State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Testimony in Support of HF 635**

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members of the House Elections Finance and Policy Committee,

My name is Sharon Borine and I live in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. I have served as an election judge in other states prior to 1996 and in Minnesota since I volunteered in 2014. I have since been active with the League of Women Voters in Minnesota serving on the Minnetonka Eden Prairie and Hopkins Board and, currently, as President. I have always felt that Minnesota has fair and open elections with many checks and balances in place and a balance of party affiliations. During my full day shift at the 2022 election, I saw and experienced attempts at voter intimidation that I have only read about in History books.

Fellow judges talked loudly about how our elections weren't fair and agreed with the loud election deniers who came to vote. At midday, a burly, male poll challenger arrived and stationed himself right in the aisle where all voters had to walk to get to the voting stations. He appeared to direct his attention to voters of color and those assisting voters, like me. This hostile presence in the balloting area was new, and, frankly, unsettling. The head judge reminded us to continue our work and some of the newer partisan judges requested the pollbook stations despite their inexperience. This was the first election that I spent by the ballot box rather than assisting voters to register and vote on the poll books. I was harassed by voters who loudly proclaimed I was part of a "rigged" election. I was told that women should not be allowed to vote, let alone be election judges.

This intimidation interferes with the constitutional right to vote and undermines confidence in our free and fair elections. Those who question the election results should not be allowed to harass or intimidate other voters and election workers. I encourage you to protect those who make our Democracy work so that every vote and ballot is counted in Minnesota.

**I urge you to vote YES on HF 635.**

Sincerely,

Sharon Borine

LWV Minnetonka Eden Prairie and Hopkins President