



February 15, 2023

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

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO), Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) support HF 1186 (Nash) which will reduce confusion to voters and ease election administration.

Recent elections have demonstrated that the high volume of absentee ballot applications and sample ballots mailed to voters from committees and other private organizations often causes confusion and even anger in voters when they are led to believe that the communication is officially from a unit of government.

Voter confusion and/or anger as a result of receiving multiple absentee ballot applications or sample ballots that are perceived to be official can result in a voter questioning why they have inefficiently received multiple communications from local units of government and wondering if there is a flaw in the election administration process.

The quantity of absentee ballot application and sample ballot mailings from 2020 and 2022 resulted in a high volume of calls and emails to election administrators. While administrators enthusiastically answer questions to clear up confusion and/or anger, administrators prefer to avoid voter confusion/anger in the first place.

Making it clear that absentee ballot applications and sample ballots sent to voters by committees and private organizations are not official government mailings is good for voters and good for election administrators.

Sincerely,

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