

TO: Members of State Government Finance and Elections Committee
FROM: Amy Caucutt, long time head election judge in Rochester
DATE: March 2, 2022
RE: Support of HF3666

I urge your support for Rep. Greenman's HF3666 in committee on Friday, March 4, 2022.

For over 20 years, pre-pandemic, I was a head election judge in Rochester....and for even longer a member of the Rochester League of Women Voters. In both instances I felt I "empowered voters and defended democracy" with my work. I can recall just twice that I needed to call the central office for help because of unruly behavior by a voter.

However, I fear that the videos of the mobs attacking election workers in Arizona and Michigan in the hours and days following the 2020 election, will cause many election workers to be too fearful to continue the job.

Even if Minnesota does not currently have a problem, a bill such as HF3666 should give all election workers the confidence of knowing that the State of Minnesota has their backs.

The job at the polls, or in the county and city elections offices can be stressful enough:

- remembering and applying all the arcane election laws and rules,
- dealing with the new technology and responding when it fails,
- maintaining a friendly and welcoming demeanor especially with the many inexperienced voters and those needing extra assistance, and
- Of course managing large crowds of eager and hurried citizens.

Election workers should not also have to deal with angry individuals or groups, intimidating the good hearted workers at the polls and upending the process for other voters. This bill should help. You know what they say about an ounce of prevention.....