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Representative Mike Friberg

Chair, House Elections Policy and Finance Committee

Re: HF 1723

Dear Chair Friberg:

Clean Elections Minnesota (CEM) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization supporting fair elections in our state.

We urge the Elections Finance and Policy Committee to approve HF 1723, the Chair’s policy and finance bill. It promises both a continuation of Minnesota’s tradition of fair and safe elections as well as expanding voting opportunities for eligible citizens.

During this session CEM representatives have testified in support of other bills containing provisions now in HF 1723. We wish to reiterate our support for them as well as other measures in the bill. Specifically, we support …

* Article II, Sec. 9 *et al*. Allowing use of identification issued by post-secondary institutions and institution’s responsibilities to election authorities. No votes should be disallowed because an individual is seeking higher education.
* Article II, Sec. 19. Procedures laid out for challenging an individual’s right to vote. Ineligible individuals should never be allowed to vote in Minnesota.
* Article II, Sec 22 *et al*. Early voting procedures set out. Common sense requires that participating in a democracy should be easy as reasonably possible.
* Article II, Sec 63. A county auditor can remove an election judge for misconduct or malfeasance. Criminal conduct should not be required.
* Article II Sec 108 *et al*. National Popular Vote Compact is joined. Candidate with the most popular votes would be elected US President. Would take effect after states with 270 electoral college votes have joined.
* Article II, Sec 111, also Article IV, Sec. 2. Intimidation and Interference with Performance of Duties by Election Officials is forbidden. The caretakers of our democracy must be allowed to do their jobs.
* Article III, Sec. 3 *et al.* Sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds are allowed to register to vote for first election held after they turn eighteen. Young people should not face unnecessary barriers when taking on responsibilities of citizenship.
* Article III, Sec. 9. Automatic voter registration when obtaining driver’s license and other licenses from state agencies. Registration should not be a barrier to voting.
* Article 5 Sec. 3 *et al.* Contributions banned from foreign influenced corporations. American elections should be for Americans only.
* Article 5, Sec 3 *et al.* Issue groups buying electronic communications that can be received by 10,000 or more people must disclose donors.

Because of these provisions, we urge Committee members to vote in favor of HF 1723.

Thank you.

Ken Peterson

Chair, Legislative Committee

Clean Elections Minnesota