



May 6, 2024

RE: HF 4772 – Elections Policy Bill - Concerns with requiring polling places on college campuses

Dear Chair Freiberg and members of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) and the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), we are writing to you to reiterate our concerns with the temporary polling location requirements found in the House language of HF 4772 (section 19 on page R21).

Though county and city election administrators support convenient poll locations, we continue to have strong concerns regarding the prescriptive language mandating counties and cities to establish a temporary polling place rather than current permissive language passed by the legislature in 2023.

Significant planning and resources are required to establish a temporary polling location with dozens of logistical details to be considered and mitigated to establish a safe, secure, functioning location. We are concerned that the timeline established will not be enough time for elections budgets to be adjusted and proper planning to take place to accommodate such new polling places.

When determining if, where, or when a temporary polling location will be established, election administrators must determine how to best utilize limited resources such as election judges, equipment, supplies, etc. in the most efficient way possible to meet the needs of the entirety of their jurisdiction. By allowing a non-governmental entity to determine city and county election administration requirements and spending, local elections administrators could potentially be forced to divert resources and staff from other elections administrative duties to comply with the request from a college, university, or student organization.

A historic number of changes affecting the administration of Minnesota's elections were approved by the legislature in 2023 including the authority for a city or county to establish temporary polling places. We are appreciative of the legislature granting this authority; however, we would request maintaining this as an option rather than changing it into a mandate before any statewide general election has been held since the authority was granted.

We feel that allowing election administrators the existing discretion and flexibility will allow them to make the best decisions regarding temporary polling places as they relate to their jurisdiction's voting needs. A temporary polling place on a postsecondary institution's campus may be part of the plan for an efficient and effective election, however it is already authorized under current law and should not become mandated if requested.

Sincerely,

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