

March 5, 2026

Dear Chair Quam and members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

Minnesotans are voters and we care about who's included in our democracy. We Choose Us is a coalition of over forty organizations dedicated to protecting and expanding our democracy. We are proud of our status as the highest voter turnout state in the nation and our honest, accurate, and secure elections. But we also know there's more we can do to bring our elections into the 21st century. We need ongoing reforms to make our system of voting more, not less, inclusive and accessible for everyone to use.

Unfortunately, **HF3845 would introduce new subcategories of voters with distinct eligibility requirements. This would create new barriers to voting for Minnesotans,** especially for Black and Indigenous voters, voters of color, low-income voters, senior voters, and students, all of whom are more likely to fall into the category of voters singled out by this bill for differential treatment.

Minnesota's same day registration system has served us well for years. However, HF 3845 would require same day registrants to provide an election judge a Minnesota License or Minnesota State ID number or their full social security number, or be relegated to a new "provisional ballot" that may or may not be counted at a later date. **This prevents voters from registering same-day with many currently accepted forms of verification such as Tribal ID; College ID along with a list of residents from the College; a U.S. passport or other State's ID or License paired with proof of residence; or being vouched for by a registered voter in the precinct.** For Minnesota same-day registrants who do not have or cannot find their state ID number, HF 3845 creates a new requirement to *have* a social security number and to share the full number with an election judge, something not required of other registrants. (U.S. Citizens are not required to have a social security number, nor is a social security number proof of citizenship, and the registration form itself only requests the last four digits for those presenting a Social.)

Same-day registrants relegated to a provisional ballot would need to travel to the county auditor or municipal clerk within a week after the election to provide one of the same three numbers. The county auditor or municipal clerk would also have the option of verifying their eligibility and counting their ballot based on "other data available to them," however there is no specification of what sources of data would qualify.

Segregating some voters onto provisional ballots is confusing, intimidating, unnecessary, and introduces significant burden and hurdles for impacted voters, especially those with larger distances to travel to their county auditor, or with greater barriers to transportation, getting time off work, or arranging childcare. We cannot risk even the appearance of slipping back toward the poll tests of not so distant history, which enabled extralegal and biased selection of who could vote and who could not. Additionally, enacting a system of **provisional balloting would cost our state hundreds of thousands of dollars.**

In sum, this bill introduces several new layers of risk and inequity and saddles Minnesotans and state and local governments with new expenses, while eliminating processes that have been repeatedly tested and proven to deliver the most secure and trustworthy elections in the country. We urge you to vote no.

Sincerely,

We Choose Us