



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY OFFICERS

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February 22, 2022

Representative Michael Nelson
Minnesota State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson,

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) would like to express our support for HF1815 (Klevorn). HF1815 allows the extension period from 7 to 14 days for opening and processing “Accepted” absentee ballots and allows voters to deposit their absentee ballots in the vote tabulator.

We have long heard from voters that they prefer to place their ballot directly into the tabulator as this gives them the opportunity to ensure their ballot was marked with no errors and that it was counted. This legislation will provide that confidence and opportunity for more voters for a longer period of time.

Administratively, allowing earlier processing of absentee ballots will save election administrators time and money in supplies, which is then realized in savings to our residents. It continues the process established in 2020, giving staff 14 days for all the corresponding processing and ballot board activities, while expanding direct balloting to match the timeframe, reducing confusion for voters and elections staff alike. As an added benefit, reporting of results on election night should be available more quickly.

This is a current priority item on MACO’s 2022 legislative platform and we thank you for your support. As always, MACO members are always available as resources and committee testifiers.

Sincerely yours,

Julie Hanson

Julie Hanson
Scott County Property & Customer Service Manager, Elections Administrator
Co-chair, Minnesota Association of County Officers Legislative Committee