



LANDLORD VOTER REGISTRATION/POLLING LOCATION MANDATE

H.F. 979, Rep. Gomez
S.F. 1190, Sen. Champion

This bill requires the Secretary of State to prepare materials on registering to vote, updating voter registration, and locating a polling place for distribution by landlords to tenants. Landlords must provide the materials to each tenant who is 18 years or older within 30 days of entering a lease.

The Minnesota Multi Housing Association respectfully opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- **Resource Diversion.** Voter registration and education is unrelated to managing and maintaining rental property. While it may seem a simple task, complying with this law will require property managers to divert time from core responsibilities like maintaining a safe and comfortable living environment. They will expend resources that add to already high building management costs. Non-compliance could result in penalties up to \$300 per violation.
- **Duplicates Existing Services.** Tenants are reminded to update their voter registration as part of the U.S. Postal Service change of address process. Completed address changes are provided by the USPS to the Secretary of State, which automatically updates the voter's address and issues a new voter registration card. DVS also transmits a license address change, which is required by law within 30 days of relocating, to the Secretary of State for the same purpose.
- **Existing Remedies Remove Barriers.** If a voter did not update their registration prior to election day, they can re-register on election day in the proper precinct using an unexpired, valid ID; with an expired or non-conforming ID and an approved document (including a lease) which may be displayed on a phone; with someone to vouch for their residence; or by other approved means.
- **Ineffective Point of Contact.** We are unaware of any data indicating that information provided by a landlord is an effective point of contact for the goal of encouraging tenants to register or update their registration. Handing out another piece of paper amounts to just that: another piece of paper that will join a folder or stack with their lease, mandatory disclosures, property information, and other items related to move-in. Residents may not look at the folder or stack again until they move out, if ever.
- **Not Environmentally Friendly.** In order to demonstrate compliance with the mandate, most landlords would need to provide sheets of paper to tenants on voter registration and the designated polling place for residents of the apartment. That means extra paper, toner and ink spent on materials already accessible online and distributed through other means.