

HF3666 March 3, 2022

Members of the State Government Finance and Elections Committee,

My name is Kathy Tomsich. I live in North Oaks, Minnesota where I have served as head election judge for over 15 years. I am writing to ask you to support HF3666.

A study by the [Brennan Center](#)¹ released in June 2021 found that 1 in 3 election officials feels unsafe because of their jobs, and nearly 1 in 5 listed threats to their lives as a job-related concern. Minnesota has not been immune to this type of behavior. In September 2021 in an interview with [MPR](#), Sec. of State Steve Simon said that election officials across the state are facing threats from citizens angry over the results of the 2020 election.

Election judges and absentee ballot board judges perform critical roles in our election system. These public servants should not be subjected to personal attacks or intimidation from angry citizens. It is important for election officials to feel safe while performing their duties. Otherwise, I think citizens will not be willing to serve as election judges and we will see an exodus of experienced election workers at all levels in our election system.

Under HF3666, as head election judge I would be able to tell my election judges that the county attorney will prosecute anyone who threatens or intimidates them and punish those who behave in this manner. Election judges will feel safer knowing that this conduct will not be tolerated and that there will be consequences for this type of behavior.

It urge you to vote YES for HF3666.

1. Election Officials Under Attack,

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/policy-solutions/election-officials-under-attack>

2.

<https://www.mprnews.org/episode/2021/10/29/minnesotas-secretary-of-state-says-election-officials-are-facing-threats>