



TESTIMONY

A BILL FOR AN ACT

**RELATING TO ELECTIONS; REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF DECEASED VOTERS
FROM THE STATEWIDE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM; AMENDING
MINNESOTA STATUTES 2024, SECTION 201.13, BY ADDING A SUBDIVISION.**

House File 3722

March 16, 2026

TESTIMONY BEFORE

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on Elections, Finance, and Government Operations

TESTIMONY BY

The Hon. J. Kenneth Blackwell

CHAIR, SECURE ELECTIONS
AMERICA FIRST POLICY INSTITUTE



Chairs Quam and Frieberg, Vice-Chairs Altendorf and Lee, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HF 3722. I have served as the former Secretary of State of Ohio, a former United States Ambassador at the United Nations, the former Chairman of the bipartisan International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and the Chair of Secure Elections at the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), which gives me a wealth of knowledge about election administration and election policy. This bill is very simple: dead people should not be on voter rolls.

The singular provision of this bill is requiring that a voter be removed from the rolls once their voter status is marked as "deceased" in the statewide voter registration system. It also establishes a deadline of June 1, 2027 for the removal of all voters currently marked as deceased. Dead people cannot vote. They should not remain on the voter rolls.

Voter rolls containing the names of deceased people are not hypothetical. In 2022, AFPI [highlighted this exact issue in a multi-state tour](#), bringing data analytics on inflated voter rolls to elected leadership. We have [also noted](#) that while federal law clearly mandates accurate voter rolls, states still allow deceased voters to remain on the rolls; Michigan, for example, reportedly had [26,000 deceased people](#) on their rolls.

Currently, there is a gap in Minnesota state law that permits deceased people to remain on voter rolls. When a county auditor marks a voter as deceased, that status change does not trigger immediate removal. Under current law there is no explicit statutory requirement compelling removal; this creates a discrepancy between the administrative determination that a voter has died and the formal cleansing of the rolls.

Why does this matter? As I know from my experience as Ohio's top election official, accurate voter rolls are critical to an accurate election. Voter rolls with dead people on them can be exploited. Ballots could be cast in their name. It disenfranchises legitimate voters to permit this vulnerability to continue. Even if outright fraud does not occur, the presence of deceased voters on active rolls undermines public confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the system. Minnesotans deserve the expectation that the voter rolls reflect the living electorate.



This bill simply closes the loophole in Minnesota law, changing the removal of deceased voters from discretionary to mandatory. It also addresses the existing backlog to ensure accuracy moving forward. The June 2027 deadline gives county auditors sufficient time to implement the removals in an orderly fashion while ensuring the task is met before the next general election cycle.

This bill poses no barrier or risk to living voters. It does not disenfranchise anyone. It is not extra administrative work or cost. This is not partisan, controversial, or complicated. Every entry in the statewide system should represent a real, living, eligible Minnesota voter. HF 3722 brings the state closer to that standard.

