

Jim Gelbmann
Committee Administrator - DFL Caucus
576 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul Minnesota 55155

Mr. Gelbmann,

I'm writing to ask your committee to act to make funds available for preparing Minnesota for the 2020 elections. We must not force voters to choose between their safety and their right to vote.

- The economic and human costs to Minnesota of the Covid-19 pandemic are staggering.
- State and federal governments, along with other health experts, unanimously agree that this pandemic will have multiple waves of infection rates and last well into 2021.
- Minnesota needs to take every reasonable opportunity to minimize the lives lost, the burden on hospitals, the economic cost of treating patients, the economic cost of business shutdowns and lost tax revenue.
- The MN legislature needs to make funds available now to enable the MN Secretary of State to prepare our state for safe voting this year. This includes temporary expansion of absentee voting/vote-by-mail and modification of polling sites.

Thank you.

Stuart Chastain
Shoreview