



March 3, 2025

Chair & Representative Duane Quam
House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee
c/o Pat Kaluza, Committee Administrator
Room G23, Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Testimony regarding HF 1800, Election Administration and Election Judges

Dear Chair Quam and Members of the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee,

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. Together, we envision a democracy where every person believes their voices will be heard and the concerns addressed because their government reflects them and their community, and is both representative and responsive, and our elections are conducted free of threats and intimidation to voters and election officials.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide testimony on this proposed legislation. We have several concerns with the proposed requirements of HF 1800:

- The proposed creation of election “observers” who may take photos and videos of election activities and subsequently make these public after the election has significant potential to create a threatening environment for election workers and voters. In some parts of the country during the 2020 election, numerous videos and photos of election activities and election workers were shared publicly, out of context for the situation, with allegations of wrong doing that were not substantiated. In some cases, this resulted in intimidation, harassment, and threats against local election officials and election workers. Minnesota elections have robust safeguards on conduct in the polling place, and provide for rigorous reviews of polling place materials and activities by county election officials. Voters and election judges who observe concerning activities also may notify their county elections office or the Office of the Secretary of State with their concerns.
- The requirement to make the party affiliation of election judges’ public information has the potential to deter individuals from serving who might otherwise be willing and able to serve as election judges at a precinct or on the ballot board. In some parts of Minnesota, where

there are significant political divisions, publicizing party affiliation could be made a divisive issue within their community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Huffman", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul Huffman
Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
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