



March 12, 2024

House Elections Finance and Policy Committee
Room 200, Minnesota State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: Testimony in Support of HF 4728

Dear Chair Freiberg and Members of the House Elections Finance and Policy 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 the voice of each person is heard equally, that provides for maximum participation by citizens in the electoral process, and that protects representative democracy from being distorted by large-dollar, outside spending in state and local election campaigns.

LWV Minnesota Supports HF 4728, Political Contribution Online Refund Claims System:

The League of Women Voters supports systems that make it easier for members of the public to participate in the political process, including supporting candidates of their preference in an equitable manner. Increasing the participation of small dollar donors and increasing the degree to which candidates for state and local office are supported by voters rather than external, large-dollar donors, provides a counter balance for external, large-dollar campaign donors. Many people have become more accustomed to using online systems rather than paper for financial transactions and filing taxes. Providing an online method of filing and receiving political contribution refunds (PCR), in addition to the existing paper form, provides an additional method to participate in supporting candidates and elections. Finally, integration of the PCR process and Department of Revenue tax refund processes supports prompt and efficient processing of tax refunds, providing further positive reinforcement for public participation in campaign finance.

LWV Minnesota urges you to vote YES on HF 4728.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Huffman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Huffman, Election and Redistricting Policy Coordinator, League of Women Voters of Minnesota;
phuffman@lwvmn.org - 546 Rice Street, #200, St. Paul, MN 55103

Testimony regarding House File 4728

My name is Kyle Tonn, a resident of Maple Grove and District 37B.

Throughout the last decade and a half, I have served as a Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, or general campaign finance advisor to many political party units and candidate committees regulated by the MN Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board. As someone who has issued hundreds of PCR receipts, I am here today to speak in favor of HF4728, a bill that would modernize the process of receiving and claiming a political contribution refund under Minnesota's PCR program.

The electronic process introduced by this bill certainly makes receiving a PCR receipt easier, significantly simplifying the refund-claiming process as well.

As for whether or not the claim process should be solely electronic, I believe keeping a paper claim form option should not overly burden the Department of Revenue, since it is likely most submissions would use the new electronic system. However, I would respect the Department of Revenue if they disagreed with my opinion on that point.

In my opinion, the extra burden from this bill will be carried by the unit treasurers like me. They will be required to enter contribution data more frequently into the campaign finance online software in order for PCR claim codes to be created. In my opinion, this is not a bad thing, as it is never a good idea to leave all your committee's data entry until it's reporting time.

As a current party unit Treasurer, this new system would allow me to send PCR receipts electronically via email, or be able to combine my thank you letters with information regarding claiming their refund under the PCR program, which will significantly reduce the amount of paper I issue as a treasurer.

To the representatives of the Department of Revenue here today, just letting you know ClaimMyPCR.com is available.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill. I am happy to take the committee's questions if they have any.