

Written Testimony on HF 3034

Thank you Mr/Ms Chair and committee members,

My name is Donna Miller. I'm retired and live in Rochester, MN. I support this bill brought forward by Rep. Liz Boldon.

I grew up in Eveleth, MN and had parents who took me to the polls when they voted. When I was a bit older they brought me to Caucus night so I could see how all who so chose, could have a say in politics. I first voted when I turned 18. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College I lived in several Midwest states. Prior to moving to Rochester in 2015, my husband and I lived in WI. I voted by absentee ballot for every election in WI because I was busy helping to get people to the polls on election day. It was wonderful returning to my home state where I knew I didn't have to provide an excuse to vote by absentee ballot.

I have been an election judge in Rochester since 2018. I have needed to either vote early in person or by absentee ballot. Both of these voting methods should be expanded and made permanent in MN. Being someone with 3 serious back issues and 2 artificial knees, I know that the day may come when I must vote by absentee because I may have no way to get to the polls. Senior citizens with mobility issues can't always get a ride when they want one. The same goes for young parents who are stuck at home without transportation until a spouse, neighbor or friend is available. Voting absentee or early in person is crucial for so many people of all ages and circumstances. Voting options should be written into law. Voting options are valued by all Minnesotans and should not vary by any elected official in our state. Passing this bill will ensure that all Minnesotan citizens have the ability to vote no matter who is in office.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Donna R. Miller

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