



REPUBLICAN PARTY OF MINNESOTA

7400 Metro Boulevard, Edina, MN 55439

March 16, 2023

Representative Mike Freiberg
Chair, House Elections Finance & Policy
Committee
381 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Paul Torkelson
Ranking Member, House Elections Finance
& Policy Committee
261 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representatives Freiberg and Torkelson:

I write in support of HF 2802, legislation currently pending in the Minnesota State House to raise the vote threshold required to attain major political party status from 5 percent to 10 percent, and to require parties to continue to reach this figure in subsequent elections to maintain such status.

Raising the vote threshold for Minnesota's major political party status will save taxpayer time and resources, minimize voter confusion, and improve the administration of our state's elections.

I support this small but important change in Minnesota law for several key reasons:

- Due to major party access to public financing, a higher threshold will help improve stewardship of taxpayer dollars;
- Making this change will help ensure that the parties and candidates offered to the voters in our statewide elections have broader appeal and are more reflective of the diversity of our state; and,
- Raising the threshold for major party status may also help prevent groups from playing games or abusing our elections process, as has happened in recent years.

It is also important to note that enacting this change as written still allows smaller political parties access to the ballot with our state's petition signature requirements. I support HF 2802 in its current form.

Sincerely,

David Hann
Chairman
Republican Party of Minnesota