



March 4, 2024

Chair & Representative Mike Freiberg  
Senate Elections Committee  
c/o Simon Brown, Committee Administrator  
Room 200, Minnesota State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Testimony in Support of HF 4043**

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 every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate, and where their government is both representative and responsive to the community's interests.

**LWV Minnesota supports HF 4043, Allocation of Incarcerated Persons for Districting:**

The League of Women Voters supports systems of government and districting that provide for representative and responsive government. The current practice of counting incarcerated persons in the place where they are incarcerated for the purposes of redistricting does not provide either a representative or responsive government for those individuals. Those who are incarcerated almost always came from some other place, and typically intend to return to the place where they lived before being incarcerated. The first effect of including incarcerated individuals where they are imprisoned is that the district population in that area is artificially inflated due to including people who generally cannot vote, are not part of the community, don't use community services and facilities, and do not have long term connections there. An elected representative for the area where the prison is located does not represent that person's home or the people, places, and services that incarcerated individuals will rely on once they are released.

The Census Bureau counts all persons, including those incarcerated, in the place where they are domiciled on the effective date of the Census. This information is used for the purposes of apportionment and redistricting, allocation of federal funds, and planning of services. Counting incarcerated people at their last address for the purposes of redistricting does not change the number of congressional representatives Minnesota will have, nor does it impact the receipt of federal funds or planning for government services. Counting incarcerated persons where they

last resided for the purposes of redistricting ensures the interests of the incarcerated persons' actual home and community are being represented by their elected representatives.

Changes in the counting of incarcerated persons for the purposes of redistricting have been adopted in eighteen states, including Montana, Colorado, and Virginia. HF 4043 ensures that the interests of all individuals will be represented in a balanced manner, with representation that knows and supports their community.

**LWV Minnesota urges you to vote YES on HF 4043.**

Sincerely,

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

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

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