



LANDLORD VOTER REGISTRATION/POLLING LOCATION MANDATE

H.F. 979, Rep. Gomez
S.F. 1190, Sen. Champion

This bill requires the Secretary of State to prepare materials on registering to vote, updating voter registration, and locating a polling place for distribution by landlords to tenants. Landlords must provide the materials to each tenant who is 18 years or older within 30 days of entering a lease.

The Minnesota Multi Housing Association respectfully opposes this bill for the following reasons:

- **Resource Diversion.** This bill requires more than just a piece of paper from landlords. Voter registration is entirely unrelated to managing rental property. The mandate diverts resources away from maintaining a good living environment, making timely repairs and efficient leasing of units.

It involves production costs, time, compliance, and risk. Before including the information in a rental packet, it means checking to make sure the version of voter materials is current, the polling location has not changed, and ensuring both tenant and landlord sign copies to demonstrate compliance. Any mistake during the process could result in a fine of up to \$300 per violation.

For landlords with properties in multiple precincts or cities, the burden is compounded by ensuring the correct precinct location goes to the right tenant. For landlords and tenants in a building divided into two polling places, as happened during the 2012 election, it could be even more complicated.

- **Existing Processes Accomplish Goal.** Tenants are reminded to update their voter registration as part of the U.S. Postal Service change of address process. Completed address changes are provided by the USPS to the Secretary of State, which automatically updates the voter's address and issues a new voter registration card. DVS also transmits a license address change, which is required by law within 30 days of relocating, to the Secretary of State for the same purpose.

If a voter does not update their registration, they can re-register on election day in the proper precinct using an unexpired, valid ID; with an expired or non-conforming ID and an approved document (including a lease); with someone to vouch for their residence; or by other approved means.

- **Not Environmentally Friendly.** Again, this is more than "just a piece of paper." It's hundreds of thousands of pieces of paper to accomplish something that a) already occurs through existing processes, b) is readily available online, and c) lacks clear demonstration of effectiveness. Proving compliance with the mandate requires multiple signed copies of the information provided to tenants.