



March 30, 2022

Dear Chair Nelson and Members of the State Government Finance and Elections Committee,

We are writing on behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and the Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) regarding HF 4664 (Greenman).

In the past two years, absentee ballot drop boxes have served as a tool for local communities to make voting convenient and easy for voters. By utilizing absentee ballot drop boxes, elections administrators can effectively bring the vote to the voters in more locations around their community while offering the ability to submit an absentee ballot outside of traditional business hours. Voters have responded positively to being able to use absentee ballot drop boxes and many of our communities plan to use them in future elections.

HF 4664 provides direction pertaining to ballot collection logs and reports. While our elections administrators have been collecting much of this information already, this language provides explicit guidance for documentation and ensures uniform documentation of ballot drop boxes across the state. We support this guidance as it will provide clarity for our elections administrators.

While HF 4664 does not require the use of absentee ballot drop boxes, it does require that jurisdictions that choose to use them have one location for every 50,000 registered voters. Cities and Counties respectfully request support for the flexibility of drop box locations and operation timeframes. Flexibility allows our local elections administrators to ramp up the use of tools such as ballot drop boxes where it makes best sense for their communities. This tool is most effective when local administrators can evaluate the needs of their community to determine how many drop boxes they may want to use and where to place them.

We greatly appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on HF 4664 and would welcome further discussion on this legislation.

Sincerely,

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