



May 11, 2022

Dear Chair Nelson, Chair Kiffmeyer, and Members of the State Government, Elections, Pensions and Transportation Conference Committee,

Nonpartisan LWVMN members have conducted voter registration and voter education initiatives for over 100 years. LWVMN members have long observed how trusted local election officials from both parties use existing statutory safeguards to conduct free, fair, and safe elections and ensure all votes are counted correctly.

Those safeguards include:

- **Minnesota voters already verify their identification at the beginning of the voting process.**
- Absentee ballots require ID verification and **include a unique barcode.**
- All ballots are opened and **counted in bipartisan pairs.**
- A record of ballots received is retained **to eliminate double voting.**
- Ballot machines are **locally purchased, and bipartisan public tests are conducted daily.**
- Ballot integrity is ensured via **a daily 3-step bipartisan** matching of the number of ballots issued with the number indicated on the ballot tabulator and the number of physical paper ballots in the box.
- Same Day Voter Registration **requires proof of identity,** under threat of perjury.
- On election day, ballots are handed off **in bipartisan teams of two.**
- **A bipartisan post-election audit is conducted to certify the election**
- After the audit **all ballots are kept in protected storage** for 22 months.
- A **public recount and formal complaint process is in place.**

In a 2018 report on voter registration requested by the MN Legislature, the Office of the Legislative Auditor did not find significant numbers of ineligible voters who voted, nor did it recommend further restricting voter access.

Given existing election safeguards and the OLA findings, LWVMN joins with Minnesota Cities and Counties to:

- **STRONGLY OPPOSE** adding ballot board observers or live streaming the ballot board process and drop boxes, which would add undue additional administrative burden and cost, and compromise voter privacy.
- **SUPPORT** retaining the tools local election officials currently use to encourage high voter turnout and successfully administer elections, even during times of crisis.
- **SUPPORT** protecting local election officials from interference and intimidation.

Thank you for honoring our voters, and our election officials who work so hard to successfully secure our elections.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Witte".

Michelle Witte, Executive Director

LWV 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. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.