

May 11, 2022

On behalf of over 18,000 bipartisan members across the state we ask members of this Conference Committee to keep Minnesotans at the forefront of decisions made within the scope of its work to pass a bipartisan omnibus bill. This is where the rubber meets the road and all self, partisan and special interests must be left at the wayside while the focus remains on constituents – *all* constituents.

Despite belonging to various MN party affiliations, or not being affiliated, the one thing they've come together to do is support our work ensuring our Republic's democracy is safeguarded, our elections continue to reflect the will of Minnesotans and everyone's vote counts. Key provisions that will signal strong policy aligning our state with meeting those outcomes are:

- Including the House version of the prohibition of pay-to-play spaces meant to provide lobbyists with yet more special access to legislators.
- Providing for drop boxes for every 50,000 registered voters. Using the Senate language would literally provide the City of Minneapolis with 1 drop box. Allowing for drop boxes on recognized Tribe reservations and ensuring equitable locations if more than 1 dropbox is needed in the jurisdiction.
- Providing for greater transparency with independent expenditure by requiring its written disclaimer include the top three contributors funding the expenditure.
- Providing for the standardization of sample ballots published by the county auditor so that there is less confusion among voters regarding what they see as sample ballots and what is on the ballot in their district.
- Allowing for the delivery of absentee ballots to Minnesota veterans residing at veterans' homes operated by the Minnesota board of veteran's homes and at shelters for battered women.
- Removing the restriction on folks who are assisting other voters from marking the ballot.
- Protecting Minnesota's elections officials and other voters from intimidation or violence.
- Requiring that on the completion of the canvass, the State Canvassing Board declares the candidates who got the most votes for the federal and state office as the respective winners.

Keeping Minnesotans first, ahead of self, partisan and special interest, in this process can result in an omnibus bill ensuring our Republic's democracy is safeguarded, our elections continue to reflect the will of Minnesotans and everyone's vote counts.

Thank you for your hard work and ensuring all decisions made are done in an open and transparent manner, and not behind closed secretive doors, allowing for Minnesotans to observe and influence the process in partnership with their electeds.