



STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Minnesota Secretary of State
Steve Simon

February 22, 2022

State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members:

I am writing to reiterate my concerns with one of the bills before you today, Senate File 651 (Kiffmeyer). Minnesota has a rich history of civic engagement, and free and fair elections. I fear that this bill could create additional burdens for election administrators.

Senate File 651 prohibits local communities from assessing the needs of their own citizens when they provide additional, temporary absentee voting polling places for voters.

The Office of the Secretary of State supports giving local election administrators the option to open additional absentee polling places for fewer than 46 days to accommodate the growth of absentee voting and to provide added flexibility and convenience for their voters. This is especially important for larger geographical areas that would benefit from additional polling places, without the unnecessary costs of opening a polling place for the entire 46-day period. The current flexible arrangement has been popular with voters, and agreeable to local governments.

I respectfully urge members to vote no on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Simon".

Steve Simon
Minnesota Secretary of State