



January 16, 2023

Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the 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) in support of SF 26 (Champion).

Under the current process, there is confusion as to when voting rights are restored to those convicted of a felony and the notification of restoration is inconsistent. This often leads to challenges placed on Election Day rosters for those convicted of a felony who are not eligible to vote, and election judges must then challenge the voter and spend time and resources determining a voter's eligibility. It would be much clearer if the loss of voting rights occurred only when a person is incarcerated.

Our associations support the restoration of voting rights to those convicted of a felony once they have completed their term of incarceration. This will eliminate the administrative complexity of challenging voters at the polls and determining eligibility from various jurisdictions. This will also eliminate the need for investigation by local law enforcement of those who have unknowingly registered to vote or voted before their rights were restored.

Sincerely,

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