



March 27, 2023

Senator Jim Carlson, Chair, Senate Elections Committee
3221 Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the Elections Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 1636 (Carlson), as amended by the DE A11 Amendment, which is being heard in the Elections Committee on Tuesday.

Metro Cities has concerns with the early voting provisions contained in the amendment. Specifically, the days and hours cities and counties are required to remain open for during the 18-day early voting period do not allow adequate flexibility for local governments and place undue financial and administrative burden on elections administrators. Article 2, Section 27 of the DE amendment requires a city clerk's office to be open on several weekend days from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Cities' ability to provide staff for early voting outside of typical business hours will vary based on the resources available to them.

Metro Cities supports Section 60 in the DE amendment that prohibits the intimidation or interference of election officials. Local governments are struggling to recruit election judges and this provision offers some basic protections for those willing to help serve the state as election workers.

Metro Cities supports appropriations in the DE amendment that would help cities improve polling place accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Metro Cities supports local decision making, and supports language that allows cities the authority to adopt ranked choice voting for local offices within their jurisdiction if they choose to do so.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities