



February 19, 2024

Chair Jim Carlson
3221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Nicole Mitchell
3229 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Carlson and Senator Mitchell,

We Choose Us (WCU) is a coalition of over 40 grassroots organizations, unions and advocacy groups committed to building multiracial democracy in Minnesota. We write to share our support for SF3616 (Mitchell), which would provide greater ability for students to vote on campus at their post-secondary institutions.

Students at post-secondary institutions face numerous barriers to accessing the polls. Many are first-time voters who lack crucial information about where, when, and how to vote. Some students move from other cities or states for college and are unaware of polling sites and procedures in their new locations. Students are also less likely to own cars and thus lack access to transportation for off-campus voting.

This bill would make on-campus polling locations available to more students, which would greatly reduce these barriers. The bill would also bring a key demographic – young adult voters – into electoral and civic participation now and into the future. Studies show that when young voters are politically engaged earlier in life, they are more likely to become life-long voters¹.

Over 400,000 students are enrolled in post-secondary institutions in Minnesota. Reducing barriers to student participation will strengthen our state's democracy and invest in the future civic leadership of our state.

We thank Senator Mitchell for recognizing and valuing student voter participation by bringing this legislation forward. We also thank Chair Carlson for prioritizing this legislation for a hearing in the 2024 session.

We urge members of the Senate Elections Finance and Policy committee to vote in favor of this crucial, pro-democracy initiative.

¹ CIRCLE, "[Growing Voters: Engaging Youth Before they Reach Voting Age to Strengthen Democracy](#)", August 2019.



Sincerely,
Lilly Sasse, We Choose Us Campaign Director
and We Choose Us Coalition Partners:

100% Campaign	Jewish Community Action
Asian American Organizing Project	Land Stewardship Project
African Career Education and Resources	League of Women Voters
AFL-CIO	Main Street Alliance
AFSCME Council 5	Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
Ayada Leads	Minnesota Association of Peacemakers
Barbershop and Black Congregation Cooperative	Minnesota Nurses Association
CAIR Minnesota	Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Clean Elections Minnesota	Minnesota Voice
Clean Water Action	Minnesota Move to Amend State Network
COPAL	Muslim Coalition
ERA Minnesota	Native American Community Development Institute
Fey Justicia	New Justice Project
Fair Vote	Planned Parenthood
Grassroots in Action	Pro-Choice MN
Healthy Democracy Healthy People	SEIU
Indivisible	TakeAction Minnesota
Inquilinxs Unidxs por Justicia	Ujamaa Place
Inter Faculty Organization	Unidos
Interfaith Power and Light	We Win Institute
ISAIAH	OutFront