



February 20, 2024

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

Senator Liz Boldon  
3201 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Carlson and Senator Boldon,

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 SF3942 (Boldon), a bill allowing local jurisdictions to establish a public financing program that would fund local candidates through public dollars.

Public financing is an influential and constitutionally sound tool in our toolbox to put power back in the hands of voters and candidates. Funding a candidate's campaign through public dollars holds them accountable to their constituents rather than uber-wealthy corporations, outside groups, or a few big donors. Under a public financing program, candidates can fundraise and connect with the Minnesotans they want to represent, and therefore run successful, authentic campaigns.

This bill would give local jurisdictions the autonomy of deciding whether and how to use public financing to best cultivate a more representative democracy and encourage small, constituent-based donations. Minnesota would join 26 other states already implementing local public financing programs, with extensive success metrics<sup>1</sup>.

We thank Senator Boldon for bringing to light the pivotal nature of this legislation and introducing it. We also thank Chair Carlson for prioritizing this legislation for a hearing in the 2024 session.

We ask for Senate Elections committee members' support of this powerful legislation.

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

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<sup>1</sup> Brennan Center, "[Guide to Public Financing Programs Nationwide](#)" June 2023.



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
Fe y 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