



February 20th , 2024

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Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the Senate Elections Committee:

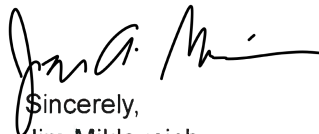
I am reaching out to express my support for SF 3871 (Cwodzinski) and to ask members of the Senate Elections committee to support this bill.

SF 3871 is a valuable and commonsense proposal that will strengthen civic education and boost participation among young Minnesotans. Because of a recent law change, 16 and 17 year olds in Minnesota can now pre-register to vote. This change provides a great opportunity for young Minnesotans to start their path to becoming voters. However, young people will only be able to take advantage of this opportunity if they have the information to do so.

As an educator, a past principal and current Assistant Superintendent, I strongly support this proposed legislation. Schools are a great place for students to learn why their vote matters and take their first important steps to becoming lifelong voters. Our students are in our classrooms every day learning about our democracy and government, and sharing information about pre registration is an opportunity to enrich this education. Schools are also accustomed to communicating with students and have the systems in place to do so, and therefore provide an appropriate and efficient way to provide this information to a large number of students.

Pre-registration is a valuable tool to engage the youngest members of our democracy. This legislation will ensure that students have the information they need and deserve to take their first steps toward democratic participation.

Thank you.



Sincerely,

Jim Miklausich

Assistant Superintendent Shakopee Schools