



February 22, 2024

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

Senator Steve Cwodzinski
3207 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Carlson and Senator Cwodzinski,

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 SF3871 (Cwodzinski) which would help to ensure that young people who are eligible to register or pre-register to vote have the information they need to do so.

Last session, We Choose Us helped support the passage of the Democracy for the People Act (SF3), landmark legislation that reduced numerous barriers to voter participation in our state. One component of the new law is voter pre-registration, allowing 16- and 17-year old eligible Minnesotans to fill out a pre-registration form and then become an active registered voter as soon as they turn 18. Pre-registration encourages more civic participation at a younger age, and has been proven to increase turnout among young voters aged 18-21¹.

SF3871 adds provisions that would make this process easier and more accessible to young aspiring voters. Providing voter registration and pre-registration applications through the schools will ensure that students are aware of their registration options, and understand how to complete their applications. School districts can also share methods that were helpful in increasing student registration under this bill. Every current and future voter deserves to know how they can participate in our democracy, and this bill will help to bring that essential information to students in every corner of our state.

When young people think of themselves as voters, before they are officially so, they are much more likely to cast a ballot in their first eligible election. Feeling included in rather than intimidated by the election process can help make voting a lifelong habit for our next generation of civically active Minnesotans. We Choose Us works primarily to cultivate a thriving, multiracial, multicultural, multigenerational democracy, and for that to become a reality, young people need to play an active role.

We thank Senator Cwodzinski and Chair Carlson for introducing and hearing this bill respectively, and ask for Senate Elections committee members' support of this legislation.

¹ CIRCLE, "[Growing Voters: Building Institutions and Community Ecosystems for Equitable Electoral Participation](#)", June 2022.



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
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