

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 28, 2024

Senator Bonnie Westlin  
3403 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: SF 3818 – Elections Administration and Voter Registration Bill**

Dear Senator Westlin:

On behalf of Hennepin County, I am writing to express support for SF 3818 relating to elections administration, voter registration requirements and changes to other election related statutes. Hennepin County is the most populous county in the state with nearly 800,000 registered voters and regularly has some of the highest voter turnout percentages in the state and country. I believe many of the changes in this bill will streamline our elections procedures, make voting more accessible for underrepresented populations, and provide technical but important clarifications to existing elections law.

Specifically, Hennepin County strongly supports the following provisions of the bill:

- Changing notice requirements to better align with candidate filing deadlines. These will allow for more efficient preparation of ballots and other election materials. (Various sections)
- Changing school district polling place resolutions to match the requirements for city polling place resolutions. Changes were made in 2023 to city requirements that inadvertently left out the school districts when they changed the requirements. (Section 8)
- Clarifying that students can use any form of ID in conjunction with the student housing list to register to vote. Currently they can only use a student ID with a student housing list which doesn't align with other voter registration requirements. (Sections 1 and 2)

Additionally, there are several provisions that provide technical changes but are important clarifications. These include:

- Clarifying the requirements for language translations of sample ballots and instructions. These provisions address points of confusion and questions that have come up with our first year of doing this process (Sections 9, 10, 11, 12)
- Adding a deadline for jurisdictions to pass changes to write-in candidate counting processes. (Section 5)

Thank you for authoring this important piece of legislation, and please let me know if you have any questions or need more information about this issue.

Sincerely,



cc: Senator Jim Carlson, Chair, Senate Elections Committee  
Nicole Freeman, Office of the Secretary of State

**Irene Fernando, Chair**  
**Hennepin County Board of Commissioners**  
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