



February 22, 2024  
Vice Chair Bonnie Westlin  
3403 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA) is pleased to offer our support for modifications to statute in SF 3818 that allow school boards to pass a combined polling place resolution only when a change is made.

School districts were inadvertently left out of statute passed in 2023 on this issue. Making this change will create a common standard and bring all polling place regulations into the same configuration.

This modification will benefit all 331 Minnesota public school districts that are required by current statute to pass the same consolidated polling place resolution every year, even if nothing has changed.

School districts appreciate the ability to designate combined polling places for elections that are limited to the school district. When school districts must run their own elections, the process is labor intensive, expensive, and often has very low voter turnout.

Any opportunities to combine polling places and workload are beneficial and allow school district funds and staff to focus on students instead of election requirements. It also reduces the cost of having and training election judges in every township and precinct.

An unintended consequence of current requirements has occurred when school boards inadvertently forgot to pass the annual combined polling place resolution by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Districts have missed the deadline and been required to hold elections without combining polling places. This can be an expensive mistake that could be avoided if a combined polling place resolution is required only when a change is made.

Thank for your work on school board elections processes. MSBA supports the modifications to statute that remove the annual requirement of a combined polling place resolution unless there is a change.

Sincerely,  
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