

March 4, 2024

Common Cause MN is a nonpartisan grassroots organization working to create open, honest, and accountable government, more information about our work at [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org). Minnesota is home to over 18,000 statewide Common Cause MN multipartisan members and despite belonging to various MN party affiliations, or not being affiliated, the one thing they've come together to do is support our work ensuring our Republic's democracy is safeguarded, and everyone's vote counts.

**We are grateful to Sen. Westlin for introducing SF4431. In effect SF4431 incentivizes more candidates to participate in the PCR by simplifying and modernizing the process, while also encouraging reduced dependence on big donors and special interest. These changes also stand to:**

- **enticing more small donors to participate in the program, and**
- **providing a unique identification number for each transaction to ensure secure transmission of information and allows the commissioner of revenue to verify the information with the Campaign Finance Board,**

Minnesota voters' demands for a more representative democracy have grown louder than ever. Greater emphasis on small donor public financing and modernization of current public campaign finance programs is key to ensuring that all Minnesotans, regardless of zip code, partisan affiliation, socio-economic background, or race/ethnicity can participate in our democracy. It also better aligns constituents with having electeds center on them and not special interest or major donors.

Democracy is how a free society resolves its differences. And to do that well, we must all agree the process of who can run and have viable races as part of a fair process best yields equitable outcomes, and reflects our communities, our values, and our priorities.

Thank you for your dedication to all Minnesotans as you work in committee.

*Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera*  
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Executive Director