



March 18, 2024

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

Dear Chair Carlson and Members of the Senate Elections Committee,

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 express our support for the SF4729 DE, the Senate Elections Policy Omnibus Bill, which includes many key provisions that will protect, strengthen, and expand our state's democracy.

Thank you, Chair Carlson, for your inclusion of the following critical provisions in the Elections Policy Omnibus bill:

- the **elimination of prison gerrymandering** in our state (SF3878 Mitchell), which counts incarcerated individuals at their place of legal residency rather than their prison location for redistricting purposes. This would ensure fair and accurate representation for all communities, and would especially work against the dilution of political power in communities of color;
- **pre-registration provisions in school districts** (SF3871 Cwodzinski), a bill providing voter registration and pre-registration applications to high school students, ensuring students are aware of their registration options and bringing them essential information to better understand electoral participation; and
- efforts to build on and strengthen our state's recently passed **language access at the polls** provisions, including expanded translation and interpretation – our coalition continues to appreciate steps toward a democracy that works for all Minnesotans, regardless of their native tongue.

In addition to these critical initiatives, We Choose Us also supports several additional proposals that are essential to strengthening Minnesota's democracy. **On-campus polling locations** at post-secondary institutions (SF3616 Mitchell) would provide greater ability for college students to vote, reducing key voting barriers many youth face and ensuring that young Minnesotan voices are heard in our elections. The **Minnesota Voting Rights Act** (SF3994 Champion) would restore and clarify protections against discrimination for voters of color in Minnesota. The **local public financing legislation** (SF3942 Boldon) would grant local jurisdictions the authority to create local public financing programs if they choose to do so, thus cultivating more representative and



small-donor driven elections. **We thank members of the Senate Elections committee for supporting these bills and ask for your continued stewardship of these important proposals.**

We thank Chair Carlson for his leadership of SF4729, this session's pro-democracy package, and ask for members of the Senate Elections committee to support the essential provisions that this legislation contains.

Sincerely,

Lilly Sasse, We Choose Us Campaign Director
and We Choose Us Coalition Partners:

100% Campaign	ISAIAH
Asian American Organizing Project	Jewish Community Action
African Career Education and Resources	Land Stewardship Project
AFL-CIO	League of Women Voters
AFSCME Council 5	Main Street Alliance
Ayada Leads	Minnesota Association of Professional Employees
Barbershop and Black Congregation Cooperative	Minnesota Association of Peacemakers
CAIR Minnesota	Minnesota Nurses Association
Citizens United	Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance
Clean Elections Minnesota	Minnesota Voice
Clean Water Action	Minnesota Move to Amend State Network
Conservation Minnesota	Muslim Coalition
COPAL	Native American Community Development Institute
ERA Minnesota	New Justice Project
Fe y Justicia	OutFront Minnesota
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