



March 25, 2024

Chair Ron Latz
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Hello Chair Latz and members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

MUUSJA, the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance, connects the nonpartisan faith-based social and environmental action teams of 25 Unitarian Universalist congregations across Minnesota, together with community allies, to create a more just and loving world. We honor and promote voting as the way we all choose people who will decide how to pay for and share whatever we all need to thrive, such as clean air and water, schools and hospitals, roads and bridges, and so forth.

Although Minnesotans have great overall “turnout,” Black and Hispanic voters are disproportionately less likely to register and vote. The legislature did well in 2023 to formalize use of voter information posters and interpreters at the polls, restoring the vote to formerly incarcerated persons, and pre-registering high school students. Those laws need to be buttressed by a law designed to prevent deliberate or inadvertent discriminatory practices and policies. MUUSJA supports the Minnesota Voting Rights Act, SF3994 because it explicitly protects our state from discriminating against voters on the basis of race or language minority status, and provides for citizen redress, at a time when some federal election protections seeking to ensure equal access have eroded.

Essential principles of our faith include “justice, equity and compassion in human relations,” and “the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.” Our goal of beloved community depends upon each eligible citizen having equal, unobstructed access to be counted as a voter.

MUUSJA strongly supports SF3994 and urges members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee to vote in favor of this critical legislation.

Best regards,
Karen Wills, Ph.D., L.P., Democracy Strategist
MUUSJA, 900 Mount Curve Ave, Minneapolis, MN, 55403