

State of Minnesota
Senate Elections Committee
1200 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul MN 55115

Dear Chair Koran and Members of the Elections Committee,

As a local government elected official in the City of Minnetonka, I write to urge you to vote no and to not advance Senate File 634. This bill would eliminate the authority of all non-Class 1 Minnesota cities and school districts to determine whether local elections for their city council and school board should be held in even or odd-years.

As a recent (2023) city council candidate in a city that uses odd-year voting, I was able to campaign for my seat without having to compete with state and national elections overwhelming and distracting voters. I was able to have many meaningful conversations at the doors with residents who had not been inundated by multiple other state and national campaigns and candidates. If Minnetonka moved to even-year elections, a real concern is that local elections and candidates would get lost in the shuffle.

I'm now in my second year on Minnetonka's City Council and it is clear to me that the residents and elected representatives of MN cities are best positioned to determine the timing of elections in their individual communities. They currently have that choice and should retain it. All cities have unique circumstances in terms of staff, finances and other issues that influence their decisions. Residents have power to advance ballot initiatives to change timing of local elections if they see fit.

I would urge that SF634 not be advanced and that consultations take place with local officials in cities, the League of MN Cities, Metro Cities, etc. before revisiting any amended or successor.

Please note that the City of Minnetonka has not yet taken a position on this issue and that this testimony therefore reflects my own individual views and not any official position of the City as a whole.

Thank you for your service and for your consideration,

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