

Elections Committee

Thursday, February 6th, 2025

03:00 PM, (Hybrid Hearing) 1200 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

Minutes

Present: Senator Jim Carlson - Chair, Senator Bonnie S. Westlin - Vice Chair, Senator Mark W. Koran, Senator Calvin K. Bahr, Senator Liz Boldon, Senator Steve A. Cwodzinski, Senator Warren Limmer, Senator Eric Lucero, Senator John Marty, Senator Andrew Mathews, Senator Lindsey Port

Absent: No Members Absent

Senator Jim Carlson called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

- **Call to Order**
- **Stephen Swanson re-appointment to the Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board**

The following individuals testified on Stephen Swanson re-appointment to the Campaign Finance & Public Disclosure Board:

(Zoom) Stephen Swanson, Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board

Senator Cwodzinski moved that Stephen Swanson be recommended to pass and confirmed for reappointment. By a voice vote, the motion prevailed.

Stephen Swanson is recommended to pass and confirmed for reappointment.

- **S.F. 0529 (Dibble): Constitutional amendment providing for free, fair, and equal elections**

The following individuals testified on Constitutional amendment providing for free, fair, and equal elections:

Senator Dibble

David Fisher, Representing Clean Elections Minnesota

Jeanne Massey, Executive Director, FairVote Minnesota

Senator Lucero moved the A1 Oral Amendment to SF 0529.

On page 1, line 8, after "equal" insert "ensuring one eligible citizen, one vote."

Senator Lucero requested a roll call vote for the adoption of the A1 Oral Amendment. With a vote of 5/6, the motion failed.

Ayes: Koran, Bahr, Limmer, Lucero, Mathews

Nays: Carlson, Westlin, Boldon, Cwodzinski, Marty, Port

Senator Lucero moved the A2 Oral Amendment to SF 0529.

On page 1, line 8, after "shall" insert "have integrity and".

Page 1, line 13, after "elections" insert "with integrity".

Senator Lucero requested a roll call vote for the adoption of the A2 Oral amendment. With a vote of 5/6, the motion failed.

Ayes: Koran, Bahr, Limmer, Lucero, Mathews

Nays: Carlson, Westlin, Boldon, Cwodzinski, Marty, Port

Senator Mathews moved the A2 Amendment. Senator Mathews requested a roll call vote for the adoption of the A2 Amendment. With a vote of 5/6, the motion failed.

Ayes: Koran, Bahr, Limmer, Lucero, Mathews

Nays: Carlson, Westlin, Boldon, Cwodzinski, Marty, Port

Senator Limmer moved to lay SF 529 on the table. Senator Limmer requested a roll call vote for the motion to lay SF 529 on the table. With a vote of 5/6, the motion failed.

Ayes: Koran, Bahr, Limmer, Lucero, Mathews

Nays: Carlson, Westlin, Boldon, Cwodzinski, Marty, Port

Senator Boldon moved that SF 0529, as amended, be recommended to pass and referred to the Rules and Administration Committee. Senator Boldon requested a roll call for the motion that SF 0529, as amended, be recommended to pass and referred to the Rules and Administration Committee. With a vote of 6/5, the motion prevailed.

Ayes: Carlson, Westlin, Boldon, Cwodzinski, Marty, Port

Nays: Koran, Bahr, Limmer, Lucero, Mathews

S.F. 0529, as amended, is recommended to pass and re-referred to the Rules and Administration.

- **S.F. 0569 (Marty): A resolution memorializing Congress to overturn the United States Supreme Court Citizens United v. FEC; requesting that Congress clarify that the rights are protected under the Constitution are the rights of natural persons and not the rights of artificial entities and that spending money to influence elections is not speech under the First Amendment; asking that Congress propose a constitutional amendment to provide such a clarification**

The following individuals testified on S.F.0569 (Marty):

Senator Marty

Jeff Clark, Volunteer Supporter, Move to Amend

Andrew Ervin, Volunteer Supporter, Move to Amend

Emma Rage, Policy and Civic Engagement Manager, Common Cause Minnesota

David Fisher, Representing Clean Elections Minnesota

Senator Lucero moved that SF 569 be laid on the table. By a voice vote, the motion prevailed.

S.F. 0569 is laid on the table.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Jim Carlson

Senator Jim Carlson, Chair

Christie Blood

Christie Blood, Legislative Assistant