



February 10, 2025

To the Members of the Senate Elections Committee:

The Minnesota Association of Small Cities represents the 700+ cities in Minnesota with populations under 5,000. Over 650,000 Minnesotans live in our small cities, which are governed by over 3,500 elected officials.

We are supportive of SF 828's efforts to review how best to streamline our current elections processes. However, we do have concerns that adding resources to an already understaffed agency could cause unforeseen issues and has the potential to discourage some candidates from running for office IF they have concerns about a confusing process. That being said, local officials are currently responsible for campaign finance reports and with many small cities having limited staff the potential for removing a task certainly has some appeal.

We support the working group structure although we would suggest that the League of Minnesota Cities be allowed to appoint **two** seats; one of which would represent a small city. Additionally, we would suggest - as we have in other areas - that one policy across ALL cities may not be the best model. Perhaps the working group could look at options for local communities to opt in or out of doing their own campaign finance reporting.

We look forward to the work of this committee and are willing to provide input from small city staff and other leaders to offer insight on how this process has worked in the past or could work, moving forward.

Cap O'Rourke
Minnesota Small Cities
Executive Director